

A GUIDE TO ISAC PROGRAMS & SERVICES

isac.org



AS THE STATE'S COLLEGE ACCESS AND FINANCIAL AID AGENCY

the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) works to help make education after high school accessible and affordable for Illinois students. ISAC provides two kinds of assistance to students and families:

Help with the college-going and financial aid process, including personalized assistance in your community—from workshops to one-on-one help, online resources, a call center, and a text messaging service.

Grant, scholarship, and loan repayment/forgiveness programs to help pay for postsecondary education.

Here's a quick guide to the programs and services ISAC offers students and their families. Note that most of the applications for ISAC financial aid programs must be submitted annually, and many programs require separate applications.





Grant Programs

A grant is financial aid that does not need to be paid back. The amount awarded is usually based on financial need and is generally provided by the government or the college you plan to attend. *The number of grants made through most grant programs administered by ISAC, and the individual dollar amount awarded, are dependent upon the level of annual funding provided by the state.*

Monetary Award Program (MAP)

Who's Eligible: Illinois undergraduates at approved Illinois public and private 2- and 4-year colleges, hospital schools, and other degree-granting institutions. Eligibility is based on financial need. Apply as early as possible using the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) or, if you are a qualifying undocumented student, the Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid.

Amount: Tuition and mandatory fees, up to \$8,400 per year

AIM HIGH Grant

Who's Eligible: Illinois undergraduate students at the 12 Illinois public universities. Eligibility is based on financial need and other requirements established by each university. Contact the financial aid office of the university you plan to attend to learn about any additional benefits and requirements.

Amount: Renewable grants towards the cost of attendance

Illinois National Guard (ING) Grant

Who's Eligible: Currently active enlisted Illinois National Guard members with at least one year of service or recently discharged members, at Illinois public 2- and 4-year colleges.

Amount: Tuition and certain fees

Illinois Veteran Grant (IVG)

Who's Eligible: Illinois veterans (including Illinois National Guard and Armed Forces Reserve members) with at least one year of federal active-duty service in the U.S. Armed Forces, at Illinois public 2- and 4-year colleges.

Amount: Tuition and mandatory fees

Grant Programs for Dependents of Police/Fire/Correctional Officers

Who's Eligible: Spouse and children of Illinois Police, Fire, or Correctional Officers killed or disabled in the line of duty, at approved Illinois public and private degree-granting institutions.

Amount: Tuition and mandatory fees

Grant Program for Exonerees

Who's Eligible: Illinois residents issued a pardon on the grounds of innocence or who received a certificate of innocence from a circuit court, at Illinois public universities and community colleges. Starting with the 2025-26 school year, unused benefits may be transferred to eligible dependents.

Amount: Tuition and mandatory fees and/or costs associated with obtaining a high school equivalency certificate



Scholarship Programs

A scholarship is a type of financial aid that rewards a student for grades, athletics, a unique skill, a special talent, financial need, or even a specific career interest. Scholarships do not typically need to be paid back, though some have commitments or obligations connected with them.

Scholarship programs marked with an asterisk (*) have associated employment commitments that must be met after students leave their academic program/receive their degree. If these employment commitments are not fulfilled, the scholarship converts to a loan.

Students should carefully review all scholarship requirements on [isac.org](https://www.isac.org) to learn more.

The number of scholarships made through programs administered by ISAC, and the individual dollar amount awarded, are dependent upon the level of annual funding provided by the state.

Minority Teachers of Illinois (MTI) Scholarship*

Who's Eligible: Minority students at Illinois public and private 2- and 4-year colleges, universities, and other degree-granting institutions, who plan to become teachers at certain Illinois public and nonprofit private or parochial preschool, elementary, and secondary schools.

Amount: Tuition, fees, and room and board, up to \$7,500 per year

Post-Master of Social Work School Social Work Professional Educator License Scholarship*

Who's Eligible: Licensed Illinois social workers with master's degrees in social work seeking an Illinois Professional Educator License with an Endorsement in School Social Work at Illinois public 4-year universities offering appropriate course of study.

Amount: Tuition and mandatory fees

Illinois Special Education Teacher Tuition Waiver (SETTW)*

Who's Eligible: Illinois students at Illinois public 4-year universities pursuing initial certification as special education teachers.

Amount: Waives tuition and mandatory fees

Nursing Education Scholarships (NES)*

Who's Eligible: Illinois nursing students at approved colleges pursuing varied certificates, diplomas, or degrees.

Amount: Tuition, mandatory fees, and living expenses

iGROW Tech Scholarship (iGROW)*

Who's Eligible: Illinois undergraduate students at approved colleges pursuing associate or bachelor's degrees in the fields of computer science, computer information systems, and other tech-focused programs.

Amount: Tuition, fees, and room and board, up to \$7,500 per year

Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity (ECACE) Scholarship

Who's Eligible: Early childhood workers (past and current) pursuing an associate or bachelor's degree in early childhood at Illinois 2- and 4-year Consortium member institutions.

Amount: Tuition, fees, and living expenses, up to \$7,500 per year

Displaced Energy Worker Dependent Transition Scholarship

Who's Eligible: Children of energy workers who lost employment due to reduced operations or closure of a fossil fuel power plant or coal mine, at Illinois public universities and community colleges.

Amount: Tuition and fees

Loan Repayment Programs

These programs offer help with student loan repayment for Illinois residents who qualify based on certain eligibility requirements. Typically, qualifying borrowers are those who have made a commitment to work in Illinois for a specific amount of time in a field that has experienced a shortage of workers (for example, teaching or nursing). *The availability of some of these programs is dependent upon the level of annual funding provided by the state.*

Community Behavioral Health Care Professional Loan Repayment Program

Who's Eligible: Illinois community-based behavioral workers (mental health and substance use professionals) practicing in centers, clinics, and state-operated psychiatric hospitals in underserved or rural areas.

Amount: Education loan repayment assistance, amount varies based on education level and licensure/credentials

Illinois Teachers Loan Repayment Program

Who's Eligible: Educational loan borrowers teaching in Illinois schools in low income areas who qualified for the federal Teacher Loan Forgiveness Program.

Amount: Education loan repayment assistance up to \$5,000

John R. Justice Student Loan Repayment Program

Who's Eligible: State and federal public defenders and state prosecutors.

Amount: Education loan repayment assistance up to \$10,000 per year, with a \$60,000 limit on total assistance

Human Services Professional Loan Repayment Program

Who's Eligible: Illinois professionals providing direct and indirect human services to clients in community-based human service organizations and agencies.

Amount: Education loan repayment assistance — amount varies based on education level and licensure/credentials

Nurse Educator Loan Repayment Program

Who's Eligible: Illinois nurse educators licensed by the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation.

Amount: Education loan repayment assistance up to \$5,000 per year

School and Municipal Social Work Shortage Loan Repayment Program

Who's Eligible: Illinois social workers working in public school districts and municipalities.

Amount: Education loan repayment assistance up to \$6,500

Veterans' Home Medical Providers' Loan Repayment Program

Who's Eligible: Illinois medical providers (physicians, certified nurse practitioners, registered professional nurses, certified nursing assistants, licensed practical nurses) employed at Illinois veterans' homes.

Amount: Education loan repayment assistance up to \$5,000 per year

Detailed information about ISAC programs, including all eligibility, residency, and enrollment requirements; the application process; and program processing updates, is available on isac.org

isac.org



College Planning and Financial Aid Outreach Services and Resources



ISACorps™

The ISACorps™ offers students and families free expert assistance with planning for education after high school and navigating the financial aid process. These recent college graduates, who are trained to serve as near peer mentors to high school students, partner with local schools, businesses, and nonprofit organizations across the state to provide workshops, presentations, and one-on-one mentoring for students and families. ISACorps members can help you with career exploration, college selection and applications, scholarship searches, financial aid planning, and completion of financial aid forms.

While the ISACorps is available to assist any student or family, they particularly focus their efforts on working with students who are low income and those whose families have no prior college-going experience. To better connect with students, every effort is made to recruit ISACorps members who are first generation college students themselves and who come from the Illinois community to which they will be assigned.

ISACorps members are assigned regionally and are available to provide assistance statewide — at an in-person or virtual workshop, or one-on-one in person or on the phone, via email or text. You will find ISACorps members in your high school supporting the college counseling office, or meeting with students at community locations. Visit studentportal.isac.org/ISACorps to find the ISACorps member or a workshop in your area.

ISAC Student Portal

The ISAC Student Portal (studentportal.isac.org) has the tools and resources to help you make more informed decisions about education after high school and help you navigate financial aid.

In addition to providing access to online applications for most of ISAC's financial aid programs, there are tools to keep track of college planning deadlines and your ISAC program benefits, help calculate potential financial aid, and compare financial aid offers.

You will also find links to ISAC partner websites offering college and scholarship search; career and job search; and resources to help with financial literacy, money management and student loan repayment. An Internship/Summer Job Board provides regularly updated job postings. ISAC College Minute™ videos on the Now Playing section of the Student Portal offer quick tips and important information on college planning and financial aid, with a special series of videos for first generation college students and their families.

Want to find a college or financial aid workshop in your area? Visit the Student Portal to check the ISACorps calendar of events, and to find your local ISACorps member for one-on-one assistance.

ISAC College Q&A Text Messaging Service

Students and families can get answers to questions about college planning and financial aid sent directly to their phones with the ISAC College Q&A text messaging service.

To text with an ISAC college planning and financial aid expert and receive alerts about college planning events and deadlines, just text your first and last name to **847.243.6470**.

Services en español - **773.823.0570**

ISAC Student Engagement and Support Services

ISAC Student Engagement representatives are available Monday through Friday from 8 am to 4:30 pm CT to answer questions about ISAC financial aid programs, applications, and other services. Call the toll-free number at 800.899.ISAC (4722) or e-mail isac.studentservices@illinois.gov for assistance. Spanish-speaking counselors and a Spanish micro-site are also available to assist families.



800.899.ISAC (4722)

isac.studentservices@illinois.gov

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