

The Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity (ECACE) Scholarship and Other Financial Aid Options for Early Childhood Education Students

September 18, 2024



Agenda

- Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity Scholarship (ECACE) Program
- Other State and Federal Aid Programs
- Illinois Network of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (INCCRRA)
 - Gateways Scholarship Program
- Chicago Early Learning Workforce Scholarship (CELWS)
- Questions

2024-25 ECACE Scholarship Program

Program Overview

- The program is intended for those who are currently working or have worked in early childhood education and are seeking additional credentials and/or a degree
- Must be attending a public or non-profit private 2- or 4-year Gateways-entitled and Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity member institution as an undergraduate level student
- The scholarship may be used for any cost of attendance component, such as tuition, fees, room and board charges or commuter allowances
- Intended to be last payer, after other financial aid has been provided
- Recipients are expected to continue or return to teaching or direct services in the early childhood care and education field in Illinois after completion of their program of study
- Applicants are prioritized for awarding based on their Student Aid Index (SAI), from lowest to highest

ECACE Scholarship Program

What's New for 2024-25?

- The program is now funded by the State of Illinois rather than with federal funding
- Appropriation is \$5 million for Fiscal Year 2025 (2024-25 award year)
- The maximum annual award amount a student may receive is \$7,500
- Graduate students are not eligible for the scholarship
- ECACE will only be available for the regular school year terms (fall, winter and spring); it will not be available for the summer term

ECACE Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for the program an applicant must:

- Be a U.S. citizen or an eligible noncitizen or meet the undocumented student criteria of the RISE Act
- Be a member of the incumbent workforce, currently working or have worked in the early childhood industry (in either a licensed or license-exempt facility), including home-based child care (e.g., family, friend, neighbor), center-/community-based care, Preschool for All programs, school-based preschool settings, and Head Start programs, that serve children from birth to age 5
 - Acceptable positions include teachers, assistant teachers, directors, family child care providers and assistants
 - Applicants must be able to provide documentation confirming their current membership in the Gateways to Opportunity® Registry
- Be enrolled or accepted for enrollment on a full- or part-time (at least 3 credit hours) basis at the undergraduate level at an ECACE member institution

ECACE Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for the program an applicant must:

- Be pursuing at least one of the following:
 - An Associate of Applied Science degree (or related certificate) in early childhood education *or* an associate degree with a concentration in early childhood at an approved college; *or*
 - A bachelor's degree in early childhood education, with or without a Professional Educator License
- Maintain satisfactory academic progress as established by the college
- Complete the application process on or before the ISAC-established date in order to receive priority access to funding
- Be certified as meeting eligibility requirements by the college at which the scholarship will be used
- Not be in default on any student loan, nor owe a refund on any State or federal grant

ECACE Application Process

- When available, the ECACE Application must be completed online through ISAC's Student Portal
- ISAC sends confirmation to the applicant's e-mail address when the application has been received
- Applicants must also complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) *or*, if applicable, an Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid for the same academic year as the ECACE application
 - The ECACE participating college must be listed on the FAFSA®
 - The student must have a valid Student Aid Index (SAI)
- Students must reapply each academic year
- Due to limited funding, and the volume of applicants, the 2024-25 ECACE Application is no longer available
 - The 2025-26 application will be made available much earlier than it was able to be provided for this year

ECACE Application Process

Required Documentation

- An applicant must:
 - Provide a Gateways Registry member ID number and current Registry membership dates
 - Membership must be current to qualify for the scholarship
 - Submit an Eligibility Verification Form from the Gateways Registry
 - Applicants must download and/or print the form and then upload when completing the ECACE application
 - Provide information about their employment in the early childhood field, using information from the Gateways to Opportunity Registry
 - The Eligibility Verification Form contains members' employment history, with assigned position codes
- More information about the Verification Form and eligible codes can be found at: isac.org/isac-gift-assistance-programs/ECACE-scholarship/Application-Procedures/
- To obtain the Verification Form, Registry members enter through the Gateways Registry Dashboard Login
 - If an individual is not already a member, they can complete their registration on the site and then obtain their verification form
 - Registry website: registry.ilgateways.com/

ECACE Application Procedure

The screenshot shows the ISAC Student Portal website. The top navigation bar includes links for Resources, Toolbox, ISACCorp, Program Applications & Status Checks (highlighted with a red box), Now Playing, and Login. Social media icons for Facebook, X, Instagram, and YouTube are also present. The main content area features a green banner with the text "Apply now. EARLY CHILDHOOD ACCESS CONSORTIUM FOR EQUITY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM". Below this, the heading "Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity Scholarship Program" is followed by a welcome message and instructions. At the bottom, there is a "Subscribe for updates" section and a blue button labeled "START APPLICATION" (highlighted with a red box). A red arrow points from the "START APPLICATION" button to the login form on the right.

studentportal.isac.org

The login form is titled "Have an account? Log In to make the application process faster, or create an account for future applications." It includes a close button (X) in the top right corner. Below the text are two tabs: "LOGIN" (selected) and "SIGN UP". The form contains two input fields: "E-mail address" and "Password". A blue "LOGIN" button is positioned below the fields. At the bottom, there are two links: "Forgot Password?" and "Forgot User ID?".

*Please Upload your Scholarship Eligibility Verification Form. Allowed formats are (PDF, JPG, JPEG, DOC, DOCX)

+ Upload File

Document Name	Document Type	Date Received (MM/DD/YYYY)	
No Documents Uploaded			

*Select Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) Facility

DCFS Licensed facilities

License-exempt facilities

*Facility Name

SEARCH

*Facility Name
 SEARCH

Employer Name
Not Listed
POKO LOKO CHILD CARE CENTER, INC.
POKO LOKO DAY NURSERY SCHOOL

*Select Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) Facility

DCFS Licensed facilities
 License-exempt facilities

*Facility Name
 SEARCH

*Employer's Name *Employer State

*Employer Address (line one) *Employer ZIP Code

Employer Address (line two) Employer Telephone

*Employer City

BACK NEXT

Applicants will need to provide their employer/facility name.

If the Facility Name is not found, there is an option to enter the employer information.

After Completing the Application ...

- Applicants will receive a confirmation e-mail when the ECACE application has been received by ISAC
- Different types letters are sent to indicate if the application is considered timely or untimely, depending on whether it was received at ISAC by the date for priority access to funding
- If an applicant needs to make a correction to their application, they will need to contact ISAC to provide the information
- Applicants must complete and submit both the ECACE application and the FAFSA (or, if applicable, Alternative Application) on or before the priority consideration date to be considered timely
- Colleges must certify student eligibility in ISAC's GAP Access system before awarding can take place
 - This process requires schools to indicate whether or not a student can be considered for an award based on eligibility criteria that must be confirmed by the school
 - For example: satisfactory academic progress, enrolled in an eligible program/degree, not in default on a student loan

ECACE Notification Letters

- Examples of the different letters being sent to students throughout the process can be found in the ECACE section of the FAA area of isac.org isac.org/isac-gift-assistance-programs/ECACE-scholarship/Application-Procedures/

Home > ISAC Gift Assistance Programs > Early Childhood Access Consortium For Equity (ECACE) Scholarship Program > Application Procedures

Application Procedures for the Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity Scholarship Program

When available each year, applicants may access the 2024-25 Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity (ECACE) Scholarship Program interactive application via the [Program Applications & Status Checks](#) area of the ISAC Student Portal. The online application has built-in edits to prevent errors, and ISAC sends **immediate confirmation** to the applicant's e-mail address that the application has been received.

An ECACE Scholarship application, listing the student's college of record, must be submitted for each academic year in which benefits are to be used. Applicants are also required to [complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA®\)](#) or, if applicable, an [Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid \(Alternative Application\)](#) for the same academic year that they are applying for the scholarship. To determine eligibility for the scholarship, all ECACE-participating Illinois colleges

- ECACE Scholarship Program
- Program Overview
- Eligibility Requirements
- Application Procedures**
- ECACE Application Acknowledgment E-Mail
- ECACE Notice Of Application – Received Timely
- ECACE Notice Of Application – Received Untimely
- ECACE Notice Of Incomplete Application

isac.org/isac-gift-assistance-programs/ECACE-scholarship/Certification/

Home > ISAC Gift Assistance Programs > Early Childhood Access Consortium For Equity (ECACE) Scholarship Program > Certification

Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity Scholarship Program Certification

[Student List Overview](#)
[Certification Overview](#)

Student List Overview

Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity (ECACE) Scholarship Program processing takes place through the GAP Access system. The availability of applicant data (via the Student List in the ECACE system) provides a means by which this information may be shared with colleagues in other areas of the college who are working with prospective and current students. Reports listing ECACE applicants may be generated and edited, and then made available to other departments at your institution. All personally identifiable information (PII), such as an applicant's Social Security number,

- ECACE Scholarship Program
- Program Overview
- Eligibility Requirements
- Application Procedures
- Certification**
- Notice Of Eligibility
- Notice Of Ineligibility (Based On Applicant Data)
- Notice Of Ineligibility (Based On College Certification Data)
- Notice Of Insufficient Funding

2024-25 ECACE

What's Next? Student Awards

- Once schools have completed the certification process, ISAC will begin the award determination process
- The first round of awarding will prioritize those who are timely renewals with the lowest SAIs
 - It is likely that only timely renewal applicants with -1,500 SAIs will be considered in the first round of 2024-25 awarding
- Once awarded, students will receive notification from ISAC, schools will be able to see an annual scholarship award amount in the ECACE system, and payment processing can begin for the fall term
 - The maximum annual award amount of \$7,500 is equally divided among terms in the regular school year
 - \$3,750 for fall and spring terms at semester schools
 - \$2,500 for fall, winter and spring terms at quarter schools

ECACE Q and As

Can a student receive an ECACE Scholarship and an MTI, Golden Apple or SETTW scholarship in the same academic year?

A student may receive both an ECACE Scholarship and either an MTI, Golden Apple or SETTW benefit during the same academic year. A student cannot receive benefits from MTI, Golden Apple and SETTW in the same year. A student may only receive one of those ISAC teacher programs in an academic year, and one of those may be combined with an ECACE Scholarship. In those cases, the ECACE Scholarship is intended to be the last payer after assistance from the other ISAC program has been provided.

Can a student receive the Gateways Opportunity Scholarship or Chicago Early Learning Workforce Scholarship concurrent with the ECACE Scholarship?

Receiving additional non-ISAC administered scholarships, institutional aid or other private forms of assistance will not prevent a student from receiving an ECACE Scholarship if eligible and awarded.

ECACE Q & As

Can a student who has just completed their AA/AAS degree continue to receive an ECACE award to complete their bachelor's degree?

Yes, this student would still be considered an undergraduate student and would be eligible to receive an ECACE Scholarship. For 2024-25, eligible degrees include an AA/AAS and bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education.

Does the post-baccalaureate exclusion prevent someone with a bachelor's degree in a different field from receiving an award if they go back to school to get an AA/AAS or BA/BS in Early Childhood Education to work in this field (i.e., a career-changer)?

No, the post-baccalaureate exclusion does not prevent a student from applying for the ECACE Scholarship if they are enrolled or accepted for enrollment in a program that will lead to an AA/AAS or bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education.

2024-25 ISAC Program Appropriations

- Monetary Award Program (MAP) – \$711,566,200
- Golden Apple Scholars of Illinois – \$10,750,000
- Minority Teachers of Illinois (MTI) Scholarship – \$8,000,000
- Community Behavioral Health Care Professional Loan Repayment – \$7,500,000
- IVG and ING Grant reimbursement – \$6,000,000
- Social Work Scholarship/Repayment programs (combined appropriation) – \$6,000,000
- Human Services Professional Loan Repayment – \$5,250,000
- ECACE Scholarship – \$5,000,000 (new state funding)
- Nursing Education Scholarships (NES) – \$4,000,000
- Illinois Graduate and Retain Our Workforce (iGROW) Tech Scholarship – \$2,000,000
- Dependents of Police, Fire or Correctional Officers – \$1,300,000
- Displaced Energy Worker Dependent Transition Scholarship – \$1,100,000
- Illinois Teachers Loan Repayment – \$975,000
- Nurse Educator Loan Repayment – \$500,000
- Grant Program for Exonerees – \$150,000
- Veterans' Home Medical Providers' Loan Repayment – \$26,400
- AIM HIGH Grant – \$50,000,000*

* AIM HIGH Program funds are disbursed in lump sums by ISAC to public universities

ISAC Gift Assistance Programs

- **Monetary Award Program (MAP)**
 - Eligibility is based on financial need
 - Covers tuition and mandatory fees at MAP-approved institutions
 - 2024-25 maximum annual award is \$8,400
 - The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and the Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid (for eligible undocumented students) are the applications for this program

- **AIM HIGH Grant**
 - Awarded to students at the 12 Illinois public universities.
 - Eligibility is based on financial need and other requirements established by each university.
 - Provides renewal grant assistance toward a full-time undergraduate student's cost of attendance at the university

ISAC Gift Assistance Programs

- **Grant Programs for Dependents of Police, Fire, and Correctional Officers**
 - For spouse and children of Illinois Police, Fire or Correctional Officers killed in the line of duty
 - Provides assistance for tuition and mandatory fees
 - October 1 application deadline for full-year consideration
- **Displaced Energy Worker Dependent Transition Scholarship**
 - Intended for children of energy workers who lost employment due to reduced operations or closure of a fossil fuel power plant or coal mine
 - Pays tuition and fee costs at public universities or community colleges for a period equal to one calendar year, including a summer term, for undergraduate or graduate study
 - October 1 application deadline for full-year consideration

ISAC Teacher Programs

- **Minority Teachers of Illinois Scholarship Program**
 - Encourages academically talented minority students and/or qualified bilingual minority students to pursue careers as teachers at non-profit Illinois preschool, elementary and secondary schools
 - Maximum award amount is up to \$7,500 per year
 - Can be used for tuition, fees, room and board or commuter charges
- **Golden Apple Scholars of Illinois Scholarship Program**
 - Encourages academically talented Illinois students, especially minority students, to pursue teaching careers, at high-need, hard-to-staff schools
 - Scholars qualify for up to \$2,500 or \$5,000, depending on the year in the program
- **Special Education Teacher Tuition Waiver Program**
 - Purpose is to encourage current teachers and academically talented students to pursue careers in the area of Special Education
 - Exempts recipients from the payment of tuition and mandatory fees for up to four calendar years at any of the public universities in Illinois
 - ISAC awards 250 waivers annually

ISAC's Military Programs

- **Illinois National Guard (ING) Grant**
 - Eligible applicants are exempt from paying eligible tuition and certain fees
 - Benefits are available at all Illinois 4-year public universities and public community colleges
 - May be used at the undergraduate and graduate levels
- **Illinois Veteran Grant (IVG)**
 - Eligible applicants are exempt from paying tuition and mandatory fees
 - Benefits are available at all Illinois 4-year public universities and public community colleges
 - May be used at the undergraduate and graduate levels

Visit isac.org for More Information

The screenshot shows the ISAC website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for COUNSELORS, E-LIBRARY, FAA'S, and GAP ACCESS. Below this is a main menu with options: HOME, STUDENTS & PARENTS >, ISAC STUDENT PORTAL, RESEARCH & POLICY >, NEWSROOM, and ABOUT ISAC >. The main content area features a banner image of students in a classroom with their hands raised. Below the banner, there are tabs for 'Before College - Planning', 'During College - Paying', 'After College', 'Parents', and 'Español'. A breadcrumb trail shows 'Home > Students & Parents > During College - Paying'. The 'During College' section contains text about learning how to pay for college and a sidebar menu with options: Paying For College, Applying For Financial Aid, Types Of Financial Aid, Advanced Degree, Medical Professions, Military Service, and Teaching.

Scholarships

[Minority Teachers Of Illinois \(MTI\) Scholarship Program](#)

[Illinois Special Education Teacher Tuition Waiver \(SETTW\) Program](#)

[ECACE Scholarship Program](#)

[Displaced Energy Worker Dependents Scholarship](#)

[Post-Master School Social Work Scholarship Program](#)

[Golden Apple Scholars Of Illinois](#)

[Veterans' Dependents Scholarship](#)

[Nursing Education Scholarships](#)

[Illinois Graduate And Retain Our Workforce \(IGROW\) Tech Scholarship Program](#)

Types Of Financial Aid

[Illinois And Federal Financial Aid Programs](#)

[Work-Study Programs](#)

[Grants](#)

[Loans](#)

[Scholarships](#)

Visit isac.org for More Information

isac.org/students/during-college/teaching.html

Before College - Planning **During College - Paying** After College Parents Español

Home > Students & Parents > During College - Paying > Teaching

Teaching

Are you thinking about becoming a teacher, but want to make sure it's right for you? There are probably a lot of things you're wondering about, like what you'll need to do to be certified to teach, what salaries teachers make, how you can pay for college and others. Use the information below to find the answers to your questions. The academic advisor at the college you're planning to attend can also counsel you about which classes to take to prepare you for your teaching career.

Teacher Preparation and Certification

Before you decide to enter the teaching profession, take advantage of the information provided by the [Illinois Career Information System](#) - overviews of different teaching fields, including course planning, employment outlook, working condition and wages. You can also access tools available via the [Resources](#) area of the [ISAC Student Portal](#) - including Cappex and the U.S. Department of Education's College Scorecard - to help you locate Illinois colleges that offer degrees in education. Additionally, the [Illinois State Board of Education \(ISBE\) Division of Educator Licensure website](#) provides the testing requirements to be certified to teach in Illinois, testing preparation and other valuable information about becoming a teacher.

Teacher education candidates preparing to take the required (unless candidate has an ACT Composite score of 22 or higher on the ACT plus Military score) Praxis Skills Test of Academic

- Paying For College
- Applying For Financial Aid
- Types Of Financial Aid
- Advanced Degree
- Medical Professions
- Military Service
- Teaching**

Finding a Teaching Job

Those teaching program recipients who are required to teach as part of their financial aid requirements may find these websites helpful in locating a teacher position in the required field/area.

- [Illinois Network of Charter Schools](#)
- [School Spring](#)
- [ISBE](#)
- [Illinois Association of School Administrators \(IASA\)](#)
- [K-12 JobSpot](#)
- [Noble Network Charter Schools](#)

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Loan Cancellation/Forgiveness/Repayment Programs for Teachers

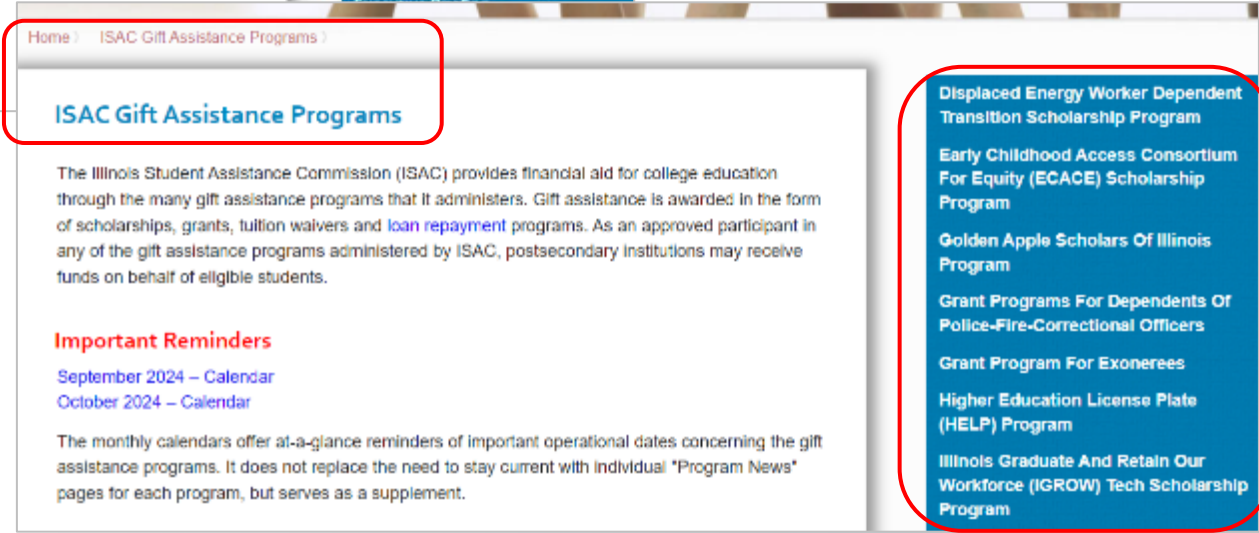
There are also programs available to help teachers repay their student loans after college. The [Federal Perkins Loan Cancellation for Teachers program](#), the [Federal Teacher Loan Forgiveness Program](#), and some of the [Illinois Loan Repayment/Forgiveness Programs](#) offer options for repayment or cancellation of student loans, based on certain teaching requirements.

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Additional Resources

- [Teacher.org](#) - teacher advocacy site for students interested in considering teaching (and other avenues within the field of Education) as a career

Visit isac.org for More Information



ISAC Materials & Resources

isac.org/ordermaterials/order-materials.html

Home > Order Materials

Order Materials

By selecting the appropriate link on the right side of the page -- students and parents, counselors, financial aid administrators, or lenders -- you can order ISAC materials to meet your specific needs.

Materials are typically delivered within 10 days from the date an order is placed online.

Application forms for scholarship and grant programs administered by ISAC are accessible in the [Applications](#) area of this site, but are not available for order.

You will need Acrobat Reader to view special items of the website in this section. If you have not installed this free software on your computer, it can be [downloaded](#) directly from the [Acrobat Reader](#) page.

- Order Materials
- Students And Parents
- Counselors
- Financial Aid Administrators

800.899.ISAC (4722)

e-Messaging

Get the latest news & updates from ISAC

[Order ISAC Materials](#)

Applications

View All Materials Available for Order

- [F241 - A Guide to ISAC Programs and Services \(ISAC programs overview\) \(9/23\)](#) 
On back order and will be available soon
- [F837 - The Financial Aid Process \(Paying for College\) \(English\) \(11/23\)](#) 
- [F3794 - The Financial Aid Process \(Paying for College\) \(Spanish\) \(8/22\)](#) 
On back order and will be available soon
- [F240 - The 4 Steps to College Checklist \(English\) \(9/23\)](#) 
- [F3369 - The 4 Steps to College Checklist \(Spanish\) \(6/24\)](#) 
- [F3737 - Student Portal Postcard \(9/23\)](#) 
- [F3829 - ISAC College Q & A Card \(English/Spanish\) \(10/23\)](#) 
On back order and will be available soon
- [F3786 - What's Needed for FAFSA/Alt App Postcard \(English/Spanish\) \(9/23\)](#) 
- [F3753 - What's Next FAFSA/College Application Postcard \(9/23\)](#) 
- [F3807 - FGSN Postcard \(9/23\)](#) 

Self-Serve Print Materials

- [F3829 - ISAC College Q & A Card \(English/Spanish\) \(10/23\)](#) 

ISAC Materials & Resources

isac.org/e-library/documents/applications-forms-and-brochures/F241_ISAC_Programs_and_Services_Guide.pdf?v2

A GUIDE TO ISAC PROGRAMS & SERVICES



AS THE
STATE'S COLLEGE
ACCESS AND FINANCIAL
AID AGENCY

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 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 costs associated with attendance

Illinois National Guard

Who's Eligible: Current members with at least 1 year of service, at Illinois public and private 2- and 4-year colleges, hospitals, and other degree-granting institutions.

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

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 and 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 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 who have received a certificate of exoneration from the State's Board of Pardons and Parole, at Illinois public and private 2- and 4-year colleges.

Amount: Tuition and mandatory fees and/or costs associated with school equivalency

Illinois Special Education Teacher Tuition Waiver (SETTW)*

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

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

Other ISAC Resources

ISAC Student Portal

- studentportal.isac.org



ISAC Student Portal Resources Toolbox ISACorps Events Program Applications & Status Checks Now Playing Login

Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube

COLLEGE PLANNING MADE EASY.

Planning for college can seem pretty overwhelming, but it's a lot easier with the right tools just a click away. And it's even better when those tools are free! Use the ISAC Student Portal to help you choose a college, learn about careers, find scholarships, simplify the financial aid process, learn how to budget your money, and much more. You can even connect with one of our ISACorps members for one-on-one help or to find a workshop in your area!

There's still time to complete your FAFSA®




Get money for the college program that's right for you...

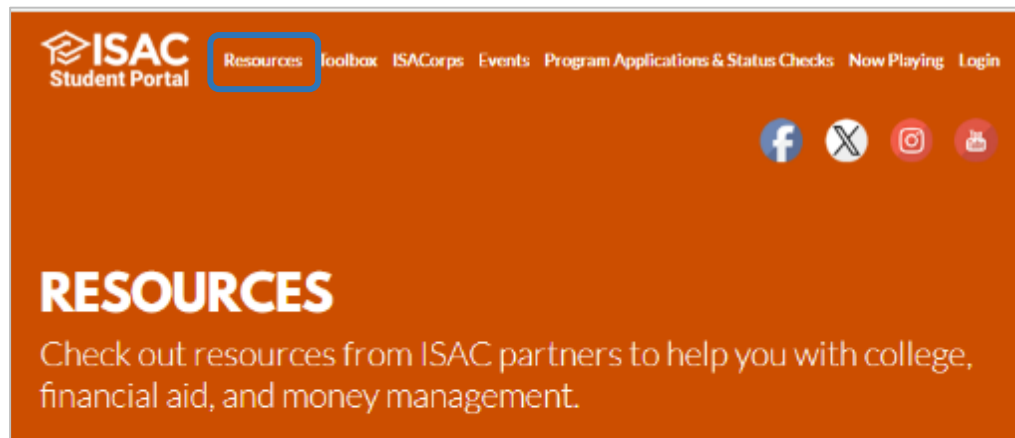
If you tried to complete the FAFSA earlier this year and had difficulty because of technical issues, know that many of these issues have been fixed. Plus, ISAC offers free help statewide to assist you in completing the application quickly and easily. We can help you complete the FAFSA in as little as 30 minutes or less if you gather the info you need beforehand! Book a free virtual appointment with our ISAC FAFSA experts at <https://bit.ly/dhlmf3>. Learn more about the support we offer at studentportal.isac.org/isacorps.

Resources

Partners and tools that we think will help you out.

[SEE ALL RESOURCES](#)




ISAC Student Portal Resources Toolbox ISACorps Events Program Applications & Status Checks Now Playing Login

Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube

RESOURCES


Check out resources from ISAC partners to help you with college, financial aid, and money management.

ALL



[Appily \(formerly, Cappex\)](#)

Get a jump on college planning and find the colleges you want and the scholarships you need. Use Appily to get matched with possible scholarships, to compare colleges, and to figure out your chances of admission at colleges of interest to you.



[Claim your Future](#)

Play Claim Your Future®-- a game that encourages exploration of education and training after high school, future careers, and money management.

Other State Resources

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act

- www.illinoisworknet.com/WIOA
- <https://dceo.illinois.gov/workforcedevelopment.html>

The screenshot shows the homepage of the WIOA Works Illinois website. The browser address bar displays <https://www.illinoisworknet.com/WIOA>. The navigation bar includes a menu icon, Login, Sign Up, Search, Español, and Partners. The main content area features a carousel of six resource cards:

- Illinois Workforce Partnership (IWP)**: Local Workforce Innovation Areas
- ILLINOIS WORKFORCE INNOVATION BOARD**: Illinois Workforce Innovation Board
- WIOA WORKS ePOLICY**: WIOA EPolicy
- ILLINOIS workNet® CENTER**: Career, Training, And Employment Services
- Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity**: Economic Development & Workforce Services
- ICC**: Adult Basic Skills

Below the carousel, there are two sections:

- WIOA Works Illinois**: WIOA Works Illinois is an online resource that assists business and industry leaders, policymakers, community organizations, and workforce professionals in achieving success under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). This site will keep you up-to-date on state policies and programs, highlight local innovation by sharing best practices and success stories, and outline specific policies to ensure a skilled workforce for our state's employers.
- Events**: This serves as a public notice of meetings. Access logistics and materials with the event.

Other State Resources

Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES)

- ides.illinois.gov/
- www.illinoisworknet.com/
- www.illinoisworknet.com/Training/Pages/TrainingGuide.aspx
- <https://portal.il.cis360.org/>



Find a Career

IDES can help you find your next career. Visit illinoisjoblink.com today to search 100,000+ jobs. If you've applied for unemployment benefits, you already have an illinoisjoblink.com account!

[ILLINOISJOBLINK.COM >](#)

[ILLINOIS CAREER INFORMATION SYSTEM >](#)





[JOBS & WORKFORCE >](#)

[ILLINOIS WORKNET >](#)

[VETERAN SERVICES >](#)

Take ownership over your career and education planning with our guided path of self-surveys, research, and action plans to help get ready for your new career.

 <h4>Identify Career Path</h4> <p>One of the best ways to explore careers is to understand more about yourself. Use nine self-surveys to discover career areas that match interests, values, and goals.</p>	 <h4>Localized Career Data</h4> <p>Current data for Wages, Employment Outlook, and Colleges are updated annually by our data analysts. Use accurate and reliable data to make informed decisions.</p>	 <h4>Job Search and Success</h4> <p>Career Plan empowers students to discover, explore, plan, and seek. A guided sequence of activities include job shadowing, informational interviews, financial planning, and more.</p>
 <h4>Workplace Employability Skills</h4> <p>Employability skills are things like professional behavior and collaboration. These are what employers look for when hiring. Our self-surveys and Career Plan activities focus on developing these important skills.</p>	 <h4>Resume and Cover Letter</h4> <p>Resumes and Cover Letters work together to make a candidate stand out to a potential employer. Our builder helps students create these important documents and keep them up-to-date.</p>	 <h4>Scholarships</h4> <p>Our database of over 2,000 scholarships is updated each year. Use Career Plan activities to research scholarships, learn financial aid tips, and explore the FAFSA.</p>

 <h4>IL CIS360 Junior</h4> <p>Discover what you are interested in, your skills, interests, and values.</p>	 <h4>IL CIS360 High School</h4> <p>High school self-surveys to learn about your interests and career options.</p>
 <h4>IL CIS360 College</h4> <p>Identifying careers, exploring goals and interests, and researching options.</p>	 <h4>IL CIS360 Job Seeker</h4> <p>Create a resume, write a cover letter, and explore job opportunities.</p>



veterans.illinois.gov/services-benefits/education

ILLINOIS.gov AGENCIES SERVICES

Director Terry Prince english

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Department of Veterans Affairs > Services/Benefits > Education

Education

Education

Knowledge Skill Training

Deceased, Disabled, and MIA/POW Veterans' Dependents Educational Opportunity Grant (Age: 10-18)

Illinois annually provides a \$250 grant for each child between the ages of 10-18 who are either MIA, a POW, died while on active duty, 100% disabled due to service connected disabilities or died as a result of a service connected disabilities.

Deceased, Disabled, and MIA/POW Veterans' Dependents Scholarship

The State of Illinois provides an education scholarship for the dependents of veterans who are either MIA, a POW, died while on active duty, 100% disabled due to service connected disabilities or died as a result of a service connected disabilities.

State Approving Agency G.I. Bill®

The State Approving Agency (SAA) approves college and non-college degree programs, flight training, apprenticeships and other on-the-job training.

University of Illinois Children of Veterans Scholarship

Each county in the state shall be entitled, annually, to one honorary scholarship at the University of Illinois, for the benefit of children of veterans of WWI, WWII, Korean War.

Veteran Coordinators at Public Universities and Colleges in Illinois

Veteran Coordinators are tasked to be the central point of contact for all veterans, service members, and dependents at universities and colleges. Veteran applicants and student veterans are encouraged to contact these staff to learn about eligibility.

VA Work Study Locations -- IDVA

The Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs provides VA work-study opportunities at its numerous offices throughout Illinois.

Get Academic Credit for Military Training

Making Military Training Count The Office of the Governor and the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs, in cooperation with the Illinois Community College Board, several community colleges.



Federal Financial Aid Programs

- U.S. Department of Education (ED), Title IV Federal Student Aid* (FSA)
 - Pell Grant
 - 2024-25 maximum award amount is \$7,395
 - Available to children of certain deceased military servicemembers or public safety officers
 - Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant (SEOG)
 - Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant
 - William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program
 - Work Study
- U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)
 - Chapter 30 – Montgomery GI Bill-Active Duty
 - Chapter 31 -- Veteran Readiness and Employment (VR&E)
 - Chapter 32 – Veterans' Education Assistance Program (VEAP)
 - Chapter 33 -- Post-9/11 GI Bill
 - Chapter 35 -- Dependents Educational Assistance
 - Chapter 1606 -- Montgomery GI Bill - Selected Reserve

Studentaid.gov

https://studentaid.gov

Federal Student Aid

FAFSA® Form ▾ Loans and Grants ▾ Loan Repayment ▾ Loan Forgiveness ▾ Log In | Create Account

Learn More About Student Loan Debt Relief

Debt Relief Information

View Frequently Asked Questions

Considering School
I'm thinking about going to college or a career school.

In School
I'm in the process of earning a degree or certificate.

Parent
I want to help my child pay for college.

POPULAR TOPICS

- Apply for Aid Using the FAFSA® Form >
- Complete a Master Promissory Note (MPN) >
- Apply for a Direct PLUS Loan >
- Learn About Public Service Loan Forgiveness >
- View Your Loan Information >

We're here to help you access and manage your financial aid.

Receive a TEACH Grant to Pay for College

You'll have special teaching service requirements if you accept a TEACH Grant, so make sure you understand your obligation.

On This Page

TEACH Grant Eligible

TEACH Grant Information

TEACH Grant Eligible Programs

How to Get a TEACH Grant

Master Promissory Note (MPN)

TEACH Grant Agreement to Service Requirement

TEACH Grant Service

A Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant is different from the federal student grants because it requires you agree to complete a teaching service obligation as a condition for receiving the grant, and if you don't complete the service obligation, the TEACH Grant will be converted to a loan that you must repay, with interest.

Beginning in fall 2024, TEACH Grant recipients will communicate directly with the U.S. Department of Education (ED) and not a separate TEACH Grant servicer. Until then, there is a TEACH Grant processing pause. To manage your TEACH Grant after the pause ends, visit [studentaid.gov](#).

During the processing pause, you can:

- [upload your TEACH Grant certification form](#) on Studentaid.gov, or
- [modify TEACH Grant certification forms to request for loan conversion, suspension, discharge, or reinstatement of loan repayment for](#)

Federal Student Aid

FAFSA® Form ▾ **Loans and Grants** ▾ Loan Repayment ▾ Loan Forgiveness ▾ Log In | Create Account

Get a Loan

- Undergraduate and Graduate Loans
- PLUS Loans: Grad PLUS and Parent PLUS
- Master Promissory Note (MPN)
- Loan Entrance Counseling
- Annual Student Loan Acknowledgment
- PLUS Credit Counseling
- Endorse a PLUS Loan
- Appeal a Credit Decision

Get a Grant

- Pell Grants
- TEACH Grants

Tools and Calculators

- Federal Student Aid Estimator
- Loan Simulator

Learn About Loans and Grants

- How Financial Aid Works
- Financial Aid Eligibility
- Loans, Grants, and Work-Study

Considering School
I'm thinking about going to college or a career school.

In School
I'm in the process of earning a degree or certificate.

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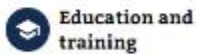
In Repayment
I have loans I need to repay.

va.gov/education/about-gi-bill-benefits/

[VA.gov home](#) > [Education and training](#) > [About GI Bill benefits](#)

[Use the GI Bill Comparison Tool](#)

[Apply for education benefits](#)



About GI Bill benefits

Get benefits

About GI Bill benefits

[Post-9/11 GI Bill \(Chapter 33\)](#)

[Montgomery GI Bill Active Duty \(MGIR-AD\)](#)

[Montgomery GI Bill Selected Reserve \(MGIB-SR\)](#)

[How to use your GI Bill benefits](#)

[Eligibility](#)

[How to apply](#)

[After you apply](#)

[Veteran Readiness and Employment \(Chapter 31\)](#)

GI Bill benefits help you pay for school and cover expenses for training for a job. Since 1944, the GI Bill has helped Veterans and their family members get money to cover all or part of school or training. Learn more about GI Bill benefits and how to apply for them.

If you applied for and were awarded Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits, your GI Bill Statement of Benefits will show you how many benefits you've used and how much you have left to use.

[Review your GI Bill Statement of Benefits](#)

The GI Bill Comparison Tool can help you explore your options. A VA accredited representative can help you apply for education benefits.

Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits

[Post-9/11 GI Bill](#)

If you need help paying for school or covering expenses while you're training for a job and you've served on active duty after September 10, 2001, find out if you can get education benefits through the Post-9/11 GI Bill.

[Transfer your Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits to your spouse and dependents](#)

If you have unused Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits, find out if you can transfer your benefits to your spouse or dependent children.

Benefit rates and ways you can use your benefits

[Rates](#)

Learn more about education benefit rates for tuition and books for qualifying Veterans and their family members.

[Foreign programs](#)

If you plan to study at a foreign school, find out how you can use VA benefits to cover your tuition and fees.

[Undergraduate and graduate degrees from institutions of higher learning](#)

If you're looking to earn an undergraduate or graduate degree, find out if you can get VA benefits to help pay for courses.

ISAC's Student Engagement & Support Services

For inquiries from students, parents, and the general public

Phone: **800-899-ISAC** (4722)

Fax: 847-831-8549

E-mail: isac.studentservices@illinois.gov

Spanish-speaking counselors are available
8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. CT

ISAC's Partner Services Department

- Provides training, program information, policy guidance and support to schools and other ISAC partners
- Partners with ILASFAA and other professional organizations
- Responds to school inquiries, both colleges and high schools

Phone: **866-247-2172**

Fax: 847-831-8549

E-mail: isac.schoolservices@illinois.gov

Partner Services Staff

Stephanie Claudio, Stephanie.Claudio@illinois.gov

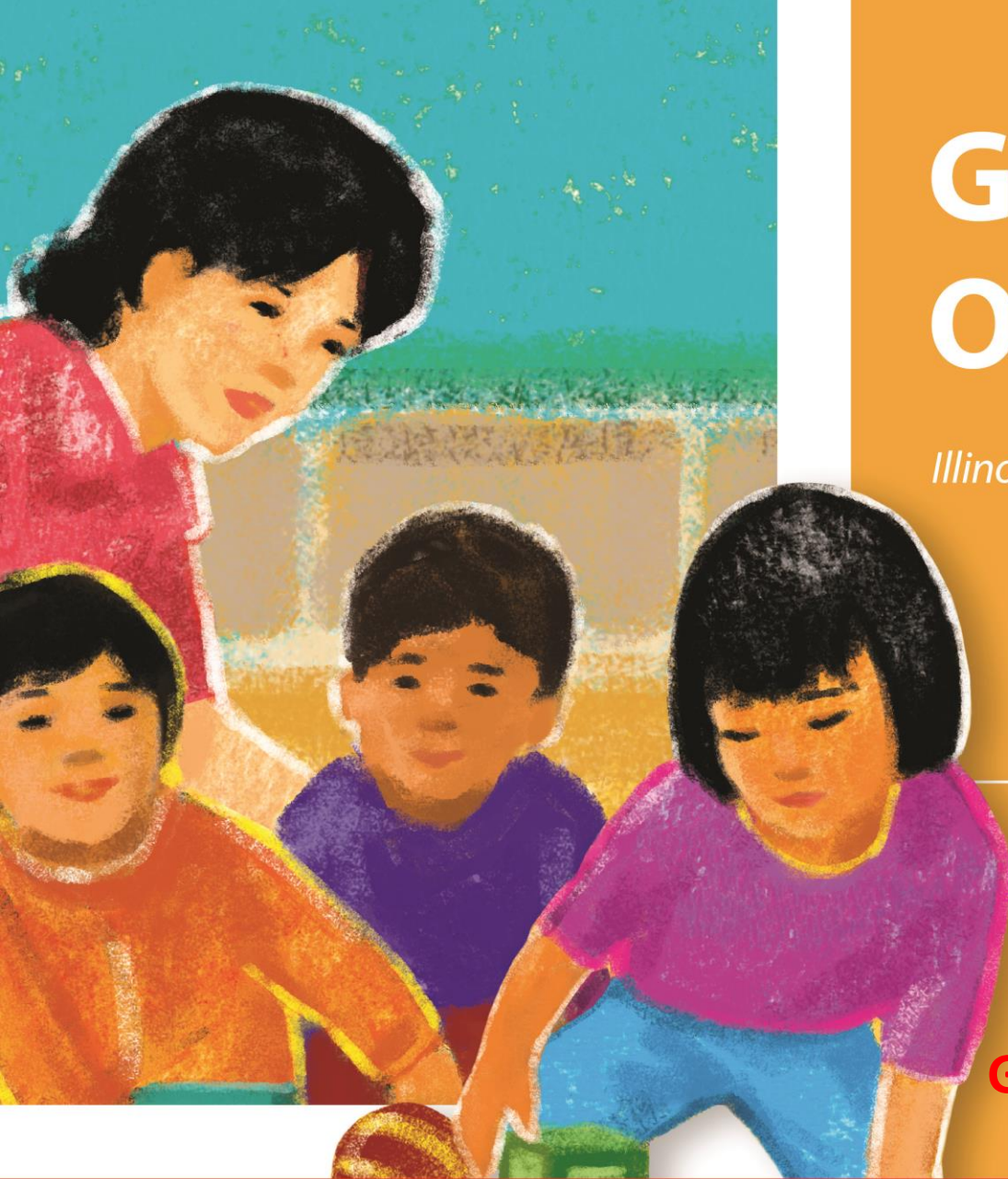
Kim Eck, Kimberly.Eck@illinois.gov

Daniela Rios, Daniela.Rios@illinois.gov

Sherry Schonauer, Sherry.Schonauer@illinois.gov

Questions





Gateways to Opportunity[®]

Illinois Professional Development System

www.ilgateways.com

Gateways Scholarship Program

Gateways Scholarship Program

- **Helps pay for...**

- Gateways Credential
- Associate, bachelor's or master's degrees in early childhood and/or Child Development
- Courses toward a Professional Educator License with an endorsement in Early Childhood,
- Courses toward an ESL/Bilingual endorsement
- Courses to advance on the Great START wage supplement scale

- **Who can apply?**

- In IDCFS licensed programs: Family Child Care Provider, Family Child Care Assistant, Group Home Provider, Group Home Assistant, Director, Assistant Director, Teacher, Assistant Teacher, School-Age Teacher, School-Age Assistant
- In an ISBE Funded Preschool for All (PFA) program that operates for a minimum of nine months per year: Teacher or Teacher's Aide.

Eligibility Requirements

- **Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (IDCFS) Licensed Program**
 - Working in a full day, full year DCFS licensed childcare program.
 - A full day, full year program is one that operates 47 weeks per year, serving children 8 hours per day.
 - Working a minimum of 15 hours per week
 - Working at CURRENT place of employment for minimum of one year (or 90 days if you work for a program holding an ExceleRate Illinois Circle of Quality)
 - Meeting wage requirements
- **Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) Funded PFA**
 - Working in current program for one full school year
 - Working a minimum of 15 hours per week
 - Meeting wage requirements

How much will Gateways Scholarship pay?

% of Tuition Gateways Scholarship Program Would Pay	Applicant Responsibility to College or University	Hourly Wage
100%	0%	up to \$4.25 over Illinois State Minimum Wage
90%	10%	\$4.26 to \$7.00 over Illinois State Minimum Wage
80%	20%	\$7.01 to \$10.00 over Illinois State Minimum Wage
70%	30%	\$10.01 to \$13.00 over Illinois State Minimum Wage
60%	40%	\$13.01 to \$16.00 over Illinois State Minimum Wage

Gateways Scholarship Program will not pay out of district costs.

Scale based on a 40-hour work week.

Minimum wage	Gross Yearly Wage Range +\$4.25 100% covered	Gross Yearly Wage Range +\$4.26-\$7.00 90% covered	Gross Yearly Wage Range +\$7.01 -+\$10.00 80% covered	Gross Yearly Wage Range +\$10.01- \$13.00 70% covered	Gross Yearly Wage Range +\$13.01-\$16.00 60% covered
2024 - \$14.00	\$14.00-\$18.25 \$37,960	\$18.26-\$21.00 \$37,980.80- \$43,680.00	\$21.01-\$24.00 \$43,700.8 - \$49,920.0	\$24.01-\$27.00 \$49,940.80 - \$56,160.00	\$27.01-\$30.00 \$56,180.80 - \$62,400.00
2025 - \$15.00	\$15.00-\$19.25 \$40,040	\$19.26-\$22.00 \$40,060.80-\$45,760.00	\$22.01-\$25.00 \$45,780.80 - \$52,000.00	\$25.01-\$28.00 \$52,020.80 - \$58,240.00	\$28.01-\$31.00 \$58,260.80 - \$64,480.00

The Gateways Scholarship will assist with up to 5 courses in a contract period OR a maximum of 15 semester/23 quarter hours in a contract period (for courses outside of the typical course length).

Application Process

Application information for the Gateways Scholarship Program is on the Gateways to Opportunity website (www.ilgateways.com).

- Complete and submit the application.
- Refer to the application checklist for additional documentation to submit.

Work Commitment

Gateways Scholarship recipients must make a commitment to work in the field of early care and education.

- 6 months per coursework contract
- 1 year for completing a degree, certificate, or endorsement

Gateways Scholarship Program FAQs

AND

**Gateways Scholarship Work
Commitment FAQs**

Participating Institutions



For a full list, please visit our website and go to the Participating Colleges & Universities page. All two-year and most four-year Illinois schools that offer degrees in early childhood education are partnering institutions.



Website:

www.ilgateways.com

Email:

scholarship@ilgateways.com



CHICAGO EARLY LEARNING

WORKFORCE

SCHOLARSHIP



Advance Your Career in Early Childhood Education!

Are you interested in either becoming an ECE professional or advancing in your career as an ECE professional at no cost?

This scholarship covers 100% of your tuition and up to \$250 per course in books to support your pursuit of a college degree, credential, endorsement, or ECE licensure.



The Workforce Scholarship application window opens in January

How can you benefit from the Workforce Scholarship?

- 100% Tuition Covered + Money for Books
- 1:1 Scholarship Advising
- Ongoing Support through Program Completion
- Community Building + Networking

Get matched with the right higher education program to meet you where you're at in your ECE path:

- Basic & Advanced Professional Certificates
- Associate's Degree
- Bachelor's Degree
- Professional Educator's License
- Coursework to earn: Endorsement | Gateways Credentials

Who's Eligible for the Workforce Scholarship?

- Current Chicago Early Learning staff
- Chicago residents interested in becoming early childhood educators

The Workforce Scholarship isn't just for preschool teachers! It's for all ECE professionals and anyone who lives in Chicago who wants to enter the ECE workforce.



Don't delay! Scholarships are awarded on a first-come basis.

Learn more and apply at ChicagoEarlyLearning.org/Scholarships



¡Avance su carrera en la Educación Temprana!

¿Está interesado en convertirse en un profesional de ECE (Educación Temprana) o avanzar su carrera como profesional de ECE (Educación Temprana) sin costo alguno?

Esta beca cubre el 100% de su matrícula y hasta \$250 por curso en libros para apoyar su búsqueda de un título universitario, credencial, aprobación o licencia ECE (Educación Temprana).



La ventana de la solicitud de becas Workforce se abre en enero

¿Cómo puede beneficiarse de la Beca Workforce?

- 100% de matrícula cubierta + dinero para libros
- Asesoramiento personalizado 1:1
- Apoyo continuo hasta la finalización del programa
- Cultura de convivencia + interconexión profesional

Emparejamiento con el programa académico más adecuado para su camino en la carrera de ECE:

- Certificados profesionales básicos y avanzados
- Título Asociado
- Título Universitario / Licenciatura
- Licencia de educador profesional
- Trabajo de curso: Aprobaciones | Credenciales de Gateways

¿Quién es elegible para la beca Workforce?

- Personal actual de Chicago Early Learning
- Residentes de Chicago interesados en convertirse en educadores de la primera infancia

¡La Beca Workforce no es solo para maestros preescolares! Es para todos los profesionales de ECE y cualquier persona que viva en Chicago y quiera ingresar a la fuerza laboral de ECE.



¡No se demore! Las becas se otorgan en orden de llegada.

Infórmate y aplica en ChicagoEarlyLearning.org/Scholarships

GOALS

City agencies collaborated to launch the Chicago Early Learning Workforce Scholarship (CELWS) initiative in 2018.



- CELWS aims to support Chicagoans and the current Chicago Early Learning workforce as they pursue coursework to earn a credential, degree, endorsement, or licensure to work with young children (birth through Pre-k) and families in Chicago Early Learning programs.
- The scholarship serves an important role in Chicago's efforts to expand access to early learning across the city and build a more robust workforce that can help Chicago expand high quality early learning programs.
- CELWS provides recipients with meaningful career pathways through partnerships with Institutions of Higher Education, which also offer students personalized supports as they navigate their desired course of study.



- How to Apply: Mid-January to February, applications can be completed on the *Chicago Early Learning* website. Once complete, the applicant will receive follow-up from Screening team (INCCRRA).
- Amount: The scholarship will serve as a “last dollar” scholarship, meaning it will cover everything that students’ federal grants and other scholarships do not cover.
 - Tuition & eligible fees at 100%
 - Books up to \$250/course
- 3-year work commitment: Chicago Early Learning Workforce Scholarship recipients must commit to work in a Chicago Early Learning (CEL) Program (Community-based organization or CPS birth through Pre-K program) for a minimum of three years after completion of their degree or approved academic program.

WHY CELWS?



FROM CHICAGO FOR
CHICAGO



ECE RECRUITMENT &
RETENTION STRATEGY



SERVES COMPREHENSIVE
EARLY CHILDHOOD FIELD



FOR CHICAGO'S ECE FIELD

Are you a
resident of
Chicago?



If not, do you
work in a Chicago
Early program?

FOR THE WHOLE ECE FIELD

Early Learning profession: Prenatal to Pre-K

Teachers
(in-classroom)

Home Visitors

Family Support
Roles

Administrators

Chicago Public Schools (CPS) programs

Age Group: 3 and 4

Many CPS elementary schools offer early learning programs as a part of their services.



Community Early Learning programs

Age Group: Birth to 4

Neighborhood locations provide early childhood education and infant and toddler care. Hours vary by site.



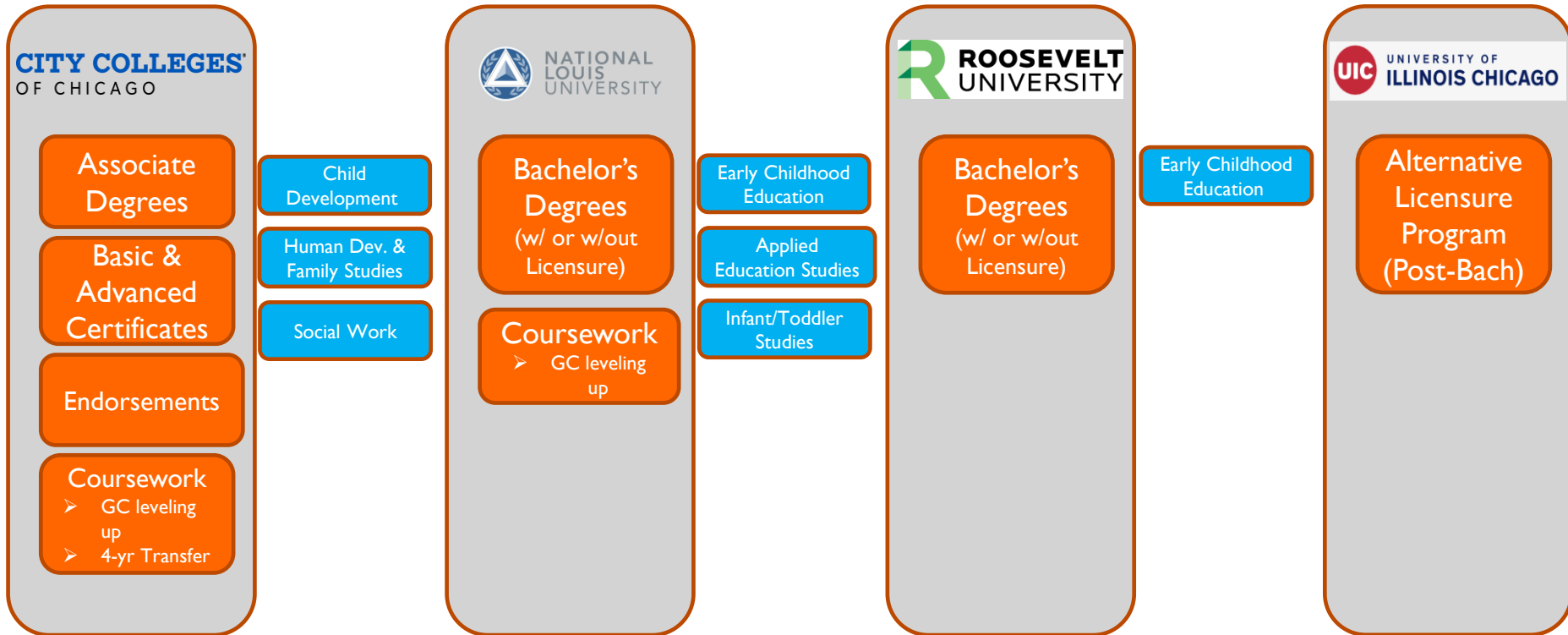
Home visiting programs

Age Group: Prenatal/Birth to 3

Certified coaches provide early care and consulting in the family's home.



COLLEGE/ UNIVERSITY PARTNERS



Convenient Locations

With locations across the city there is a wide range of class times: Morning, Evening, Weekend, Zoom.

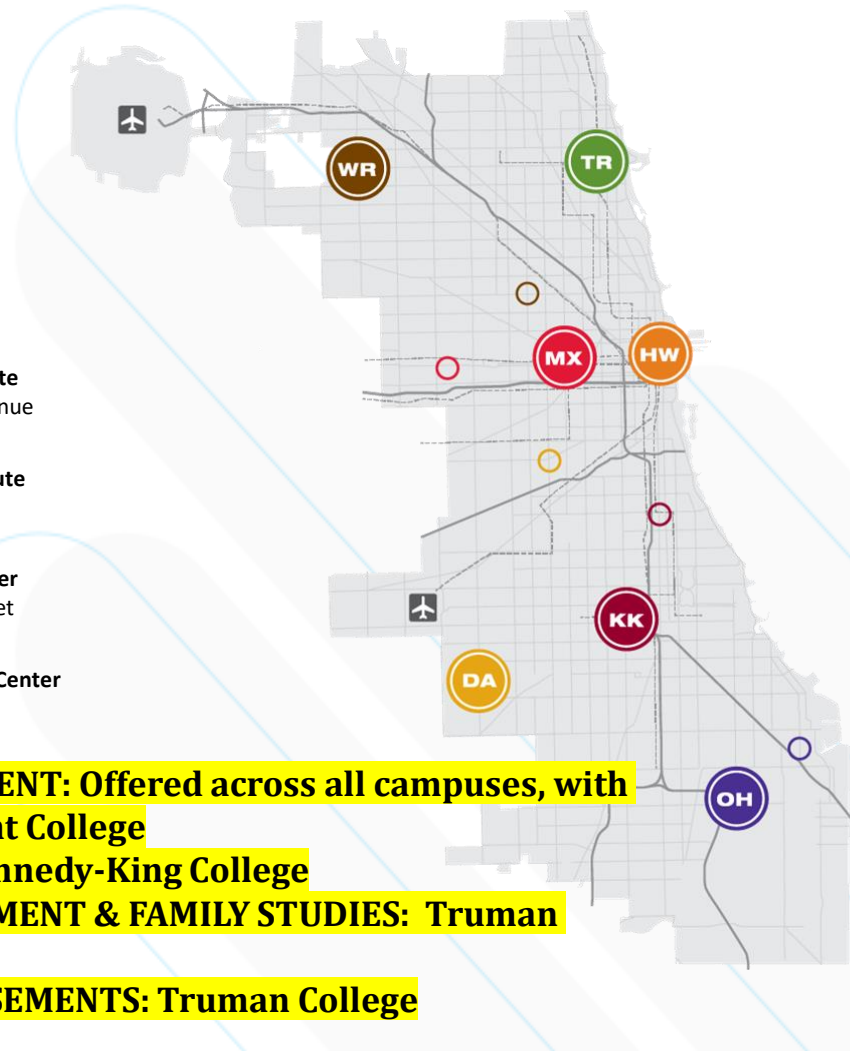
COLLEGES

- DA** Richard J. Daley College
7500 South Pulaski Road
- KK** Kennedy-King College
6301 South Halsted Street
- MX** Malcolm X College
1900 West Jackson Boulevard
- OH** Olive-Harvey College
10001 South Woodlawn Avenue
- TR** Harry S Truman College
1145 West Wilson Avenue
- HW** Harold Washington College
30 East Lake Street

SATELLITES

- Arturo Velasquez Institute**
2800 South Western Avenue
- Dawson Technical Institute**
3901 South State Street
- West Side Learning Center**
4624 West Madison Street
- South Chicago Learning Center**
3055 East 92 Street

- CHILD DEVELOPMENT: Offered across all campuses, with exception of Wright College**
- SOCIAL WORK: Kennedy-King College**
- HUMAN DEVELOPMENT & FAMILY STUDIES: Truman College**
- POST-PEL ENDORSEMENTS: Truman College**

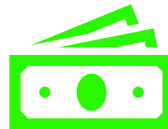


CIT • CO



I: I Scholarship Advising

- Early Childhood expertise
- Navigation of college/university
- Liaison to services at college/university
- Ensure good academic standing
- Holistic approach



Comprehensive Fiscal Supports

- AA/AAS→BA Transfer Scholarships
- Alternative Licensure → ESL/Bilingual Endorsement Scholarships
- Content exam fee coverage
- Transcript fee coverage upon graduation/completion



Community-building: Access to other Scholars

- Onboarding
- IHE orientations
- CELWS Connects sessions
- Networking events
- Career/job fairs

FAQS

- Q: When do I apply for a Chicago Early Learning Workforce Scholarship?
- A: Applications open in mid-January every year
- Q: How long may I participate in the Chicago Early Learning Workforce Scholarship program?
- A: CELWS will support awardees through Academic program/Degree attainment, contingent on funding, as long as students meet following requirements:
 - Maintain Good Standing and Continued Enrollment at your selected college/university
 - Earn a GPA of 2.0 or higher
 - Commit to work in a birth through Pre-K Chicago Early Learning Program (community-based organization or Chicago Public School) for three years after completion of the academic program or degree
- Q: How many credits can I be registered for?
- A: Maximum of 15 semester hours or 23 quarter hours per term

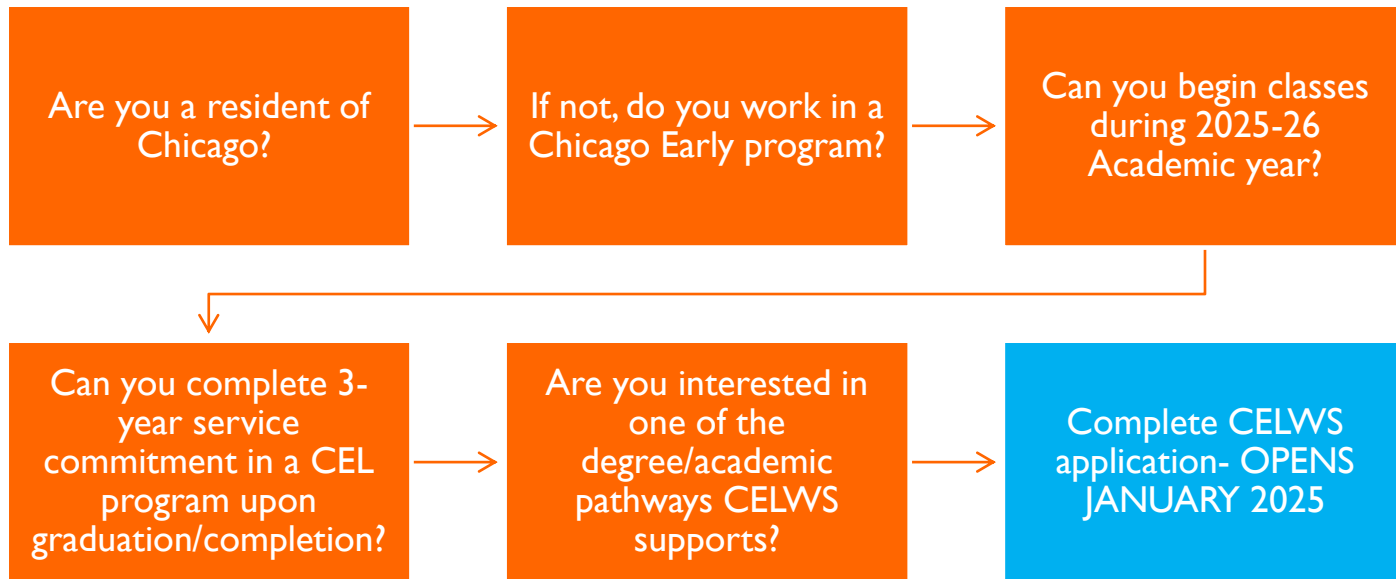


NEXT STEPS

CELWS APPLICATION OPENING



LET'S REVIEW



The Workforce Scholarship application is officially open! [Apply Now](#)

[RESOURCES](#) [CONNECT](#) [EVERY CHILD READY CHICAGO](#) [FAMILY RESOURCE CENTERS](#)

 [SELECT LANGUAGE](#) ▼



[How To Apply](#) [Programs](#) [Locations](#) [Community-Based](#) [FA](#) [Scholarships](#) [About](#)



Chicago Early Learning



Workforce Scholarship

Advance Your Career in Early Childhood Education

Do you want to advance in your career as an early childhood educator, or become an early childhood professional? **Apply for the Chicago Early Learning Workforce Scholarship for the 2024–2025 academic year!**

The Workforce Scholarship application is NOW OPEN.

[APPLY NOW](#)

[SIGN UP FOR UPDATES](#)

What will I need for the CELWS application?

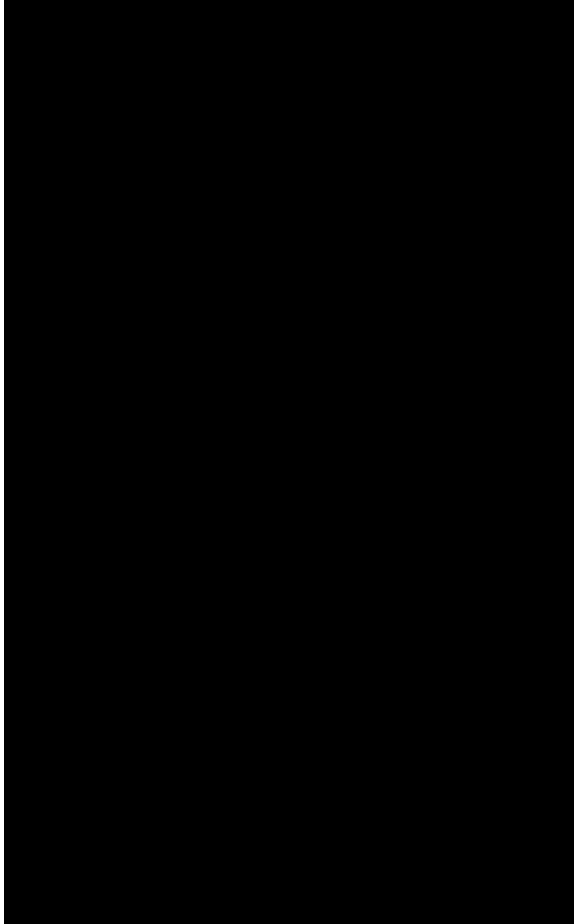
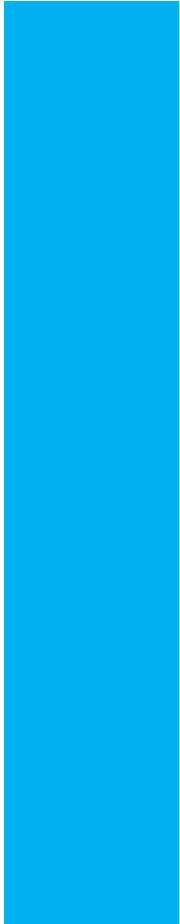
- Gateways Registry ID- If you do not have one, you should apply for one at <https://registry.ilgateways.com>

What questions can I expect on CELWS application?

- Program/Degree seeking?
- Type/concentration of degree?

What will I need once application is verified?

- A copy of your Professional Development Record (PDR) if available
- Official transcripts once you are verified and matched with a college/university



Q&A



THANK YOU!



Sandy De León, Executive Director
Guadalupe Valdivia, Director



QUESTIONS/COMMENTS



Thank you for attending today!