



Nursing Education Scholarship Program (NESP)

Transitioning from IDPH to ISAC

December 13, 2022



Nursing Education Scholarship Program (NESP)

- Intended for students pursuing a certificate in practical nursing, an associate's degree in nursing, a hospital-based diploma in nursing or a bachelor's or graduate degree in nursing
- Provides financial aid anywhere from one to four years
- Recipients must begin full- or part-time employment as a licensed practical or registered nurse in Illinois within six months of graduating, and remain employed for a period equivalent to the educational time supported by the scholarship
- If recipients terminate studies, or fail to become employed, they will be required to repay the full scholarship amount, plus interest

Nursing Education Scholarship Program (NESP)

- As a result of recent legislation, administration of NESP is transitioning from the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) to the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) during the 2022-23 award year
 - <https://ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/102/PDF/102-0699.pdf>, starting on page 341
 - Section 5-88. The Nursing Education Scholarship Law is amended by changing Sections 3, 5, 6.5, and 7 and by adding Sections 3.1 and 9.1 as follows: (110 ILCS 975/3) (from Ch. 144, par. 2753) Sec. 3. Definitions.
- To minimize disruptions to students and institutions, it was decided that IDPH would manage the application and awarding process for the 2022-23 award year, and transition to ISAC for the disbursement process
- For 2023-24, the entire process will be administered by ISAC

What Has Happened So Far ...

- Applicants received notification of their eligibility status from the IDPH earlier in the year
 - Recipients should refer to the awarding statement received from IDPH for award details, including the award amount
- IDPH and ISAC have worked in partnership to build the needed systems to transfer required documentation and integrate program administration into ISAC processing
 - Unfortunately, this has resulted in a delay obtaining signed grant agreements from recipients and disbursing funds
- In late November, NESP recipients were sent an e-mail message from ISAC containing information about the transition of the program to ISAC, along with next steps and the expected timeline for disbursements
- On December 6, NESP recipients received e-mail messages from ISAC which contained instructions for signing and submitting the required Grant Agreements/Promissory Notes.
 - Disbursement of NESP funds cannot occur until a recipient's signed Grant Agreement/Promissory Note is in place
 - Recipients may access and sign agreements through the Program Applications & Status Checks area of the [ISAC Student Portal](https://studentportal.isac.org) at studentportal.isac.org

What's Next ...

- **2022-23**
 - As agreements are signed, disbursement of fall term awards will begin
 - Stipends and scholarships are expected to be disbursed after the new year
 - Spring and summer term processing will utilize ISAC's Gift Assistance Portal -- Access, where schools will certify eligibility and request subsequent term payments
 - Similarly to how processing works for other ISAC programs
- **2023-24**
 - The application process will be made available in ISAC's Student Portal
 - Program administration for 2023-24 and beyond will take place in ISAC's GAP Access system

Student Communication

Dear Nursing Education Scholarship Program Awardee,

The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), along with the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC), would like to share information with you about the administration of the Nursing Education Scholarship Program (NESP), of which you are a recipient. This correspondence is notification that, with the upcoming disbursement of your 2022-23 NESP award, ISAC will be responsible for disbursing funds to recipients on behalf of IDPH.

ISAC is the state's college access and financial aid agency, and as such, helps hundreds of thousands of students like yourself navigate the college-going process each year. We administer numerous scholarship and grant programs and are now available to answer any questions you may have about the receipt of your NESP award funds.

Disbursement of fall term awards to NESP recipients is expected to take place shortly after the new year. Before we are able to authorize delivery of funds to you and your college, we must receive a signed Grant Agreement/Promissory Note from each recipient. Instructions for completing, signing and returning the document, which will include an electronic option, will be provided to you via e-mail in December. It will be important to complete the process as soon as possible since your award cannot be disbursed without the signed agreement. Your signature on this Grant Agreement/Promissory Note will also allow us to disburse your spring term award; we will need nothing further from you to proceed with that disbursement.

It is our pleasure to become a part of your partnership with IDPH, and we encourage you to contact us with any question you have about your award disbursement. Be watching your e-mail in the coming weeks for our next correspondence, which will include access to the Grant Agreement/Promissory Note.

Illinois Student Assistance Commission

isac.studentservices@illinois.gov

800.899.4722

www.isac.org

Sent to students in late November

Illinois Department of Public Health
Center for Rural Health

This message is a follow-up to our previous correspondence and contains information about accessing and signing the Grant Agreement/Promissory Note needed to facilitate disbursement of your Nursing Education Scholarship Program (NESP) award. As shared in our first message to you, we must be in receipt of a signed Grant Agreement/Promissory Note before we can authorize delivery of funds.

Instructions:

- Enter the [ISAC Student Portal](#) through this link or access the Portal at isac.org/studentportal. Choose "Program Applications & Status Checks" and then "NESP".
- If you already have a Student Portal account, log in; if not, you will need to create an account by following the on-screen instructions.
- Be sure to enter your first and last names as they appeared on your 2022-23 NESP eligibility notification
- Choose how you wish to sign your NESP Grant Agreement/Promissory Note. You may securely sign electronically (ESign button), which is the quickest method, or print the agreement and sign in ink (2023-23 button). If you choose to sign on paper, your printed and signed agreement must be returned to ISAC at the address shown at the top of the form.
- View your completed and e-signed Grant Agreement/Promissory Note and print a copy for your records.

To expedite the signature process, we urge you to use the secure electronic signature option through DocuSign, rather than printing, signing and returning a paper agreement. Please note, however, if you choose to sign and return a paper agreement, only an original ink signature sent through U.S. mail will be considered valid. Documents sent via e-mail or FAX will not be accepted.

It is important that we receive your signed agreement by **Friday, December 16, 2022. Your award cannot be disbursed without the signed agreement.** While signed agreements received after that date will be accepted, disbursements will be further delayed for those recipients.

Please turn your attention to completing this as soon as possible so that we may proceed with disbursement of your NESP award. If you have any questions, please contact one of our Call Center Representatives as listed below.

Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC)

1755 Lake Cook Road, Deerfield, IL 60015

e-mail: isac.studentservices@illinois.gov

Website: www.isac.org

Phone: 800.899.4722

Fax: 847.831.8549

Phone: 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. CT

Sent to students in early December



<https://studentportal.isac.org>

ISAC Student Portal

Resources | Inetbox | ISAC Corps | **Program Applications & Status Checks** | Now Playing | Login

PROGRAM APPLICATIONS & STATUS CHECKS

Apply for and check the status of your financial aid programs. Find applications and information for Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) and other State of Illinois programs here.

ALL

Monetary Award Program
MAP
Check your Paid Credit Hours

Illinois National Guard Grant
ING
Apply here

Illinois National Guard Grant
ING
Check your status

Community Behavioral Health Care Professional Loan Repayment Program
Apply here

Exonerees Grant Application
Exonerees
Apply here

Nursing Education Scholarship Program
NESP
Print & Sign your grant agreement/promissory note

Have an account? Log In to make the application process faster, or create an account for future applications.

LOGIN SIGN UP

E-mail address

Password

LOGIN

Forgot Password?

Forgot User ID?

Student Inquiries

- Students have been provided with ISAC's contact information and have been reaching out to ISAC's Call Center regarding their fall payments
- As we explain the transition process to them, we're letting them know we've provided communication to NESP-participating schools about the delay in payment processing
- We are also encouraging students to contact the financial aid and/or business office to discuss any issues/concerns regarding their ability to graduate or enroll for the spring term, as well as possible contingencies that schools may have in place for these types of situation where financial aid funding has been delayed
- Student information page:
 - www.isac.org/students/during-college/types-of-financial-aid/scholarships/nursing-education-scholarship-program.html

Nursing Education Scholarship Program (NESP)

The administration of NESP is transitioning from the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) to ISAC. Scroll to "processing Updates" below for information about the current status.

If you are pursuing a certificate in practical nursing, an associates degree in nursing, a hospital-based diploma in nursing or a bachelor's or graduate degree in nursing and demonstrate the greatest financial need among qualified students, you may be qualified to receive the Nursing Education Scholarship. This scholarship provides financial aid anywhere from one to four years. If awarded, you must begin full- or part-time employment as a licensed practical or registered nurse in Illinois within six months of graduating, and remain employed for a period equivalent to the educational time supported by the scholarship. If you terminate studies, or fail to become employed, you will be required to repay the full scholarship amount, plus seven-percent interest per year.

Eligibility

- be a [U.S. citizen or an eligible non citizen](#) or meet the "[undocumented student](#)" criteria of the [RISE Act](#)
- be an Illinois resident
- be enrolled or accepted for enrollment to a nursing program in Illinois that is approved by the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation or the Illinois Board of Higher Education.
- demonstrate financial need
- sign a [Grant Agreement/Promissory Note](#) promising to fulfill the employment commitment or repay funds received plus interest.

How to Apply

The 2022-23 application period is closed

The 2023-24 application is expected to be available in spring, 2023

Paying For College

Applying For Financial Aid

Types Of Financial Aid

[Illinois And Federal Financial Aid Programs](#)

[Work-Study Programs](#)

[Grants](#)

[Loans](#)

Scholarships

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

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

[Early Childhood Access Consortium For Equity \(ECACE\) Scholarship Program](#)

[Displaced Energy Worker Dependent Transition Scholarship Program](#)

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

[Golden Apple Scholars Of Illinois](#)

[MIAPOW Scholarship](#)

School Communication

Dear Financial Aid Administrator,

The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), along with the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC), would like to share information about the administration of the Nursing Education Scholarship Program (NESP). Please be aware that the upcoming disbursement of 2022-23 NESP awards will be the first step in transitioning administration of the program to ISAC, as required by legislation passed in the spring. For those of you at schools with no past working relationship with ISAC, we are the state's college access and financial aid agency, administering numerous scholarship and grant programs for Illinois students.

Disbursement of fall term awards to NESP recipients is expected to take place shortly after the new year. Currently, we are in the process of obtaining signed Grant Agreement/Promissory Notes from each recipient. Once the agreements are in place, fall disbursements will begin. Disbursements to schools will follow the same process as in past years, with funds payable by the State Comptroller's office. Checks will continue to be co-payable to the school and the recipient; stipend payments will be remitted directly to recipients.

ISAC staff are available to answer questions about the NESP award disbursement process; contact us as noted below. Additional information about ISAC's administration of the program, including details about spring term disbursements, will be conveyed to participating schools in the coming months.

Illinois Department of Public Health
Center for Rural Health

Illinois Student Assistance Commission
isac.schoolservices@illinois.gov
866.247.2172
www.isac.org

Sent to school contacts on November 21

isac.org/e-library/partner-e-messages-and-newsletters/faa-e-messages/eLibrary-faa-2022-1208.html

NESP Transition Updates – December 13 Webinar Sent 12/08/2022

The Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) would like to provide you with updates on the Nursing Education Scholarship Program (NESP). This message covers several different topics, and depending on your school's current status of program participation, may not be of immediate interest to you. Please feel free to disregard any information that does not currently impact you and/or your students.

NESP Webinar – December 13

A general overview of the transition of NESP administration to ISAC, including discussion about the disbursement process and next steps for the program, is scheduled for **1 – 2 p.m., Tuesday, December 13**. To participate, visit the [Partner Training](#) page in the [e-Library](#) at isac.org to access the webinar link and presentation materials, both of which will be posted on the day of the session; the link is also listed below. Registration is not required, and any specific topics or questions you would like addressed may be submitted via e-mail to kimberly.eck@illinois.gov prior to the session.

December 13 Webinar link: <https://illinois2.webex.com/meet/kimberly.eck>

isac.org/e-library/partner-e-messages-and-newsletters/faa-e-messages/eLibrary-faa-2022-1208.html

Fall 2022 Term Disbursements

This week, NESP recipients are receiving their Grant Agreement/Promissory Notes from ISAC for signature. The students will access the agreement through the ISAC Student Portal and will be encouraged to sign and submit it online for timely processing. Once ISAC is in receipt of the signed agreement, a payment claim voucher will be issued to the school. For institutions with a small number of recipients, this will be done on a rolling basis as agreements are received. For institutions that have a larger number of students, we will batch the payment claims for ease of review and processing. Following the receipt of payment claims, disbursements to schools will follow the same process as in past years, with funds payable by the State Comptroller's office. Checks will continue to be co-payable to the school and the recipient; stipend payments will be remitted directly to recipients. Fall term disbursements are anticipated to take place shortly after the new year.

isac.org/e-library/partner-e-messages-and-newsletters/faa-e-messages/eLibrary-faa-2022-1208.html

2023 – What's Ahead

As we look ahead to 2023, there is much work to be done on behalf of NESP recipients and participating schools. ISAC is preparing to undertake three major activities starting in January 2023: the spring term awarding cycle, the onboarding of this program into our Gift Assistance Programs (GAP) Access portal to accommodate schools' administration of the program, and the development of the 2023-24 application. You will receive more details and updates on these activities early next year.

In the meantime, we appreciate your support and collaboration as we continue to work through the details of the transition.

You are receiving this message because you registered for ISAC's e-Messaging service through one or more subscription groups for FAAs.

If you have any questions regarding this e-Message, please contact ISAC's School Services Department by calling toll free at 866.247.2172 or sending an e-mail message to isac.schoolservices@illinois.gov.



e-Messaging Sign-Up

Our e-Messaging service will keep you informed and up-to-date on the Illinois Student Assistance Commission's programs and services. Although Constant Contact is the provider for the e-Messaging service, our messages share ISAC programmatic and operational information and are not marketing in nature.

From the options below, choose the category that best describes you, and then subscribe to one or more of the available Email Lists by filling out your name and e-mail address and clicking on "Sign Up!"

Students/Parents

Counselors

Financial Aid
Administrators (FAAs)

Financial Aid Administrators (FAAs) e-Messaging

Please fill in the required details and select the Email List(s) to which you would like to subscribe by marking the boxes below.

*indicates required field

* Email

* First Name

* Last Name

* Email Lists

- Business Officer - fiscal updates
- College Coursework Materials Task Force – announcements & information about the work of the Task Force
- ECACE Administrators – program & processing updates about the Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity Scholarship Program
- FAA ISAC Update - monthly newsletter summarizing each month's announcements and updates
- Financial Aid Administrators - program & processing updates, rules & regulations, operational announcements
- Financial Aid Directors - administrative announcements
- MAP Users - operational updates for the Internet application used to process MAP data
- NESP Schools – operational announcements for schools participating in the Nursing Education Scholarship Program
- Public Schools - operational announcements for colleges participating in the JNC Grant and JNC programs

isac.org/e-library/

ISAC
Illinois Student Assistance Commission

COUNSELORS **E-LIBRARY** FAA'S GAP ACCESS SEARCH

HOME
STUDENTS & PARENTS >
ISAC STUDENT PORTAL
RESEARCH & POLICY >
NEWSROOM
ABOUT ISAC >

Home | E-Library |

E-Library for Partners

- 1. Partner E-Messages & Newsletters**
This month's e-Messages and the monthly ISAC Update and Communique
- 2. Partner Training**
ISAC training and event calendars and online registration
- 3. Applications & Forms**
Scholarship, grant, and loan repayment/forgiveness applications, common FFELP forms and ISAC brochures
- 4. Administrative Rules**
Current and previous year's ISAC Rules, Proposed Rules if applicable

Partner E-Messages And Newsletters
Partner Training
Applications & Forms
Administrative Rules
The Commission
Outreach Events
Electronic Tools
Applying For Financial Aid
ISAC Transcript Exchange
Federal Information
Job Aids And Reference Materials

isac.org/e-library/partner-e-messages-and-newsletters/faa-e-messages/index.html

Home > E-Library > Partner E-Messages And Newsletters > FAA E-Messages

FAA e-Messages

Messages are organized according to the subscription group(s) to which they were sent, with the most recent message appearing at the top of each section.

Pick Section

Financial Aid Director

Financial Aid Directors


- Virtual Commission Meeting Thursday, December 8 – No Executive Briefing
12/02/2022
- Submit 2022-23 Fall-Term Claims and Benefit Usage Data
11/29/2022
- Register for ILASFAA's Virtual Fall Workshops
10/25/2022
- Final Week of the Limited Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) Waiver
10/24/2022
- ISAC Monthly Webinars for FAAs
10/21/2022

ECACE Administrators

- Submit 2022-23 Fall-Term Claims and Benefit Usage Data
11/29/2022
- Register for ILASFAA's Virtual Fall Workshops
10/25/2022
- Final Week of the Limited Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) Waiver
10/24/2022
- ISAC Monthly Webinars for FAAs
10/21/2022
- Reminder:* Final Two Weeks of the Limited Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) Waiver
10/18/2022
- Reminder:* Final Weeks of the Limited Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) Waiver Webinars
10/11/2022
- Join ISAC for Free Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) Webinars
10/04/2022
- 2023-24 FAFSA, Alternative Application, and Important Dates
10/03/2022
- Reminder:* Join ISAC for free Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) Webinars
09/20/2022
- Join ISAC for Free Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) Webinars
09/07/2022

NESP Schools

- NESP Transition Updates – December 13 Webinar
12/08/2022




isac.org/e-library/partner-training/index.html

Home > E-Library > Partner Training

Partner Training

Find training calendars within this section, as well as the PowerPoint presentations from recent training sessions.

ILASFAA Virtual Fall Workshops – November 1 and 22, 2022

[Download the Agenda](#) 

To participate:


- Workshop Attendee Link for November 22, 2022:
<https://illinois2.webex.com/illinois2/onstage/g.php?MTID=e920c922031d4a75b74fe0ccff451b165>
- Link for Sector Meeting Breakout Session and Wrap-Up Session, 2-3:15 p.m.:
<https://illinois2.webex.com/meet/kimberly.eck>

Download ILASFAA Fall Workshop Presentations:

- [ISAC Legislative Update](#)
- [ISAC Program & Operational Update](#)
- [IDVA/VA Update](#)
- [ILASFAA Legislative Committee Update](#)
- [Review of the Monetary Award Program \(MAP\)](#)
- [Best Practices for Supporting Undocumented Students](#)

Webinar: ISAC Operational Update and Program News

Wednesday, November 23, 2022 – 10 a.m.

[Download the Presentation](#) 

To participate:

- Click on this link: <https://illinois2.webex.com/meet/kimberly.eck>
- When prompted, enter the meeting number: 804 330 463

[Partners' Training Calendar](#)

[Recorded Webinars](#)

[Manuals And Handbooks](#)

isac.org/gap-access/

ISAC
Illinois Student Assistance Commission

COUNSELORS E-LIBRARY FAA'S **GAP ACCESS** SEARCH

HOME
STUDENTS & PARENTS >
ISAC STUDENT PORTAL
RESEARCH & POLICY >
NEWSROOM
ABOUT ISAC >

ISAC Gift Assistance Program (GAP) Access

Home > Gap-Access >

ISAC Gift Assistance Programs (GAP) Access

Assigning an Administrator
GAP Access User Guides
GAP Access Login
Functionality Available via GAP Access:

ISAC Gift Assistance Programs (GAP) Access is the portal through which online interactions for the purpose of data inquiries and submissions, eligibility announcements and payment requests for ISAC administered programs are conducted. Due to the confidential nature of the student specific data involved, a secure authentication process is required before access can be granted.

Assigning an Administrator

GAP Access Login
Activating Your GAP Administrator Account
Activating Other GAP Administrators
Activating GAP Access
GAP Access 2-Factor User Guide

GAP Access User Guides

User Guides for all GAP Access functionality are below. General questions, user name and password maintenance, and technical information about GAP Access are answered in the Activating and Authentication User Guides.

- [Activating GAP Access User Accounts](#)
- [Activating Other GAP Access Administrators](#)
- [Activating Your GAP Access Primary Administrator Account](#)
- [AIM HIGH Data Collection](#)
- [Budget Reporting Process User Guide](#)
- [ECACE Scholarship Program User Guide](#)
- [Enrollment Status Verification for the Teacher Programs User Guide](#)
- [Financial Aid Application Completion Initiative – Access and Agreement User Guide](#)
- [GAP Access Two-Factor Authentication User Guide](#)
- [GAP Access User Verification](#)
- [Golden Apple Scholarship User Guide](#)
- [ING Grant User Guide](#)
- [IVG Program User Guide](#)
- [MAP Advising Data Collection User Guide](#)
- [MAP Eligibility User Guide](#)
- [MAP Payment User Guide](#)
- [MIA/POW Scholarship Program User Guide](#)
- [MTI User Guide](#)
- [SETTW Certification Process User Guide](#)
- [SSP File Upload Guide](#)
- [SSP GAP Access User Guide](#)

Questions



ISAC Contact Information

School Services

866-247-2172

isac.schoolservices@illinois.gov

ISAC Call Center – Student Services

800-899-4722

isac.studentservices@illinois.gov

Kim Eck, Partner & Training Services

217-785-7139

Kimberly.Eck@illinois.gov

Sherry Schonauer, Partner & Training Services

Sherry.Schonauer@illinois.gov

Stephanie Claudio, Partner & Training Services

Stephanie.Claudio@illinois.gov