

# What you need to know about FY 23 (2022-23 academic year) MAP

Monetary Award Program Fact Sheet | April 18, 2022

The Fiscal Year 2023 (FY 23) budget brings funding for the Monetary Award Program (MAP) to a historic high of approximately \$601 million to help Illinois low income students attend postsecondary education at colleges and universities throughout the state.

With a large increase in MAP funding, there are understandably questions about what this will mean for students – how many students will be served, where they can use their grants, and what the maximum MAP award will be for FY 23 – the 2022-23 academic year.



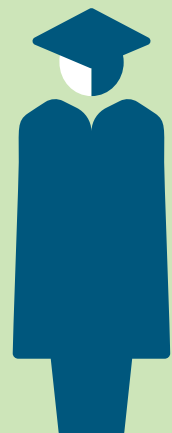
## MAP Funding

The General Assembly has approved a \$122 million increase for MAP for 2022-23 (FY 23), which will increase total program funding to approximately \$601 million.

## Potential number of students to be served

Based on recent application and enrollment trends, it is expected that an *estimated* additional 24,000 students will now be eligible for MAP, including those in some credit-bearing short-term certificate programs. ISAC *estimates* that this amount of funding could *possibly serve up to* 155,000 students.

**Please note** that *the number of potential students who will be eligible for MAP, and who will receive awards, are estimates only, based on previous enrollment trends and modeling based on increased funds and updates to the formula used to calculate awards. If you quote numbers, please make sure to note they are **estimated**.*





## Maximum Award

To date, the maximum annual MAP grant amount offered per student for FY 23 is \$5,496.

With the additional funding provided in this year's budget, plus changes in statute that will raise the cap on grant size, the Commission will approve a new allocation of funds for the coming academic year. As usual, Commission staff will first meet with an advisory committee of the Illinois Association of Financial Aid Administrators for their input before bringing a recommendation to the Commission.

As always, the Commission will strive to balance improvements in the number of students served with increasing the size of MAP grants to make them meaningful enough to help students attend school. With limited funds, increasing the size of awards can mean that fewer students will get an award.

The purchasing power of MAP has not kept up with tuition and fee growth, but with additional funding over the last few years ISAC has been able to make small incremental increases in award amounts to improve the purchasing power of MAP. Notably, *A Thriving Illinois*, the state's strategic plan for higher education, includes a goal for MAP to serve all eligible applicants and cover approximately 50% of tuition and fees at Illinois public institutions.

The current statutory language, in place for more than a decade, has allowed for a maximum MAP award of \$6,468. However, because of limited funding and the need to balance award amounts with the number of students served, **MAP awards have not yet reached that amount in previous or current award years.**

With additional funding and the ability to serve essentially all eligible students in FY 22, ISAC recently advocated for legislation that would increase the maximum annual MAP award to \$8,508 in statute for FY 23 and beyond. This amount is roughly 50% of projected FY 23 average tuition and fees at Illinois public universities—thus tying to the goal in *A Thriving Illinois* of covering approximately 50% of tuition and fees at Illinois public institutions. **We do not expect to be able to award to this maximum in FY 23 if we want to serve all eligible students.** But we will now have the *statutory authority* to do so, so that as additional funding is received, we can move closer and hopefully meet the 50% tuition and fee coverage goal for students at public institutions.

## Where and how students can use MAP grants

MAP grants are used to pay tuition and mandatory fees for students attending MAP-approved Illinois colleges and universities, which include all Illinois public universities, most Illinois private non-profit universities, all Illinois community colleges, and a small number of for-profit institutions operating in Illinois. MAP grants can be used for two- and four-year degree programs at these institutions, and until recently could be used for only a small number of certificate programs.



As a result of a recent change in statute, public university and community college students who are enrolled in credit-bearing short-term programs to attain occupational or career and technical certificates may now be eligible to receive a MAP grant, even in programs that are not currently eligible for federal student aid. Around 2,000 programs shorter than one year are available at our public institutions, including programs that provide opportunities for students to quickly enter the workforce and earn a sustainable wage. Fire protection, HVAC, truck driving, phlebotomy, and emergency medical services are among the many in-demand fields accessible with a short-term certificate.