

Resources for Food, Housing and Medical Care

Ideally, a student's financial aid package will cover most of their cost of attendance charges, including tuition, fees and living expenses, however, when that is not the case, here are some suggested resources that may be available to assist students.

Food Resources

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) (formerly Food Stamps) -- helps low-income people and families buy the food they need for good health.
 - Illinois Department of Human Services Help Line: 800-843-6154
 - Eligibility and application information: www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=33698
- Illinois Hunger Coalition Hunger Hotline
 - 800-359-2163
 - www.ilhunger.org
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) -- provides temporary financial assistance for pregnant women and families with one or more dependent children.
 - Illinois Department of Human Services Help Line: 800-843-6154
 - Eligibility and application information: www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=30358
- Women, Infants, and Children Program (WIC) -- a food assistance program for women, infants, and children
 - State WIC Office: 217-782-2166
 - Eligibility and application information: www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=30513
- The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) – a federal program that provides food at no cost to help supplement the diets of needy low-income households.
 - <https://www.fns.usda.gov/tefap/emergency-food-assistance-program>
- Your institution's Student Services Department may be aware of school or community-based resources or local food banks that can provide assistance if you do not meet the requirements for SNAP benefits. See the list of Illinois College Food Pantries on the following pages.
 - Links to other local food resources: www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=31245

Housing & Utilities Resources

- Emergency and Transitional Housing Program -- gives immediate and comprehensive shelter services to homeless persons and persons at risk of becoming homeless.
 - Illinois Department of Human Services Help Line: 800-843-6154
 - Information: www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=30362
 - Other programs: www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=29723
- Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) -- helps keep families safe and healthy through initiatives that assist families with energy costs.
 - <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ocs/programs/liheap>

- Lifeline telephone assistance program -- a federal program that lowers the monthly cost of phone and internet.
 - www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=66242
 - www.lifelinesupport.org/
 - www.fcc.gov/general/lifeline-program-low-income-consumers

Medical Care Resources

- Medical Assistance Programs for Illinois residents
 - <https://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=30359>
- The All Kids program, administered by the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services, offers many Illinois children comprehensive healthcare that includes doctor's visits, hospital stays, prescription drugs, vision care, dental care and medical devices like eyeglasses and asthma inhalers. Some families pay monthly premiums for the coverage, but rates for middle-income families are significantly lower than they are on the private market.
 - All Kids Hotline: 866-ALL-KIDS (866-255-5437)
 - www.illinois.gov/hfs/MedicalPrograms/AllKids/Pages/default.aspx
- FamilyCare offers healthcare coverage to parents living with their children 18 years old or younger and also covers relatives who are caring for children in place of their parents
 - FamilyCare Hotline: 866-ALL-KIDS (866-255-5437)
 - www.illinois.gov/hfs/MedicalPrograms/AllKids/Pages/FamilyCare.aspx
- Moms & Babies covers healthcare for women while they are pregnant and for 60 days after the baby is born. Moms & Babies covers both outpatient healthcare and inpatient hospital care, including delivery.
 - www.illinois.gov/hfs/MedicalPrograms/AllKids/Pages/MomsAndBabies.aspx
- Illinois Department of Insurance
 - getcovered.illinois.gov/en
- Medicaid
 - 800-843-6154
 - www.medicaid.gov
 - www.medicaid.gov/state-overviews/stateprofile.html?state=illinois
 - <https://www.healthcare.gov>

Illinois College Food Pantries

Augustana College: [Campus Kitchen at Augustana](#)

Aurora University: [Libby's Place](#)

Wackerlin Center for Faith and Action

430 S. Evanslawn Avenue

Aurora, IL 60506

630-844-6865

Open Tuesdays and Wednesday from 12:30- 2:30 pm (hours vary by semester)

For Aurora University students only

City Colleges of Chicago

Food Pantries/Meal Programs

[Greater Chicago Food Depository](#)

[Cook Co. Sheriff's List of Food Pantries](#)

Illinois Hunger Hotline

800-359-2163

The IHC Hunger Hotline provides bilingual services to low-income households through its statewide toll-free Hunger Hotline. Callers can get assistance in applying for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), All Kids, Medicaid, Medicare, and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).

Harold Washington College: The Arlethia G. Mayes Healthy Food Market

30 E. Lake Street

Chicago, IL 60601

Hours vary each semester

312-553-5600

-For students taking at least one course and staff at Harold Washington College

-Employees must participate in an eligibility screening

-For those experiencing food insecurity at any level

Truman College: The Falcon Food Pantry

Truman Cafeteria, Main Building, Room 1575

1145 W. Wilson Avenue,

Chicago, IL 60640

Wellness Center: 773-907-4724

Open Mondays (11am-2pm) and Thursdays (2:30-5:30pm)

For students, faculty and staff affiliated with the City Colleges of Chicago

Malcolm X College: The Fresh Market

1900 W. Jackson Rm. 2200

Chicago, IL 60612

312-850-7122

Open Wednesdays (9:00 am – 1:00 pm) and Thursdays (1:00 pm- 5:00 pm)

For students enrolled at the City Colleges of Chicago

College of DuPage: [Fuel Pantry](#)

College of Lake County: [Women's Center](#)

Columbia College Chicago: [Greater Chicago Food Depository](#)

Elgin Community College: [Spartan Food Pantry](#)

Governor's State University: [GSU Food Pantry](#)

Heartland Community College: [Food Share Program](#)

Illinois State University: [School Street Food Pantry](#)

Lewis and Clark Community College: [Trailblazer Snack Pantry](#)

Lincoln Land Community College: [Food Pantry](#)

5250 Shepherd Rd

Springfield, IL 62703

Hours vary each semester

For current LLCC students.

Students can visit one time per week

National Louis University

122 S. Michigan Avenue

Chicago, IL 60603

888-658-8632 x3568

Open Monday – Saturday (8am – 8pm)

For National Louis University students

Northeastern Illinois University: [NEIU Student Food Pantry](#)

Northern Illinois University: [Huskie Food Pantry](#)

Oakton Community College: [The Caring Closet](#)

1600 E. Golf Road, CCID Room 1443

Des Plaines, IL 60016

847-635-1670

For Oakton Community College students

Parkland College: [Wesley Food Pantry](#)

Richland Community College: The Pantry at Richland Community College

Rock Valley College: [Eagle's Nest Food Pantry](#)

Southern Illinois University, Carbondale: [Saluki Food Pantry](#)

University of Illinois at Chicago: [Pop-up Pantry](#)

University of Illinois at Springfield: [UIS Cares Food Pantry](#)

Western Illinois University-Quad Cities: [The Pantry at WIU-QC](#)

Child and Dependent Care

If you need help caring for children or other dependents while attending college, several resources are available to you.

Illinois Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP)

The Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) provides financial assistance to student parents who qualify. Eligible students are those who:

- live in Illinois
- work and/or are enrolled in an educational program
- have children under 13 who need care (or up to 19 for children with special needs), and
- have a family income below certain limits (based on family size).

With CCAP, child care co-pays could be as little as \$2 a month. To learn more about the Child Care Assistance Program and to apply, [visit the Illinois Department of Human Services website \(www.dhs.state.il.us\)](http://www.dhs.state.il.us). Also available at the DHS website:

- [Affordable Child Care Brochure \(English\)](#)
- [Cuidado de Niños a su alcance \(Español\)](#)
- [Child Care Assistance Program \(CCAP\) Policy Manual](#)

Illinois Network of Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies

For help in finding local child care options, visit the website of the [Illinois Network of Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies](http://www.inccrra.org) (inccrra.org), a statewide organization that partners with local Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) Agencies to make quality, affordable child care available to children and families in Illinois. Child care resource and referral services are available in all Illinois communities through a local CCR&R Agency.

- Available services by local area: <https://www.inccrra.org/about/sdasearch>
- Other resources: <https://www.inccrra.org/excelerate>

Dependent Care Allowance

A student's cost of attendance (COA) for college is a key factor in determining the amount of financial aid that a student may be able to receive. For students with dependents, an allowance for costs for dependent care can be included in the COA, and it can be for care that includes but is not limited to class time, study time, internships, and commuting time for the student. The amount of the allowance will be based on the number and age of the dependents and cannot exceed reasonable costs in the community for the type of care provided.

By including the costs of child and/or dependent care in a student's financial aid calculation, the student may be able to access additional financial assistance. This may include loans, which, it is important to note, must be repaid, but some students may also be eligible for more grant or scholarship money. Students should work directly with the financial aid office at their college or university to determine eligibility, get guidance on whether this adjustment would benefit them, and recalculate their financial aid.

Because the college is not always aware that a student has dependent care expenses, it's important for the student to initiate contact with the financial aid office and explain the need to include this allowance in their COA so it can be taken into consideration when determining the full amount of financial aid the student may be eligible to receive.

Additionally, if a student has a special circumstance that would justify an increase in the dependent care allowance, the student should provide that information to the financial aid office as well. The college may require supporting documentation for special circumstances.

Special Circumstances and Professional Judgment

If you or your family's financial situation has changed significantly from what is reflected on the federal tax return(s) used when you completed your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) or the Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid, you may be eligible to have your financial aid adjusted.

To account for unusual or special circumstances, financial aid administrators have the authority to adjust a student's cost of attendance or the data used to determine the student's expected family contribution (EFC), or to make a dependent student independent (dependency override). The authority of a school's financial aid administrator to make these adjustments is referred to as professional judgment (PJ).

Any student whose financial situation has been negatively impacted since applying for financial aid such as a job loss, a significant change in income, or unusually high medical or dependent care bills should contact the financial aid office at the college or university they plan to attend to explain how their financial situation has changed.

Many schools have a form that you will first need to complete to request professional judgment, and the school will likely ask you to submit documentation of the situation and how it has impacted the financial situation for you, and for your parents if you are a dependent student.

Keeping a copy of all materials used to document the change in your financial situation will save you time in providing information to multiple schools, if needed.

Following are examples of the types of situations that may be considered a special circumstance:

- recent unemployment of a family member or an independent student
- a student or family member who is a dislocated worker
- medical, dental, or nursing home expenses not covered by insurance
- unusually high child care or dependent care costs
- a change in housing status that results in an individual being homeless
- other changes in a family's income, a family's assets or a student's status

Examples of situations that may qualify for a dependency override include, but are not limited to:

- abandonment by parents
- an abusive family environment that threatens the student's health or safety, or
- the inability to locate the student's parents.

Professional judgment decisions are made on a case-by-case basis, are only valid at the school making the decision, and cannot be used to waive general student eligibility requirements or to circumvent the intent of the law or regulations. Each school has its own policies regarding PJ, and the financial aid administrator's decision is final and cannot be appealed to the U.S Department of Education or the Illinois Student Assistance Commission.

There is free assistance available to help you through this process, so you don't have to navigate it alone or give up on your college plans.

In addition to your school's financial aid office, you can contact the **Illinois Student Assistance Commission** (ISAC) at 800-899-4722 or an [ISACorps member](#) to help answer questions and assist you in preparing the materials you need to document your changed circumstances.

Once you receive your new financial aid offers, you can use ISAC's <https://studentportal.isac.org/FinAid> **online financial aid comparison worksheet** or work one-on-one with an ISACorps member to compare your financial aid offers.