

ISAC administers numerous scholarship and grant programs, and one tuition waiver program. The State Scholar Program, an honorary program, recognizes academic achievement of high school seniors. Eligibility for the Student-to-Student Grant Program and the Higher Education License Plate Grant Program is based on financial need. The remaining programs are financial assistance programs or loan repayment programs for students who meet special requirements.

Illinois Veteran Grant Program: The Illinois Veteran Grant (IVG) Program pays for eligible tuition and mandatory fees at Illinois public universities and community colleges for qualified Illinois veterans or military service members with at least one year of active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces and who served honorably. Any member of the Illinois National Guard or a Reserve component of the U.S. Armed Forces who meets the eligibility requirements is considered a qualified applicant for the program. This grant is available for the equivalent of four academic years of full-time enrollment for undergraduate and graduate study. Veterans must have been residents of Illinois six months prior to entering the service, and must have returned to Illinois to reside, within six months of leaving the service. Recipients are required to enroll for a minimum number of credit hours each term. This grant is an entitlement program and is awarded to eligible applicants regardless of the funding level. *In FY2015, state funds were not appropriated for the IVG Program.* A total of 6,182 service members were awarded tuition waivers by institutions, totaling \$26,901,464. Table 5.0c contains data by institution for this program.

Illinois National Guard Grant Program: The Illinois National Guard Grant Program pays tuition and certain fees for enlisted members and officers of the Illinois National Guard to attend public two or four-year institutions for undergraduate or graduate study. Beginning with the 2014-15 academic year, new program rules have been implemented. Members who have completed less than ten years of active duty can use the grant for a maximum of *four* academic years of full-time enrollment. Once ten years or more of active duty ING service has been completed, the grant can be used for a maximum of *six* academic years of full-time enrollment. The six-year maximum eligibility is cumulative, and includes benefits received when members had less than ten years of service. *In FY2015, state funds were not appropriated for the ING Program.* There were 2,104 service members awarded tuition waivers by institutions in FY2015, totaling \$9,956,348. Table 5.0b and 5.0d provides data for the program.

Dependents' Grant Programs: The Grant Program for Dependents of Police or Fire Officers and the Grant Program for Dependents of Correctional Officers pay the tuition and mandatory fees without regard to financial need at any MAP-approved school for the spouse and children of police officers, fire officers, and correctional workers who were killed or permanently disabled in the line of duty. The grant may be used for an equivalent of 8 semesters or 12 quarters of undergraduate or graduate enrollment. Grants are funded by appropriation from the Illinois General Assembly and are applicable toward tuition and mandatory fees. In FY2015, 85 students received \$1,018,894 in grant aid. Table 5.0b shows data for this program.

Minority Teachers of Illinois Scholarship Program: The Minority Teachers of Illinois (MTI) Scholarship Program provides scholarships of up to \$5,000 per year for up to four years to assist academically talented individuals of African American/Black, Hispanic American, Asian American, or Native American origin who plan to become teachers. Scholarships are available for undergraduate or graduate students enrolled at least half time. Students receiving this scholarship must fulfill a teaching commitment by teaching one year for each year of assistance at a nonprofit Illinois public, private, or parochial preschool, elementary or secondary school with at least 30 percent minority enrollment. If the teaching commitment is not fulfilled, the scholarship converts to a 5% interest rate loan and the student must repay a pro-rated amount plus interest. In FY2015, 379 MTI scholarships were awarded, totaling \$1,787,141. Table 5.0c contains data by institution on this program.

Golden Apple Scholars of Illinois Program: The Golden Apple Scholars of Illinois Program recruits and prepares bright and talented high school graduates who represent a rich ethnic diversity for successful teaching careers in high-need schools throughout Illinois and provides scholarships to students pursuing teaching degrees. Illinois high school students must be named as a Golden Scholar by the Golden Apple Foundation. Students must be enrolled in a four-year institution designated as a participating college by the Foundation. Scholars receive financial assistance for four years in exchange for a commitment to teach for five years in an Illinois school of need. The required five year commitment must start within two years after completion of the degree or certificate program. Tables 5.0b and 5.0c provide data for this program.

PART FIVE -- SPECIALIZED SCHOLARSHIP, GRANT, AND WAIVER PROGRAMS

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Illinois Special Education Tuition Waiver Program: The Illinois Special Education Teacher Tuition Waiver Program encourages current teachers and academically talented students to pursue careers in any area of special education as public, private, or parochial preschool, elementary or secondary school teachers in Illinois. Recipients must be seeking initial certification in any area of special education as undergraduate or graduate students. For non-teachers, students must be ranked in the upper half of their Illinois high school graduating class. Recipients are exempt from paying tuition and fees at an eligible institution for up to four calendar years. Recipients must fulfill a teaching requirement or repay funds received plus interest. Table 5.5 provides historical recipient data on the waiver program.

Illinois Teachers Loan Repayment Program: This program helps teachers who have served in low-income schools repay their student loans. Through the Illinois Teacher and Child Care Provider Loan Repayment Program, teachers who qualify for the federal Stafford Loan Cancellation for Teachers Program by teaching in an Illinois low-income school for 5 consecutive years can receive an additional matching grant up to \$5,000 to repay their student loan debt. Table 5.6 contains data on the program.

Student-to-Student Grant Program: The Student-to-Student Grant Program allows voluntary student contributions to be matched dollar-for-dollar, by ISAC, and paid to participating public universities and community colleges. Need-based grants are then made available to students who qualify. *This program has not received state funding since FY2011.* Table 5.0a and 5.0b provide historical data for this program.

State Scholar Program: Each year ISAC selects approximately ten percent of the high school graduates in Illinois to be State Scholars. These high school seniors are chosen based on ACT or SAT scores, the third semester prior to graduation class rank, class size, and unweighted Grade Point Average (GPA). The State Scholar program is a recognition-only program. Table 5.2 gives historical data on this program.

Bonus Incentive Grant Program: The Bonus Incentive Grant (BIG) Program provides an additional financial incentive to encourage the use of Illinois College Savings Bond proceeds for attendance at Illinois colleges and universities. The incentive grants range from \$40 to \$440 per \$5,000 of compound accreted value at maturity, depending on the maturity of the bond. Students must be enrolled at least half time at the undergraduate or graduate level at a MAP-approved Illinois postsecondary institution. *This program has not been funded since FY2012.* Table 5.3 provides historical data for this program.

Higher Education License Plate Program: The Higher Education License Plate Program provides grants to students who attend Illinois colleges for which the special collegiate license plates are available. The Illinois Secretary of State issues the license plates and \$25 per each set of plates sold is used for grants for undergraduate students attending these colleges. Program grants may be used only for tuition and mandatory fees for two semesters or three quarters in an academic year. The number of grants and individual dollar amounts awarded are subject to sufficient annual appropriations by the Illinois General Assembly and the governor. Table 5.7 provides historical data on this program.

Illinois Optometric Education Scholarship Program: The Optometric Education Scholarship Program provides scholarship assistance to encourage eligible students to pursue a graduate degree in optometry. The recipient must practice in Illinois as a licensed optometrist for a period of not less than one year for each year of scholarship assistance received. The recipient must also begin practicing optometry in Illinois within one year following completion of the academic program for which he or she was awarded the scholarship and practice on a continuous basis until the obligation is fully completed. If the requirement to practice optometry in Illinois is not fulfilled, the scholarship converts to a loan and the recipient must repay the entire amount of the scholarship prorated to the fraction of the obligation not completed, plus interest at a rate of 5 percent. Table 5.8 provides program data.

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Nurse Educator Loan Repayment Program: In an effort to address the shortage of nurses and the lack of instructors to staff courses teaching nursing in Illinois, the Nurse Educator Loan Repayment Program encourages longevity and career change opportunities. The program is intended to pay eligible loans to add an incentive to nurse educators in maintaining their teaching careers within Illinois. The annual awards to qualified nurse educators may be up to \$5,000 to repay their student loan debt, and may be received for up to a maximum of four years. Recipients must be a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen, an Illinois resident, meet licensing requirements, and work as a nurse instructor in an approved Illinois institution for at least 12 consecutive months prior to the date of application. Table 5.9 provides data for this program.

Veterans' Home Nurse Loan Repayment Program: The Veterans' Home Nurse Repayment Program provides for the payment of eligible educational loans as an incentive for nurses to pursue and continue their careers at Illinois veterans' homes. The annual award to qualified registered professional nurses and licensed practical nurses may be up to \$5,000 to repay their student loan debt. This award may be received for up to a maximum of four years. Recipients must be a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen, an Illinois resident, and meet licensing requirements. They must have completed the prescribed employment probationary period and be employed in good standing. For each year during which an award is received, the recipient must fulfill a separate 12 month period as a registered professional nurse or licensed practical nurse in an approved Illinois veterans' home. Table 5.10 provides data for this program.

John R. Justice Student Loan Repayment Program: This program through the U. S. Department of Justice, is administered by the Illinois Student Assistance Commission and is used to help prosecutor and public defender offices retain and attract talented attorneys by providing student loan (both Federal Family Education Loan Program [FFELP] and Federal Direct Loans) repayment assistance to state and federal public defenders and state prosecutors who agree to remain in their positions for at least three years. The annual awards to qualified federal public defenders and state prosecutors may be up to \$4,000, with an aggregate total of up to \$60,000, to repay their student loan debt. The number of awards made through this program, as well as the individual dollar amount awarded, are subject to sufficient annual appropriations by the federal government. Recipients must be a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen, an Illinois resident, and meet additional program criteria. If the employment commitment is not fulfilled, any amount received must be repaid. Table 5.11 provides summary data on this program.