Illinois Residency for ISAC Programs

July 2019
Agenda

- ISAC Update
- Residency Requirements for ISAC Programs
  - Monetary Award Program (MAP)
  - Illinois Veteran Grant (IVG)
  - Teacher Programs
  - Loan Repayment Programs
  - Higher Education License Plate (HELP)
  - Illinois National Guard (ING)
  - Grant Programs for Dependents of Police/Fire/Correctional Officers (PFC)
- General Provisions Rule Enhancement
- Acceptable Documentation and FAQs
- Questions
All 2018-19 MAP late claims, consisting of initial payment requests received at the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) from July 2 through July 24, have been released for payment.

Once 2018-19 payment processing is complete, debit letters outlining refund amounts that may be “Due to ISAC” will be sent to financial aid directors; **do not send any refund checks to ISAC until data reconciliation has been completed.**

During August 2019, the 2018-19 MAP component of the GAP Access portal will become available for historical view only.

The 2019 MAP Advising data was due on **July 19, 2019.**
2019-20 ISAC Update

- 2019-20 (FY20) MAP appropriation is $451 million this amount reflects an increase of $50 million
  - As a result, ISAC staff recommended, and the Commission approved, a recompute formula for FY20 that:
    - removes the 2 percent reduction factor; and
    - increases the maximum award from $4,968 to $5,340

- Limited Release of 2019-20 MAP Awards from Suspense Status
  - ISAC has released some MAP grants from suspense status, impacting eligible students whose 2019-20 FAFSA® receipt dates were April 29, 2019 through and including May 26, 2019
    - These records are eligible for a full-year MAP award
    - All MAP grants for students

- Colleges can continue to certify eligibility for the 2019-20 Minority Teachers of Illinois (MTI) Scholarship Program via the new MTI system at GAP Access. All 2019-20 MTI processing will be done via the MTI system at GAP Access

- Beginning with the 2019-20 academic year, Illinois public universities and public community colleges are required to implement the newly created Education Loan Information Pilot Program. The three-year pilot program will be in effect until June 1, 2023.

- The 2019-20 ISAC Administrative Rules, effective July 1, 2019, are now available for reference at the ISAC website.
RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS FOR ISAC PROGRAMS
Definition of “Resident of Illinois”

- A dependent student is a resident of Illinois if the parent of the dependent-applicant, who is required by the instructions to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), physically resides within the State of Illinois and Illinois is his or her true, fixed and permanent home.

- An independent student is a resident of Illinois if the applicant physically resides within the State of Illinois (at the time of application), and has so resided for a period of 12 continuous, full months immediately prior to the start of the academic year for which assistance is requested and Illinois is his or her true, fixed and permanent home.
Verification Requirements for ISAC Programs

From General Provisions, Section 2700.50
Determining Applicant Eligibility

- a) The evaluation of applicant eligibility is the responsibility of both ISAC and the institution.

- e) The institution is required to verify the residency of all applicants to ISAC gift assistance programs for which Illinois residency is a requirement.
Verification Requirements for ISAC Programs

1) An institution is not required to verify residency if:
   - A) The applicant received payment of a MAP award during the previous academic year; or,
   - B) The applicant was enrolled in an ISAC-approved MAP institution or an ISAC-approved Illinois high school (see Section 2700.30) for the preceding consecutive 12 months prior to the start of the academic year for which assistance is requested.

2) Notwithstanding the exceptions named in subsection (e)(1), the institution shall verify residency:
   - A) When an applicant has changed dependency status during the academic year to become an independent student; or,
   - B) If the institution has any information that indicates the applicant may not be a resident of Illinois.

3) Data from one or more of the documents listed in this subsection (e)(3) may provide proof that an applicant (or parent) is an Illinois resident, as defined in Section 2700.20. The institution may choose to request documents that are in addition to, or instead of, those listed. For an independent student applicant, the dates recorded on the documents must indicate the applicant has resided in Illinois for the relevant 12 continuous, full months. ...

4) If an applicant is a resident of Illinois, but the institution cannot document this fact, the applicant or the institution may verify residency through ISAC's appeal process. (See Section 2700.70)
Verification Requirements for ISAC Programs

f) For all other eligibility criteria, if the institution has any information that indicates that the applicant does not meet the eligibility requirements of ISAC-administered programs or if an applicant is selected for verification in conjunction with federal student assistance, that applicant shall be verified for ISAC-administered programs. A selected applicant must be verified for ISAC programs even if the applicant is ineligible for federal student assistance.

g) By requesting payment for ISAC gift assistance programs, the postsecondary institution is certifying that the applicants are eligible for the assistance being sought.
MAP Illinois Residency Requirements

- All recipients of the Monetary Award Program (MAP) grant must be residents of the State of Illinois and enrolled at an approved Illinois college.

Dependent Students

- For a dependent student to be considered an Illinois resident in order to receive a grant:
  - the parent of the dependent student who is required to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) must physically reside in Illinois and Illinois must be his/her true, fixed, and permanent home.
  - if Illinois becomes the parent's true, fixed, and permanent home after the initial FAFSA is filed, the student's and the parent’s state of legal residence and permanent mailing address must be corrected to indicate Illinois on the Student Aid Report (SAR)/Institutional Student Information Record (ISIR). The corrections must be received by ISAC while data is still accepted and processed for the applicable academic year.

Independent Students

- For an independent student to be considered a resident of Illinois s/he must have physically resided in Illinois (at the time of application), and has so resided for 12 continuous full months immediately prior to the start of the academic year for which assistance is requested and Illinois must be his/her true, fixed, and permanent home.

Armed Forces and Foreign Missionary Students

- U.S. Armed Forces members and foreign missionaries qualify as Illinois residents if they:
  - physically resided in Illinois immediately prior to entering the U.S. Armed Forces (missionaries must reside in Illinois for six continuous months prior to entering missionary service);
  - return or plan to return to Illinois within six months of the conclusion of service; and
  - can demonstrate that their domicile was Illinois throughout such service.
IVG Illinois Residency Requirements

At time of applying for IVG

Meets one of the following two criteria:

- have been a resident of Illinois at the time of entering federal active duty or within six months prior to entering the service, or

- have been a student at an Illinois public 2-or 4-year college at the time of entering federal active duty

Enrollment in a 2-or 4-year IL public College

Meets one of the following two criteria:

- Reside in Illinois unless the student is serving federal active duty service at the time of enrollment in college or residing with a spouse in continued military service who is currently stationed outside of Illinois.

- have been a resident of Illinois at the time of entering federal active duty or within six months prior to entering the service, or

- have been a student at an Illinois public 2-or 4-year college at the time of entering federal active duty
To qualify for the Minority Teachers of Illinois (MTI) Scholarship, an applicant must:

- be a resident of Illinois
- must be enrolled or accepted for enrollment at an institution that is approved for participation in the MTI Program
Golden Apple Illinois Residency Requirements

To qualify for the Golden Apple Scholarship, applicants must:

- be an resident of Illinois (if dependent, both the student and parent/guardian must be residents of Illinois);
- be enrolled at a four-year institution designated by the Foundation as a participating Illinois university on at least a half-time basis as a freshman through a senior
To qualify for an Illinois Special Education Teacher Tuition Waiver, all applicants must:

- be a resident of Illinois;
- be enrolled, or accepted for enrollment, at one of the eligible public four-year colleges in Illinois (providing the institution offers a concentration in Special Education)
Illinois Teachers Loan Repayment Program

Illinois Residency Requirements

- Be an Illinois resident
- Have fulfilled your five-year teaching obligation in an Illinois elementary or secondary school designated as a low-income school.
Nurse Educator Loan Repayment Program
Illinois Residency Requirements

- Be an Illinois resident
- Be a nurse educator who meets licensing requirements of the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation
- Meet the following nursing instruction requirements:
  - *If a first-time recipient*, have taught for at least 12 consecutive months prior to the date of application in an approved program of professional or practical nursing education in Illinois, *or*
  - *If other than a first-time recipient*, fulfill a separate 12 consecutive month period of teaching in an approved program of professional or practical nursing education in Illinois for each subsequent award received
Veterans' Home Medical Providers' Loan Repayment Program Illinois Residency Requirements

- Be an Illinois resident
- Be a medical provider who meets licensing requirements of the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation or a certified nursing assistant who passed the state-specified examinations to be fully certified
- Be a medical provider who has completed the prescribed employment probationary period and whose employment is in good standing as determined by the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs
John R. Justice Student Loan Repayment Program Illinois Residency Requirements

- be an attorney (or have accepted an employment offer) continually licensed to practice law, and
  - a full-time employee of the state of Illinois or unit of local government (including tribal government) who prosecutes criminal or juvenile delinquency cases at the state or unit of local government level, including supervision, education, or training of other persons prosecuting such cases. (Prosecutors who are employees of the federal government are not eligible.), or
  - a full-time employee of the state of Illinois or unit of local government (including tribal government) who provides legal representation to indigent persons in criminal or juvenile delinquency cases including supervision, education or training of other persons providing such representation, or
  - a full-time employee of an nonprofit organization operating under a contract with Illinois or unit of local government who devotes substantially all of the employee's full-time employment to providing legal representation to indigent persons in criminal or juvenile cases including supervision, education, or training of other persons providing such representation, or
  - employed in Illinois as a full-time federal defender attorney in a defender organization pursuant to Subsection (g) of section 3006A of Title 18, United States Code, that provides legal representation to indigent persons in criminal or juvenile delinquency cases.
HELP Illinois Residency Requirements

- a resident of Illinois;
- enrolled at a degree-granting, not-for-profit private college or university located in Illinois that participates in the collegiate license plate program through the Illinois Secretary of State;
A qualified applicant must:

- be in active status in the Illinois Army or Air National Guard and have served for at least one year in the Illinois National Guard; or
- have been active in the Illinois National Guard for at least five consecutive years and had his or her studies interrupted by being called to federal active duty for at least six months, and be within the 12 month period immediately following his or her discharge from the Illinois National Guard.
- Be enrolled at an Illinois public 2- or 4-year college
To be eligible for the Grant Programs for Dependents of Police or Fire Officers or for Dependents of Correctional Officers, a student

- need not be a resident of Illinois at the time of enrollment; and
- must be enrolled on at least a half-time basis at an institution that is approved for participation in the Monetary Award Program (MAP)
Recent Enhancement to General Provisions Rules

2018-19 ISAC Rules

Section 2700.50 Determining Applicant Eligibility

3) Data from one or more of the documents listed in this subsection (e)(3) may provide proof that an applicant (or parent) is an Illinois resident, as defined in Section 2700.20. For an independent student applicant, the dates recorded on the documents must indicate the applicant has resided in Illinois for the relevant 12 continuous, full months.

2019-20 ISAC Rules

Section 2700.50 Determining Applicant Eligibility

3) Data from one or more of the documents listed in this subsection (e)(3) may provide proof that an applicant (or parent) is an Illinois resident, as defined in Section 2700.20. The institution may choose to request documents that are in addition to, or instead of, those listed. For an independent student applicant, the dates recorded on the documents must indicate the applicant has resided in Illinois for the relevant 12 continuous, full months.
Acceptable Documentation

- The General Provisions section lists examples of documents that may be collected for verification of Illinois residency.

- For an independent student, the documentation must indicate that the student resided in Illinois for the relevant 12 continuous, full months prior to the beginning of the school's academic year.

- The institution may choose to request documents that are in addition to the suggested items listed in ISAC Administrative Rules.
Examples of Acceptable Documentation

- From Section 2700.50 Determining Applicant Eligibility
  - A valid State of Illinois tax return or federal tax transcript.
  - Illinois high school or college transcript
  - Illinois driver's license
  - Utility or rent bills in the applicant's (or parent's) name
  - Illinois auto registration card
  - Residential lease in the applicant's (or parent's) name
  - Wage and tax statements (IRS Form W-2)
  - Statement of benefits history from the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services
  - State of Illinois identification card issued by the Secretary of State
  - Statement of benefits from the Illinois Department of Employment Security
  - Statement of benefits from the Social Security Administration
  - Illinois voter's registration card
  - Property tax bill
  - IRS Form 1099-Miscellaneous Income Statements
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS
Are colleges responsible for verifying Illinois residency only for those applicants who are selected for federal verification?

- It is the college’s responsibility to ensure that all recipients of ISAC programs meet all of the eligibility requirements associated with the program(s) that the student is receiving, including Illinois residency for those ISAC programs that require it.

- The financial aid office must have policies and procedures in place to help identify which students can be awarded based on application data, which ones may require additional documentation, and which ones may have conflicting information that needs to be resolved.
Must colleges verify residency for all Monetary Award Program (MAP) recipients?

- Policies and procedures should be in place to ensure that all students who are receiving the benefits of an ISAC gift assistance program are meeting the eligibility requirements specific to that program.

- One of the eligibility criteria for MAP recipients is that the student is an Illinois resident, so it is the financial aid office’s responsibility to ensure that students receiving a MAP grant are meeting the residency requirements.

- Checking an applicant’s self-reported data on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) may be sufficient to confirm residency; however, there must also be processes in place to identify those students where additional confirmation may be necessary. At the point when the request for MAP payment is submitted for a particular student, the institution is certifying that the student meets all eligibility criteria for the program, including residency.
What are some examples of situations in which the financial aid office does not need to collect additional documentation to verify Illinois residency?

- A dependent student and his parents provide an Illinois address on the FAFSA and there’s no conflicting information.
- An independent student provides a date of residency on the FAFSA which indicates that they have been a resident of Illinois for more than 12 months prior to the start of the academic year for which the award would be received, and there is no conflicting information.
- The student was enrolled at an Illinois high school for the preceding consecutive 12 months prior to the start of the academic year.
- The student was enrolled in an ISAC-approved MAP institution for the preceding consecutive 12 months prior to the start of the academic year.
- The student received payment of a MAP award during the previous academic year.

However, in any case, if the financial aid office becomes aware of conflicting information which suggests that a student applicant and/or a dependent student’s parent(s) may not meet ISAC residency requirements, the financial aid office should request additional documentation to confirm residency status.
What are some examples of conflicting information?

- Any information or documentation that appears to question the validity of a student’s claim of Illinois residency can be considered conflicting information.

- Examples of information that should be investigated include:
  - Information in the college’s records that shows the student or the student’s parent with an address or residency in a state other than Illinois.
  - An incoming freshman student indicates on the FAFSA that s/he graduated from a high school in a state other than Illinois, but the parents indicate on the FAFSA that they have been residents of Illinois for more than five years.
Does use of the term “verify” mean that documentation must be collected from every MAP recipient to verify residency?

- While it is the college’s responsibility to partner with ISAC to ensure that all MAP recipients meet the residency requirement, it does not mean that documentation must be collected from every MAP recipient.

- Information that is provided on the FAFSA and in ISAC’s GAP Access portal can be relied on to confirm residency for many MAP recipients, and ISAC’s administrative rules specify conditions when it may not be necessary to collect additional documentation to verify residency.
What data fields in GAP Access can be used to check Illinois residency for MAP recipients?

- The data elements that appear in GAP Access that can be used to confirm self-reported Illinois residency data are:
  - Dependent student’s address
  - Student’s State/Residence Date field
  - Parent’s State/Residence Date field
What data fields in GAP Access can be used to check Illinois residency for MAP recipients?

- Additional data elements that appear in GAP Access that can assist in confirming Illinois residency are:
  - Application Disqualify Codes
  - Paid Previous (Displays which term in the prior academic year the student was paid)
If a student changed dependency status to become an independent student, but also received a payment of MAP the previous academic year, would Illinois residency need to be verified?

- An independent student must have resided in Illinois for 12 continuous months prior to the start of the award year and Illinois must be his/her true, fixed and permanent home.
- If the student does not meet this requirement -- even if s/he received MAP in the previous year -- the student would not be eligible for MAP as an independent student.
Does a dependent student need to show proof that the parent lived in Illinois before the first FAFSA filing date, or simply that the parent is currently an Illinois resident?

- If a dependent student’s parent indicates on the FAFSA that s/he is a resident of Illinois, the student would not need to provide any additional documentation to prove the date residency was established.
  - There are no rules regarding when a parent must establish residency in Illinois, nor is there a time period requirement for which they must have resided in Illinois. If, however, the financial aid office has reason to believe that conflicting or inaccurate information has been provided, additional documentation should be collected.

- In order to be considered a resident of Illinois, the parent must physically reside within the State of Illinois and Illinois must be his or her true, fixed and permanent home.

- If a dependent student and/or his/her parent move to Illinois after the FAFSA has been completed, the applicant may correct the FAFSA to provide a new address and update the state of residence information.
Can a Temporary Visitor’s Driver’s License (TVDL) be considered acceptable documentation to confirm residency for ISAC programs?

- A TVDL is not acceptable documentation for proof of Illinois residency for ISAC programs. Because it states directly on the card that it’s not valid for identification, it is not a recommended document for verifying residency.
What can be done if the financial aid office is not able to confirm Illinois residency but the student is insistent that s/he is an Illinois resident?

- Regardless of the student’s claim, if residency cannot be determined, the student or the institution may verify residency through ISAC’s appeal process.
Other Questions/ Comments?
Thank you for attending today!

ISAC Contact Information

School Services
866-247-2172
isac.schoolservices@illinois.gov

ISAC Call Center – Student Services
800-899-4722
isac.studentservices@illinois.gov

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Tania Mendoza, Student Services
Tania.Mendoza@illinois.gov

Kim Eck, Partner & Training Services
217-785-7139
Kimberly.Eck@illinois.gov