

# ISAC Program Operational Update and Q & A Session

February 11, 2025



# 2024-25 Award Year Fiscal Year (FY) 2025

# 2024-25 Monetary Award Program (MAP)

- ISAC suspended the announcement of 2024-25 MAP grants for all students whose initial 2024-25 FAFSA or Alternative Application was received on or after August 21, 2024
- Fall term claim deadline date was Friday, December 6, 2024
  - Term 1 enrollment and fall claim rates were much higher than expected
- On December 17, ISAC announced that a 4% reduction factor would need to be applied to the 2024-25 maximum annual award amount to stay within the FY25 appropriation
  - The reduction was only applied to second semester and second/third quarter claims; fall term award amounts were not reduced
    - For semester institutions, the maximum eligible award amount for the spring term was reduced by 8%
    - For quarter institutions, the maximum eligible award amount for both second and third quarters was reduced by 6%

# 2024-25 MAP

- Mid-Year Recompute
  - Reduced the maximum annual award amount of \$8400 by 4%
    - $8400 \times .96 = 8064$
- The reduction was implemented in the MAP system and recalculated awards provided to colleges on December 23
  - The award amounts displaying in the MAP system continue to show the original maximum eligible amount for the fall term
  - To account for the reduction that was not applied to the fall term, a higher percentage was used to reduce original second and third term eligibility amounts
- Payment processing for Term 2 was made available on January 2
- The claim deadline date for Term 2 (spring semester/winter quarter) is **Friday, April 4**

# Reduction Calculation, Semester Award Example

- Spring semester award, reduced by 8%
  - Original eligible term amount x .92 (8%) = new max eligible term amount, based on 15-hour enrollment
    - $4200 \times .92 = 3864$
    - $1500 \times .92 = 1380$
- Award amounts for less than full-time (15 hour) enrollment
  - Maximum eligible term award amount times the number of hours enrolled, divided by 15; student receives 1/15 of the award amount for each hour enrolled
    - $3864 \times 12/15 = 46,368/15 = 3091.20$ 
      - At “no cents” schools, truncate result to whole number: award amount is \$3091
      - At “cents” schools, truncate result to two decimal places: award amount is: \$3091.20

# 2024-25 MAP

## Announcements and resources

- Reduction announcement
  - [isac.org/e-library/partner-e-messages-and-newsletters/faa-e-messages/eLibrary-FAA-2024-1217.html](https://isac.org/e-library/partner-e-messages-and-newsletters/faa-e-messages/eLibrary-FAA-2024-1217.html)
- Mid-Year Recompute implemented
  - [isac.org/e-library/partner-e-messages-and-newsletters/faa-e-messages/eLibrary-FAA-2024-1224.html](https://isac.org/e-library/partner-e-messages-and-newsletters/faa-e-messages/eLibrary-FAA-2024-1224.html)
- Information for students
  - [isac.org/e-library/partner-e-messages-and-newsletters/faa-e-messages/eLibrary-FAA-2024-1230-2.html](https://isac.org/e-library/partner-e-messages-and-newsletters/faa-e-messages/eLibrary-FAA-2024-1230-2.html)
- Term 2 payment processing opens
  - [isac.org/e-library/partner-e-messages-and-newsletters/faa-e-messages/eLibrary-FAA-2025-0102-2.html](https://isac.org/e-library/partner-e-messages-and-newsletters/faa-e-messages/eLibrary-FAA-2025-0102-2.html)

# 2024-25 MAP

The screenshot shows the ISAC website homepage. At the top left is the ISAC logo (Illinois Student Assistance Commission). To the right are links for 'COUNSELORS' and 'E-LIBRARY'. A main navigation menu on the left includes 'HOME', 'STUDENTS & PARENTS >', 'ISAC STUDENT PORTAL', 'RESEARCH & POLICY >', 'NEWSROOM', and 'ABOUT ISAC >'. A central banner features the text 'GET MONEY FOR THAT'S RIGHT FINANCIAL AID' and 'The FAFSA® is the key to get as institutional aid, for educational Alternative Application for Illinois'. Below this is a green box with 'GET INFORMATION ABOUT FINANCIAL AID, HELP WITH APPLICATIONS, AND HELP WITH COLLEGE PLANNING/APPLICATIONS AND MORE' and 'Find free workshops, or contact your local ISACCorps member'. At the bottom of the banner are buttons for 'Free FAFSA Help' and 'College Changes Everything'. A 'Featured' section at the bottom left contains two items: 'FAQs: Reduction in 2024-25 MAP Awards' (highlighted with a red box) and '2024-25 Monetary Award Program (MAP) Suspende'.

## FAQs: Reduction in 2024-25 MAP Awards

The Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) is the state agency that manages the Monetary Award Program (MAP) grant, a need-based scholarship that helps Illinois students pay for school. The state's General Assembly and Governor determine how much funding the program can use in a year, and ISAC operates the program.

### I got a message from my school that my MAP grant is being reduced. What does that mean?

- It means that in the spring semester (or winter and spring terms at quarter schools), your MAP award will be less than originally estimated, because the total amount of financial aid awarded through the MAP for the **2024-2025 academic year** is being reduced.

### Why are you reducing awards mid-year?

- MAP grants come through ISAC, and the amount the agency can award each year is based on the level of funding provided by the state. When you see the MAP award in your financial aid offer, it is an *estimated* award.
- This fall, many more students who are eligible for MAP grants enrolled than was expected.
- Since the *number* of students using a MAP grant is much higher than expected, ISAC needs to reduce the *size* of MAP grants to ensure that the available funding can support all of the eligible students continuing to receive MAP grants for the rest of the academic year.

### How much money will I get from my MAP award?

- Depending on the size of your MAP grant, the reduction could range from as little as \$12 to as much as \$336.

### Am I going to have to pay back money I received for the fall term?

- No! You won't need to pay back any of the MAP grant funds you've already received for the fall term due to the reduction in your annual award amount.
- However, your financial aid for the 2025 spring semester (or winter and spring quarters) will be somewhat less than the estimate that may have been included in your original financial aid package. This means your tuition bill for those terms may be slightly higher than expected.

### Who should I ask or where can I go if I have questions?

- Your school's financial aid office: They can provide specific details about how this change affects you.
- ISAC: Student Engagement and Support Services team members can provide general information about MAP grants and this year's changes. Call 800-899-4722 or e-mail [isac.studentservices@illinois.gov](mailto:isac.studentservices@illinois.gov) or contact your [local ISACCorps member](#). Learn more about MAP at [isac.org/map-grant](https://isac.org/map-grant).

# MAP Payment Processing Reminders

- Colleges can continue to make adjustments to previously-submitted fall term claims (e.g. to change enrollment hours, adjust amounts, etc).
  - Initial fall term claims and upward adjustment amounts for timely fall claims will be considered a late claim now that the fall term claim deadline has passed
  - It's important that colleges make downward adjustments as fall term reconciliation is completed, rather than wait until year-end
    - Due to the offset process, actual funds do not have to be returned to ISAC until year-end, however, adjustments should be made in the MAP system as soon as possible
      - This assists ISAC with monitoring actual enrollment and claim rates and provides more accurate information for projections
- We do not recommend that schools submit adjustments to change MAP codes for the fall term if it will result in a claim being considered late and unable to be paid
  - In order to change MAP codes, the original request must first be cancelled and then a new request submitted
  - Any new fall term requests would now be late
  - Downward adjustments can be made, as needed



# ISAC Scholarship Programs

- Term 2 payment processing is available for the following ISAC programs:
  - Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity (ECACE) Scholarship Program
  - Golden Apple (GA) Scholars
  - Minority Teachers of Illinois (MTI) Scholarship Program
  - Nursing Education Scholarships Program
  - Post-Master of Social Work School Social Work Professional Educator License Scholarship Program (SWSP)
- The priority claim date for Term 2 is Monday, March 31, 2025
- To be considered timely, payment requests must be submitted on or before the priority claim date
- Even though the Term 1 (fall) priority claim deadline of December 31, 2024 has passed ISAC continues to accept and pay fall-term claims
- The timely submission of claims and cancellations/adjustments allows ISAC staff to monitor remaining funds and award other students, as applicable

# ISAC Military Programs

- Illinois National Guard (ING) Grant & Illinois Veteran Grant (IVG)
  - ISAC is accepting spring term benefit usage data
  - To be considered timely, benefit usage data must be submitted on or before Friday, May 30, 2025
  - Although the fall term priority claim date has passed, colleges may still submit fall-term benefit usage data and adjustments as needed
- To be considered timely, payment/benefit usage requests must be submitted on or before the priority claim date
- ISAC received an FY25 appropriation to reimburse public universities for providing IVG/ING benefits.
  - Reimbursements will be made at the end of the award year, based on timely claims submitted by each institution
  - Community colleges will receive reimbursements from ICCB

# ISAC Teacher Programs

- MTI
  - Additional rounds of awarding taken place in recent weeks
    - As schools complete the payment process, we continue to do additional rounds of awarding as funds become available
- Golden Apple
  - Some students may also now be eligible for MTI
    - Double check and confirm student choices on which scholarship they want to receive
    - Confirm MTI eligibility and the ability to request payment before cancelling the GA award

# Dual-Awarding Reminders

- If a student qualifies for SETTW, MTI and/or Golden Apple in the same award year, the student must choose which program they would like to use
  - A student cannot receive the benefits of two of these programs in the same award year.
  - ISAC will send the student a letter asking them to choose which program they want to accept.
  - These letters include a deadline date to return the form
  - The ECACE Scholarship may be used with one of these programs, and ECACE would be last payer
- If a student decides to change which program benefit, he/she wants to receive:
  - First confirm that the student has been awarded the other program before cancelling a payment request/claim that may have already been made.
    - For example, make sure that the student was awarded funds for MTI before cancelling a payment request for Golden Apple.
- Program teaching obligations:
  - SETTW requires two-year teaching commitment.
  - Golden Apple requires a five-year teaching commitment.
  - MTI has a one-year teaching commitment for each year that the scholarship is received.
- See ISAC's website for specific program information:
  - [isac.org/e-library/administrative-rules/index.html](https://isac.org/e-library/administrative-rules/index.html)
  - [isac.org/isac-gift-assistance-programs/index.html](https://isac.org/isac-gift-assistance-programs/index.html)
  - [isac.org/gap-access/#guide](https://isac.org/gap-access/#guide)

# iGROW Awarding

- The first round of awarding for students certified as eligible took place in late January, with a couple more small rounds after that
  - Award information is available in the iGROW system and letters have been sent to awarded students
- The payment process is expected to be available in mid to late February

Certified Date	Award Date	Award Amount
11/13/2024	01/21/2025	7500.00
12/02/2024	01/21/2025	7500.00



January 22, 2025

Student Name iGROW-200  
Address  
City, State, Zip Code

**ILLINIOS GRADUATE AND RETAIN OUR WORKFORCE (iGROW)  
TECH SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM  
NOTICE OF ELIGIBILITY**

The Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) is pleased to announce that you have been awarded a 2024-25 Illinois Graduate and Retain our Workforce (iGROW) Tech Scholarship.

College Attending: College listed on the student's application

Estimated Award Amount: \$7,500

**Important Information – Next Steps**

- This award will be paid directly to the above-named college. Please review the information for accuracy and immediately notify our office, in writing, of any corrections needed.
- Your college will determine the final award amount and the number of disbursements. The amount of the scholarship plus other financial aid you receive cannot exceed the total cost of education at your college.
- If you fail to meet any of the eligibility requirements during the academic year, the entire scholarship or a portion of the scholarship funds may be forfeited.
- You are required to notify our office of any changes to your personal information (address, phone number, email address) as soon as possible, but no later than 10 days after the change. Failure to notify ISAC will result in delays in the processing of your benefits.
- By receiving any or all of this scholarship, you agree to fulfill the teaching commitment that is outlined on the application/work agreement/promissory note. If this work agreement is not fulfilled within the required time for this program, the amount awarded converts to a loan that must be repaid with interest.

ISAC administers other scholarship and grant programs that can provide financial assistance to help you pay for college. To learn more about the financial aid process and available programs or if you have any questions about this program and its benefits, visit us at [isac.org](http://isac.org), call an ISAC Student Engagement Representative at 800.899.ISAC (4722) or e-mail us at [isac.studentservices@illinois.gov](mailto:isac.studentservices@illinois.gov).



# MAP Advising Data Collection

- 2024 MAP Advising data is due **April 1, 2025**
- MAP Advising data to be reported for the 2024 collection period is as follows:
  - Available advising and support programs (for the 2023-24 academic year), and
  - Course completion data (for the 2022-23 academic year)
- There have been no changes from past years to the submission process, which is done via GAP Access
- Further details, including tips for submitting MAP Advising data, access to the MAP Advising Support Programs Search Tool and the MAP Advising Data Collection User Guide are provided in a January 7 e-Message
  - [isac.org/e-library/partner-e-messages-and-newsletters/faa-e-messages/eLibrary-FAA-2025-0107.html](https://isac.org/e-library/partner-e-messages-and-newsletters/faa-e-messages/eLibrary-FAA-2025-0107.html)

# **2025-26 Award Year Fiscal Year (FY) 2026**

# 2025-26 MAP Start-Up

- The 2025-26 MAP Start-Up Formula was approved at the September 19, 2024, Commission Meeting
  - FY26 Start-up formula remains the same as FY25 Recompute formula:
    - 2021-22 reported tuition and fees
    - the 2021-22 Pell Grant Payment Schedule
    - a \$5,200 living allowance
    - an \$8,400 maximum award
  - Commission Meeting Agenda Book: [isac.org/about-isac/commissioners/2024-agenda-books/agenda-book-09-19-24.html](https://isac.org/about-isac/commissioners/2024-agenda-books/agenda-book-09-19-24.html)
- MAP eligibility information was made available to schools in the MAP system on December 30
  - [isac.org/e-library/partner-e-messages-and-newsletters/faa-e-messages/eLibrary-FAA-2024-1230.html](https://isac.org/e-library/partner-e-messages-and-newsletters/faa-e-messages/eLibrary-FAA-2024-1230.html)



# Alternative Application Information Privacy and Security

- [isac.org/students/before-college/financial-aid-planning/retention-of-illinois-rise-act/](https://isac.org/students/before-college/financial-aid-planning/retention-of-illinois-rise-act/)

Home › Students & Parents › Before College - Planning › Financial Aid Planning › RISE Act/Alternative Application ›

En Español

## Retention of Illinois Students & Equity (RISE) Act and Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid

(last updated December 6, 2024)

### Alternative Application Information Privacy and Security Disclosure:

*The Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) has strict security and confidentiality policies and procedures in place to protect the integrity of student records. ISAC does not share applicant or recipient addresses or names with third parties unless the third party is your school or an authorized agent of ISAC's and information will only be used in furtherance of your student aid request or for research purposes. Such third parties are subject to restrictions regarding data confidentiality, use and security. [(110 ILCS 947/70(g)) (23 IL.Admin.Code 2700.55)] Non-identified financial aid applicant and recipient information is shared publicly in the aggregate to support research that, for example, identifies how program funds benefit students. ISAC is required to share your individual data pursuant to a valid subpoena or to investigate fraud (110 ILCS 947/20).*

# New Disclosure Screen Added to Beginning of the Application Process



Illinois Student Assistance Commission

[Update Profile](#)   [TEST TEST \(Logout\)](#)

To ensure your data is secure be sure to logout and close your browser when completed.

## Student Information

### Important Notice About Your Personal Information

To determine your eligibility for Illinois financial aid, ISAC collects information on the Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid (called the Alt App for short) and shares it with **every college** you list on the form. The information ISAC shares with schools includes information that can personally identify you, including **your name, address, email address and personal financial information**. If you provide information about **your parents** (or your spouse if you are married), this information will also be shared with the colleges you list. ISAC is required to keep your information for at least seven years.

ISAC takes data security very seriously and collects, stores, and shares your data in a secure manner. However, it is important to understand that even though there are currently laws in place in Illinois to protect your privacy, **new and changing federal policies** may impact the privacy of your data. It is very important for students and their families to understand the **risks** of sharing your personal information on this application.

I have reviewed the information on this page. For the 2025-2026 Alternative Application:

Yes, I WILL proceed with completing the application.

**YES**

No, I WILL NOT proceed with completing the application.

**NO**



# 2025-26 Alternative Application

- The file layout for the 2025-26 Alternative Application Student Record has not yet been posted, pending some changes that will be made to the file
- ISAC will make the following adjustments,
  - Certain data elements will be masked on the file
  - The ability to request/download files will be limited to GAP Access users who are either a Primary Administrator or an Administrator
- When these changes are made, they will impact files for the current 2024-25 award year and will be in effect for 2025-26 and beyond
- An implementation date for the changes has not yet been set
  - Watch for more information in future e-messages

# 2025-26 ISAC Teacher Programs

- Illinois Special Education Teacher Tuition Waiver (SETTW) Program.
  - Online application is available in the ISAC Student Portal
  - March 1, 2025 is the priority application consideration date
  - Complete applications received after March 1 will be considered only if available tuition waivers remain after all timely complete applicants have been awarded
- Minority Teachers of Illinois (MTI) Scholarship Program
  - Online application is available in the ISAC Student Portal
  - March 31, 2025 is the priority application consideration date
  - A 2025-26 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) or Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid (Alternative Application) must also be submitted by March 31 for the application to be considered complete and timely
  - Complete applications received after March 31 will be considered only if MTI funding remains after all timely complete applicants have been awarded.

# ISAC Record Retention Policy

- ISAC's record retention policy is consistent with the U.S. Department of Education, requiring documents to be retained for three (3) years from the end of the award year the student last attended the postsecondary institution.
- Prior to July 2018, ISAC's policy had been to require schools to retain documents for five (5) years, however, that requirement was changed to three years, effective July 1, 2018.
- That information was inadvertently removed from our website and will be added back soon.

# ISAC Calendar

- ISAC staff will be unavailable for these holidays:
  - Lincoln's Birthday, Wednesday, February 12, 2025
  - Presidents' Day, Monday, February 17, 2025
- February Webinars for FAAs
  - Monthly Update, February 26, 2 p.m.
- March Webinars for FAAs
  - Tuesday Training, March 11 at 10 a.m.
    - Topic: Operational Update and Q & A Open Forum
  - Monthly Update – will not offer in March
- Several staff members will be attending the ILASFAA Conference
  - March 26 – 28, 2025

# ILASFAA Annual Conference

[ilasfaa.org/2025\\_ilasfaa\\_annual\\_conference.php](https://ilasfaa.org/2025_ilasfaa_annual_conference.php)

## 2025 ILASFAA Annual Conference



### Conference Dates:

March 26th - March 28th, 2025

### Conference Location:

Embassy Suites by Hilton  
East Peoria, IL

### FAFSA Simplification: The New Sheriff in Town

After a year of navigating the wild terrain of FAFSA Simplification, we're ready to blaze new trails! Join ILASFAA for a conference packed with valuable knowledge and insights, inspiration and motivational sessions, policy updates, professional development opportunities and so much more!

**Saddle up and join us March 26-28, 2025, at the Embassy Suites by Hilton, in East Peoria, IL.**

Bambie Roy  
ILASFAA President

# ILASFAA Annual Conference

[ilasfaa.org/2025\\_ilasfaa\\_annual\\_conference.php](https://ilasfaa.org/2025_ilasfaa_annual_conference.php)

[Click for Information on our Keynote Speaker - Manda Riley](#)

[Click for Information on our NASFAA 'Inside the Beltway' Speaker - Karen McCarthy](#)

## Attendee Registration Fees

- **Early Bird Rate:** \$275.00 (Register on or before 2/28/2025)
- **Standard Rate:** \$325.00 (Register on or after 3/1/2025)
- **Single Day Rate:** \$200.00 (Only attending Thursday, March 27th, 2025)

## Exhibitor Registration Fees

Information regarding exhibitor pricing can be found [here](#).

[Click Here to Register for the Conference](#)

*The registration fee for the 2025 conference does not include an annual membership to ILASFAA. Membership fees will be collected in June.*

**Looking for support in justifying your attendance? Access a clear and concise letter [here](#).**

## Hotel Accommodation

### Embassy Suites by Hilton Reservation Details:

Reservations can be made online via this [direct booking link](#) for the conference rate. Book your room early to ensure availability.

- Double Room Rate: \$139.00/night



# ILASFAA Annual Conference

- ISAC staff will be presenting several sessions at the conference
- General Sessions
  - *ISAC Update*, Eric Zarnikow, Katharine Gricevich, Stephanie Schmitz-Bechteler
  - *Illinois Higher Ed Panel*, Directors from ISAC, IBHE and ICCB
- Interest Sessions
  - *Equitable Access: Navigating Barriers for Undocumented Students in Illinois*, Ana Moya
  - *Trends on Financial Aid Application Completion & What They Tell Us*, Manuel Talavera
  - *Ask an ISAC Member Panel, Open Q & A*
  - *A Review of New ISAC Programs*, Kim Eck & Sherry Schonauer
  - *The ISAC Payment Trail, from Claim Requests to Close Out*, Kim Eck & Sherry Schonauer

# ISAC's Student Engagement & Support Services

For inquiries from students, parents, and the general public

Phone: **800-899-ISAC** (4722)

Fax: 847-831-8549

E-mail: [isac.studentservices@illinois.gov](mailto:isac.studentservices@illinois.gov)

Spanish-speaking counselors are available  
8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. CT

# ISAC's Partner Services Department

- Provides training, program information, policy guidance and support to schools and other ISAC partners
- Partners with ILASFAA and other professional organizations
- Responds to school inquiries, both colleges and high schools

Phone: 866-247-2172

Fax: 847-831-8549

E-mail: [isac.schoolservices@illinois.gov](mailto:isac.schoolservices@illinois.gov)

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## Partner Services Staff

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# Questions?



**Thank you for attending today!**