



mapmatters

For over 50 years, the Monetary Award Program (MAP) has helped make college possible for millions of Illinoisans across the state. MAP provides need-based aid that a student doesn't have to repay, defraying tuition and fee costs and limiting excessive loan debt for students without the resources to pay for college.

MAP funding is currently lower than it was in 2009. The FY 2014 appropriation of \$372 million was reduced by 2.25% in FY 2015 due to an across-the-board budget cut. As a result, in FY 2015 MAP served fewer students than in FY 2014: 128,000 students received MAP while 160,000 eligible applicants were not offered MAP due to insufficient funding.

As a result of the FY 2016 budget impasse, no MAP funding was appropriated until the end of the 2015-16 school year. This created significant hardship for students and schools. Students whose colleges were not able to credit their accounts for MAP as they awaited payment from the state either had to find the additional funds elsewhere, drop classes, transfer to a less expensive school, or in some cases simply leave school altogether. Stopgap funding provided in April and June of 2016 paid MAP claims for FY 2016. The number of students served was significantly reduced because of the prolonged delay in funding. As a result, in FY 2016, about \$320 million in MAP funding served approximately 107,000 students. More than 161,000 eligible applicants were not offered MAP due to insufficient funding.

Illinois is currently without a budget or a final MAP appropriation for FY 2017, which began July 1, 2016. (Note that while the stopgap funding provided in June of 2016 was available to be used in FY 2017, it was used to make schools and students whole for FY 2016 MAP, which had not been funded.) Similar to FY 2016, without a state budget and final appropriation, the state cannot pay schools for MAP, creating ongoing challenges for schools and for students.

Learn more at
www.isac.org/mapmatters

Want to know how MAP grants are distributed? Watch our *Get to Know MAP* video at www.isac.org/MAPvideo

¹ Lumina Foundation, *A Stronger Nation/2016*, (Illinois data) <http://strongernation.luminafoundation.org/report/2016/#illinois>

² First-generation students are defined here as those who do not have at least one parent with a postsecondary credential.

MAP Can Make the Difference



MAP matters to me and thousands of other students who have the desire, dreams, and drive to go to college, but not the resources. For many of us, MAP is the ticket to our future.

Tenisha Swift

- By 2018, experts predict that 64% of all jobs in Illinois will require postsecondary education, yet currently only about 50% of working-age adults (25-64) in Illinois hold a two or four year college degree or high-quality postsecondary certificate.¹
- Students from families in the top income quartile are three times more likely to attend college and far more likely to achieve a bachelor's degree than students from families in the lowest income quartile—even those low-income students with the highest grades.
- College costs have risen faster in recent years than any other sector of the economy—even faster than healthcare.



Higher education changed everything for me. It gave me the skills and credentials to emerge from poverty and make a better life for myself, and empowered me to create positive change in my community. MAP helped make all of that possible.

Elena Herrera

- MAP can make the difference in whether a person can attend college. It's particularly critical in addressing the achievement gap for low income, first generation students, and for students of color:
 - More than half (64%) of MAP-eligible students are so low-income that the federal government doesn't consider them able to contribute any resources to pay for college. In FY 2015, the average family income of a dependent ("traditional") MAP-eligible student was about \$30,000/year, and the average income of an independent ("non-traditional") MAP-eligible student was about \$15,000/year.
 - Of the undergraduates at Illinois's public universities who identify themselves as Black or Hispanic, more than half receive a MAP grant.
 - Almost 56% of MAP recipients are first-generation² college students.

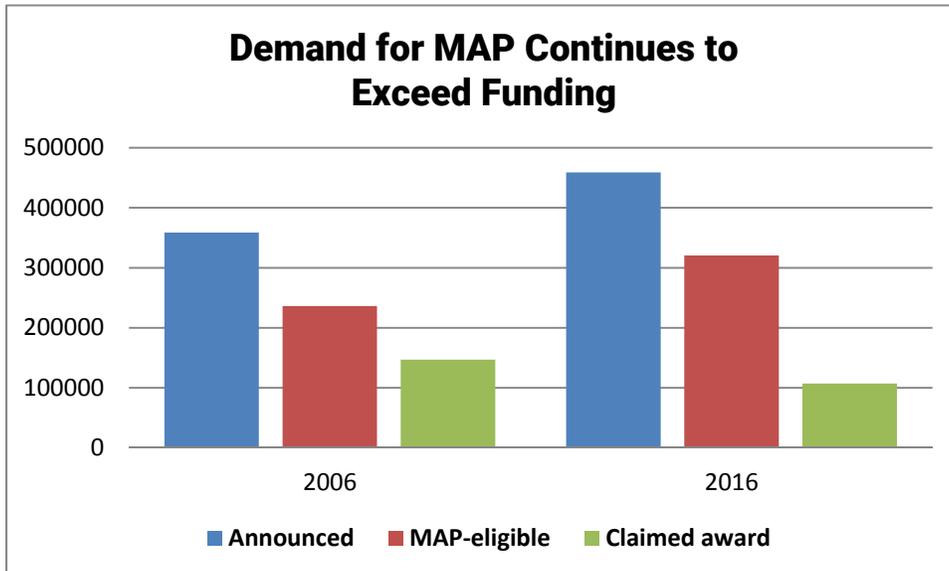


Although I did have to borrow money to pay for college, having a MAP grant helped me borrow less. Without the MAP grant, I know I would not have been able to afford my education at the University of Illinois. Even though I have graduated, the MAP grant continues to be of great importance to me because it not only helped my sister and me get through college, but now my mom is also a MAP recipient. I am very grateful for the MAP grant, and I really hope it will continue to be there to help future students in the same way.

Sara Espinoza

Support MAP Funding!

- MAP currently serves only about 33% of the applicants who are eligible and covers about 32% of tuition and fees at a public university in this state.
 - A little more than a decade ago, in 2002, MAP was able to meet the needs of all eligible applicants and fully covered average public university or community college tuition and fees.



Applicants: Illinois undergraduates planning to enroll in a MAP-approved school

Eligible: Applicants determined eligible for a MAP grant based on cost of school they plan to attend and their expected family contribution (EFC)

Claimed: Eligible applicants who enroll and claim their MAP award

- MAP funding is currently below 2009 dollar levels and has also lost purchasing power relative to tuition and fee costs.
 - In FY 2016, the average grant covered almost \$3,000 of tuition and fees.
- The number one reason for dropping out of college is financial. If MAP grants are smaller due to limited funding, many students will have to take fewer credit hours, which extends their time to complete a degree and increases the chance that they won't complete at all. Moreover, the impact of the FY 2016 and FY 2017 budget delays suggest that, without MAP, many students are having to choose to go to school out of state, take fewer classes, or simply not attend school—reducing both the student's and the state's ability to leverage federal Pell dollars. Many students who do manage to stay in school will do so by taking on additional loans--adding to the more than \$1 trillion of student loan debt nationally.
- For every \$10 million dollars in MAP, about 3,500 Illinois students can attend school and achieve a postsecondary credential.



I believe opening a family rehabilitation center is my calling. I went through what I did as a child to get me to the point where I can now help struggling families. And I couldn't have gotten here without MAP.

Noelle Dodge

Learn more at
www.isac.org/mapmatters

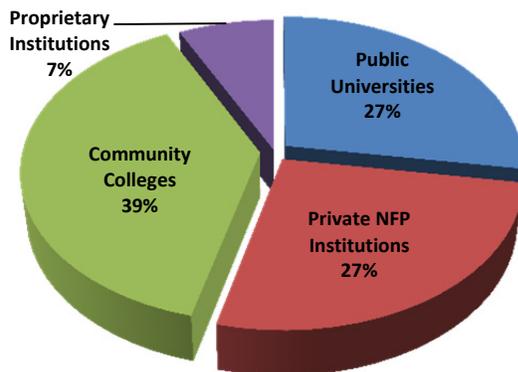
More About MAP

- ▣ Despite their financial challenges, MAP recipients graduate from college at about the same rates as their peers at the same institutions.
- ▣ MAP grants are awarded on a first-come, first-served basis based on financial need to students who fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®).
 - ▶ Financial need is determined by subtracting a student’s family resources from the chosen college’s total cost of attendance.
 - ▶ The award amount is based on the number of credit hours for which the student is enrolled, with full awards going to students enrolled in 15 hours or more per semester.
- ▣ Eligible applicants who are not initially awarded grants have their applications put “in suspense”—essentially, on a wait list. If fewer applicants claim their grants than ISAC initially projected, the agency can offer grants to applicants who were initially put in suspense.
- ▣ MAP recipients are enrolled in all sectors of higher education. Community college students are *offered* the largest percentage of grants, while the number of students actually *claiming* grants is highest in the public university sector.

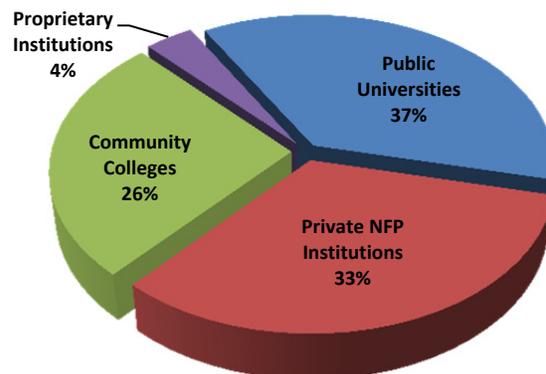
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Where Illinois Undergraduates Go to College



Where MAP Recipients Go to College



Sector Breakdown for FY 2016

	Offered Award	% of Awards Offered	Accepted Award	% of Awards Accepted	Acceptance Rate	\$ Awards (in millions)	Average Award
Public Universities	49,900	31.4%	39,539	36.9%	79.2%	\$ 141.9	\$ 3,588
Private NFP institutions	45,346	28.5%	35,308	33.0%	77.9%	\$ 139.0	\$ 3,938
Community Colleges	57,142	35.9%	28,245	26.4%	49.4%	\$ 27.8	\$ 983
Proprietary Institutions	6,577	4.1%	3,965	3.7%	60.3%	\$ 11.2	\$ 2,820
Total	158,965	100.0%	107,057	100.0%	67.3%	\$ 320.0	\$ 2,987

Dollar amount of award is based on student’s estimated financial need, hours enrolled, and cost of attendance at student’s selected MAP-eligible school.