



# THE MONETARY AWARD PROGRAM

# mapmatters



FOR OVER 55 YEARS, **THE MONETARY AWARD PROGRAM (MAP) HAS HELPED MAKE COLLEGE POSSIBLE FOR MILLIONS OF ILLINOISANS ACROSS THE STATE**

Indeed, MAP recipients come from every legislative district in the state. MAP matters because it provides need-based aid that a student doesn't have to repay, defraying tuition and fee costs and limiting excessive student loan debt for those who don't have the resources to pay for college.

Strong support for MAP increases from Governor Pritzker and the General Assembly brought Fiscal Years 2020 and 2021 MAP funding to a historic high of approximately \$451 million. In FY 21, that level of funding served almost 140,000 students. Even with the continued strains on the budget as a result of the pandemic, Governor Pritzker recommended and the General Assembly approved a \$28 million dollar increase in MAP funding for FY 22, bringing the total MAP appropriation to another historic high of almost \$480 million. This funding allowed ISAC to offer awards to more students and to increase the size of grants to further address the declining purchasing power of MAP. The positive increase in funding, combined with the unfortunate reality that fewer students are applying to college, meant that for the first time in more than two decades, ISAC was able to offer an award to all eligible applicants in academic year 2021-22.

In FY 23, Governor Pritzker and the General Assembly again demonstrated their commitment to improving access and affordability by approving a \$122 million increase for MAP, bringing MAP funding to yet another historic high of \$601 million. Not only does ISAC anticipate this level of funding will allow it to offer an award to all eligible applicants, but this funding also moved Illinois even closer to meeting the goal in the State's strategic plan for higher education of having MAP cover 50 percent of tuition and mandatory fees at public colleges and universities. In FY 23, ISAC has been able to increase the average MAP grant award size by about 30 percent, and it is estimated that MAP will cover 55 percent of average tuition and fees for community college and approximately 44 percent for public universities.

The Governor's proposed increase of \$100 million for MAP in FY 24 would go even further in improving the purchasing power of MAP. This level of funding would likely allow ISAC to continue offering grants to every eligible applicant – with an estimated 16 percent increase in the average grant size, and an increase in the maximum grant of about 18 percent, further improving the purchasing power of MAP and increasing the likelihood that a student will enroll, persist, and graduate with less debt. With \$701 million in funding, the State would meet the tuition and fee coverage goal in its strategic plan: It is estimated that the maximum MAP grant would cover about 60 percent of average tuition and mandatory fees at a community college and about 51 percent of average tuition and fees at a public university.

# MAP Can Make the Difference

<sup>1</sup> Anthony Carnevale (founder and director of the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce), *Ignore the Hype. College is Worth it*, Inside Higher Ed, February 23, 2020, <https://www.insidehighered.com/views/2020/02/13/why-one-should-ignore-reports-and-commentary-question-value-college-degree-opinion>

<sup>2</sup> *A Greater Number of Jobs Require More Education, Leaving Middle-Skill Workers with Fewer Opportunities*, University of Virginia Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service Stat Chat, May 10, 2019, <http://statchatva.org/2019/05/10/a-greater-number-of-jobs-require-more-education-leaving-middle-skill-workers-with-fewer-opportunities/>

<sup>3</sup> *A Stronger Nation: Learning Beyond High School Builds American Talent*, Illinois Report, Lumina Foundation, 2023, <https://www.luminafoundation.org/stronger-nation/report/#/progress/state/IL>

<sup>4</sup> See [http://pellinstitute.org/downloads/publications-Indicators\\_of\\_Higher\\_Education\\_Equity\\_in\\_the\\_US\\_2022\\_Historical\\_Trend\\_Report.pdf](http://pellinstitute.org/downloads/publications-Indicators_of_Higher_Education_Equity_in_the_US_2022_Historical_Trend_Report.pdf) (Equity Indicator 1A and 5A).

<sup>5</sup> *A Stronger Nation: Learning Beyond High School Builds American Talent*, Illinois Report, Lumina Foundation, 2023



“As a self-supporting undergraduate student, MAP Grant funds helped to decrease my tuition payments and relieve much of my financial burden. The grant helped make it possible for me to attend and graduate from college and helped inspire me to pursue a career helping other students find success through postsecondary education.”

**SERENA NICOLE ROBERTSON**

- By 2027, 70 percent of jobs will require a college credential.<sup>1</sup> By 2026, the number of jobs requiring a bachelor’s degree is expected to be 10 percent higher than it was in 2016, with 17 percent more jobs requiring a master’s degree and 13 percent more requiring a doctoral or professional degree than a decade earlier. Conversely, the growth rate for occupations not requiring postsecondary education will be slower than overall occupational growth. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics’ list of the 30 fastest-growing occupations, 18 of those require more than a high school diploma.<sup>2</sup> Yet currently about 57% of working-age adults (25-64) in Illinois hold a two or four year college degree or high quality postsecondary certificate.<sup>3</sup>
- College enrollment for students in the top income quartile is 79% nationally, compared to 48% for those in the lowest income quartile. The gap in bachelor degree attainment (by age 24) is even wider: For those students in the lowest income quartile it is 15%, compared to 59% for students in the highest income quartile.<sup>4</sup> Substantial gaps in postsecondary attainment for adults (age 25-64) in Illinois exist by race/ethnicity as well: Asian American and Pacific Islander at 74.5%; White at 54.3%, American Indian or Alaska native at 25.3%, Black at 33.6%, and; Hispanic at 25.8%.<sup>5</sup>



“For me, MAP = degree. The Monetary Award Program helped make college possible for me, especially after my only parent lost her job while I was in college. I thought I was going to have to drop out. I wouldn’t be here without MAP.”

**MELISSA HAHN**

- MAP can make the difference in whether a person can attend college. It’s particularly critical in addressing the attainment gap for low income, first generation students and for students of color:
  - More than half (55%) 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 22, the average family income of a dependent (“traditional”) MAP-eligible student was \$34,672/year, and the average income of an independent (“non-traditional”) MAP-eligible student was \$19,309/year.
  - Of the undergraduates at Illinois public universities who identify themselves as Black or Hispanic, 60% or more receive a MAP grant.
  - Approximately 57% of MAP recipients are first generation—meaning those who do not have at least one parent who completed college.



“MAP made it possible for me to attend college. I was the only Latina in the honors program in college. I didn’t see people like me crossing the stage in college or graduate school, and that hit home. I am very grateful for the MAP Grant, because without it I wouldn’t have been able to afford college, attain my degree, and pursue the career I wanted.”

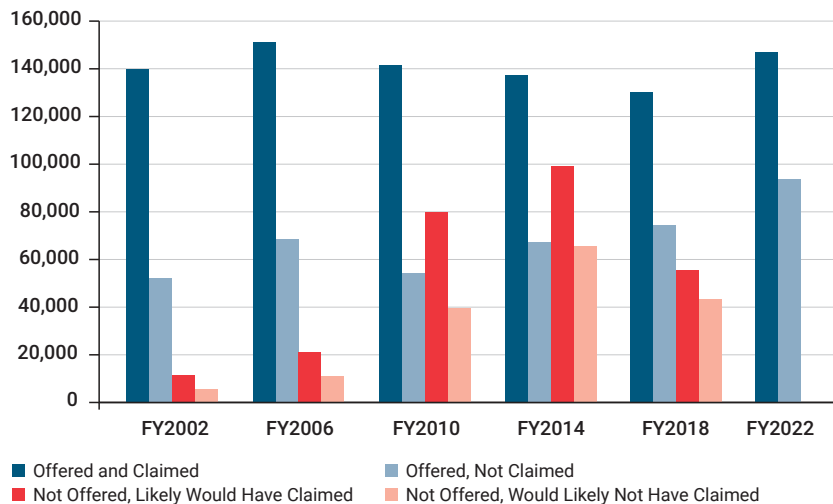
**JASMINE JETTON-GONZALES**

# Support MAP Funding!

- In the 2021-22 school year, MAP served almost 146,000 students. For the first time in more than two decades, grants were offered to every eligible student.<sup>6</sup> In the 2021-22 school year, the maximum MAP award covered 33% of average tuition and mandatory fees at public universities and 38% at community colleges. It is estimated that for the 2022-23 school year, the maximum MAP grant will cover 44% of average tuition and mandatory fees at public universities, and 55% at community colleges.

<sup>6</sup> Note that most MAP recipients also receive federal Pell grants, and Pell plus a MAP grant typically covers the current cost of tuition and mandatory fees at community colleges in Illinois.

## Demand for MAP Exceeded Supply for Two Decades, until FY 22



Note: ISAC calculates the number of students who would likely have accepted the award, had they been offered it, based on the previous year's data on awards offered and awards accepted (claimed) by college sector.

- In FY 22, a MAP grant was offered to every eligible student, and this will almost certainly be true in FY 23. This is good and bad news: It is the combined result of more funding and the unfortunate fact that fewer students are choosing to attend college.

Certainly, the pandemic had a negative impact on attendance nationwide. But the downward trend in postsecondary enrollment began long before the pandemic. Affordability is undoubtedly a factor, and with more funding, MAP can not only reach more students, but the size of awards can also be increased to better support the financial needs of students. Helping to address affordability will also help students and the State leverage federal Pell dollars. Even with an increase in the size of MAP awards, many students with financial need will need the combination of federal Pell Grant dollars and MAP to afford college. The combined funding must be enough to make college affordable. With another significant increase in MAP funding, the State can continue to make important strides in improving affordability.



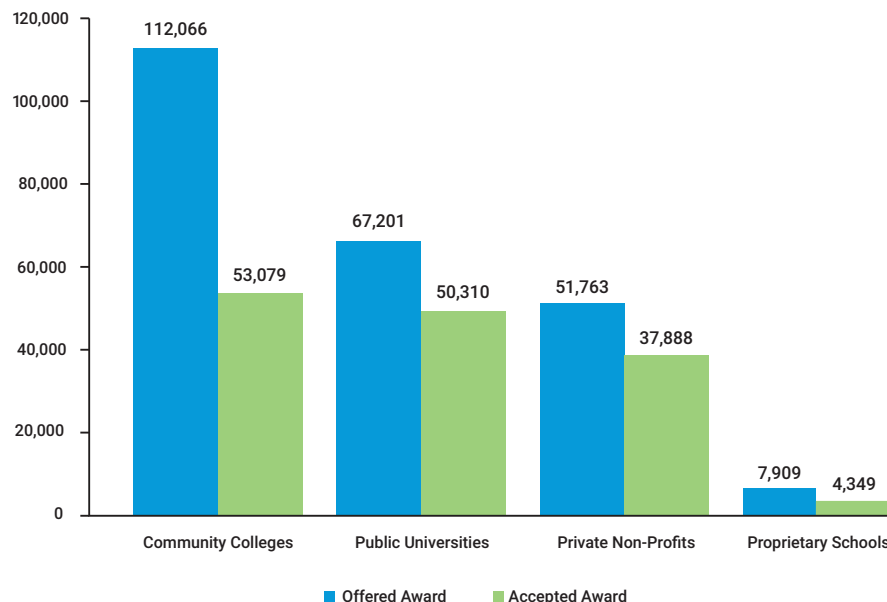
"I would not have been able to graduate from college without the MAP Grant. MAP allowed me to focus more on my studies without worrying about how I was going to be able to afford college. The MAP Grant was so important to me that I've focused my career on working with counselors and other education professionals to help them help their students reach their postsecondary goals."

**MANUEL TALAVERA**

# More About MAP

- Despite facing significant financial challenges and often being the first in their family to complete college, a majority of MAP recipients graduate at rates similar to all students within their respective institutions.
- A student's eligibility for MAP is determined using information provided on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) or the Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid.
  - 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. For the purposes of awarding MAP, a student is considered full time if they are enrolled for 15 hours or more per semester.
- MAP recipients are enrolled in all sectors of higher education. In FY 22, community college students were offered and *accepted* the most grants, but the percentage of students who accepted grants is much higher at public universities and private non-profit schools.

## FY 2022 MAP Grants Offered and Accepted by Sector



## FY2022 MAP Grants, by Sector

	Offered Awards	% of Awards Offered	Accepted Awards	% of Accepted Awards	Acceptance Rate	Eligibility Amounts	Claims	% \$ Claims	Sector % of Total Claims	Avg Claim
<b>Community Colleges</b>	112,066	47%	53,079	36%	47%	\$217,440,077	\$54,308,358	25%	12%	\$1,023
<b>Public Universities</b>	67,201	28%	50,310	35%	75%	\$366,557,880	\$224,087,470	61%	48%	\$4,454
<b>Private Non-Profits</b>	51,763	22%	37,888	26%	73%	\$290,551,360	\$175,187,149	60%	37%	\$4,624
<b>Proprietary Schools</b>	7,909	3%	4,349	3%	55%	\$43,820,991	\$14,137,452	32%	3%	\$3,251
<b>Total</b>	238,939	100%	145,626	100%	61%	\$918,370,308	\$467,720,429	51%	100%	\$3,212

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.