A GUIDE TO **ISAC PROGRAMS & SERVICES**

isac.org





AS THE STATE'S **COLLEGE ACCESS AND FINANCIAL AID** AGENCY

the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) works to help make education after high school accessible and affordable for Illinois students. ISAC provides two kinds of assistance to students and families:

Help with the college-going and financial aid process, including personalized assistance in your community—from workshops to one-on-one help, in-person and online resources, a call center, and a text messaging service.

Grant, scholarship, and loan repayment/forgiveness programs to help pay for postsecondary education.

Here's a quick guide to the programs and services ISAC offers. Note that many ISAC programs require the student to complete a specific program application and either the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) at **FAFSA.gov**, or, if eligible, the Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid (Alternative Application) at **isac.org/AlternativeApp**.

ISAC
Illinois Student Assistance Commission



Grant Programs

A grant is financial aid that does not need to be paid back. The amount awarded is usually based on financial need and is generally provided by the government or the college you plan to attend. ***The number of grants made through most grant programs administered by ISAC, and the individual dollar amount awarded, are dependent upon the level of annual funding provided by the stat***

Monetary Award Program (MAP)

Who: Illinois undergraduates at approved Illinois public and private 2- and 4-year colleges, hospital schools, and other degree-granting institutions. Eligibility is based on financial need. Apply as early as possible.

Application Process: The FAFSA® or, if eligible, the Alternative Application

Amount: Tuition and mandatory fees, up to $8,064 per year

AIM HIGH Grant

Who: Illinois undergraduate students at the 12 Illinois public universities. Eligibility is based on financial need and other requirements established by each university. Contact the financial aid office of the university you plan to attend to learn about any additional benefits and requirements.

Application Process: The FAFSA® or, if eligible, the Alternative Application. Check with your university to see if an additional application is required.

Amount: Renewable grants towards the cost of attendance

Illinois National Guard (ING) Grant

Who: Currently active enlisted Illinois National Guard members with at least one year of service, or recently discharged members, at Illinois public 2- and 4-year colleges.

Application Process: The Illinois National Guard Grant application

Amount: Tuition and certain fees

Illinois Veteran Grant (IVG)

Who: Illinois veterans (including Illinois National Guard and Armed Forces Reserve members) with at least one year of federal active-duty service in the U.S. Armed Forces, at Illinois public 2- and 4-year colleges.

Application Process: The Illinois Veteran Grant application

Amount: Tuition and mandatory fees

Grant Programs for Dependents of Police/ Fire/Correctional Officers

Who: Spouse and children of Illinois Police, Fire, or Correctional Officers killed or permanently disabled in the line of duty, at approved Illinois public and private degree-granting institutions.

Application Process: Grant Programs for Dependents of Police/Fire/Correctional Officers application

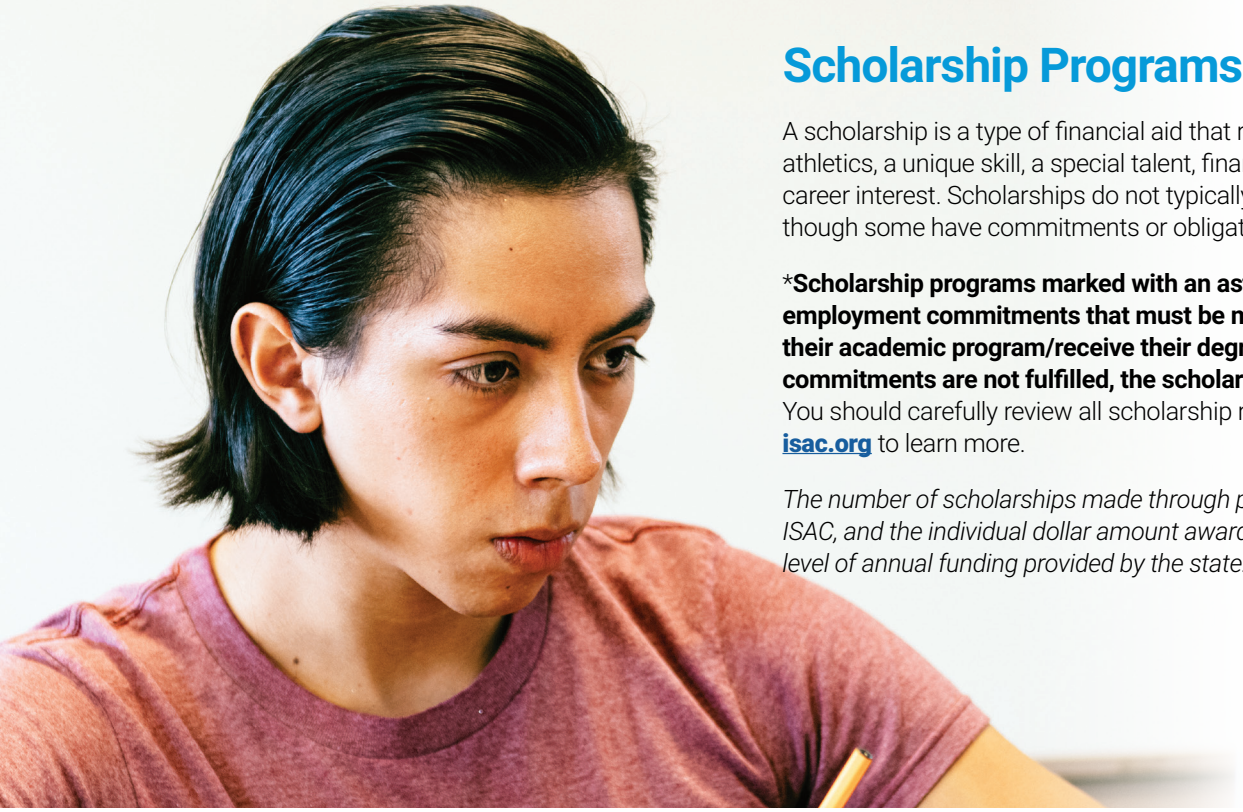
Amount: Tuition and mandatory fees

Grant Program for Exonerees and Their Dependents

Who: Illinois residents issued a pardon on the grounds of innocence or who received a certificate of innocence from a circuit court, at Illinois public universities and community colleges. Unused benefits may be transferred to eligible dependents.

Application Process: Grant Program for Exonerees and Their Dependents application

Amount: Tuition and mandatory fees and/or costs associated with obtaining a high school equivalency certificate



Scholarship Programs

A scholarship is a type of financial aid that rewards a student for grades, athletics, a unique skill, a special talent, financial need, or even a specific career interest. Scholarships do not typically need to be paid back, though some have commitments or obligations connected with them.

***Scholarship programs marked with an asterisk have associated employment commitments that must be met after students leave their academic program/receive their degree. If these employment commitments are not fulfilled, the scholarship converts to a loan.** You should carefully review all scholarship requirements on **isac.org** to learn more.

The number of scholarships made through programs administered by ISAC, and the individual dollar amount awarded, are dependent upon the level of annual funding provided by the state.

School Social Work Scholarship (formerly the Post-Master of Social Work School Social Work Professional Educator Scholarship)

Who: Licensed Illinois social workers or those pursuing licensure, who have or are pursuing master's degrees in social work seeking an Illinois Professional Educator License with an Endorsement in School Social Work at Illinois public universities and private non-profit colleges and universities offering appropriate course of study.

Application Process: The School Social Work Scholarship application

Amount: Tuition and mandatory fees

Illinois Special Education Teacher Tuition Waiver (SETTW)*

Who: Illinois students at Illinois public 4-year universities pursuing initial certification as special education teachers.

Application Process: The Illinois Special Education Teacher Tuition Waiver (SETTW) application

Amount: Waives tuition and mandatory fees

Nursing Education Scholarship (NES)*

Who: Illinois nursing students at approved colleges pursuing varied certificates, diplomas, or degrees.

Application Process: The FAFSA® or, if eligible, the Alternative Application, and the Nursing Education Scholarship application

Amount: Tuition, mandatory fees, and living expenses

Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity (ECACE) Scholarship

Who: Early childhood workers (past and current) pursuing an associate or bachelor's degree in early childhood at Illinois 2- and 4-year Consortium member institutions.

Application Process: The FAFSA® or, if eligible, the Alternative Application; the ECACE Scholarship application; and the Gateways to Opportunity Registry Eligibility Verification Form

Amount: Tuition, fees, and living expenses, up to $7,500 per year

Displaced Energy Worker Dependent Transition Scholarship

Who: Children of energy workers who lost employment due to reduced operations or closure of a fossil fuel power plant or coal mine, at Illinois public universities and community colleges.

Application Process: The FAFSA® or, if eligible, the Alternative Application, and the Displaced Energy Worker Dependent Transition Scholarship application

Amount: Tuition and fees

Teachers of Illinois Scholarship

Who: Illinois undergraduate or graduate students currently pursuing initial teacher licensure, or teachers seeking additional endorsements or a master's degree.

Application Process: The FAFSA® or, if eligible, the Alternative Application, and the Teachers of Illinois Scholarship application

Amount: Tuition, fees, and living expenses up to $7,500 per year

Loan Repayment Programs

These programs offer help with student loan repayment for Illinois residents who qualify based on certain eligibility requirements. Typically, qualifying borrowers are those who have made a commitment to work in Illinois for a specific amount of time in a field that has experienced a shortage of workers (for example, teaching or nursing). *The availability of some of these programs is dependent upon the level of annual funding provided by the state.*

Community Behavioral Health Care Professional (CBHP) Loan Repayment Program

Who: Illinois community-based behavioral workers (mental health and substance use professionals) practicing in centers, clinics, and state-operated psychiatric hospitals in underserved or rural areas.

Application Process: The CBHP Loan Repayment Program application

Amount: Education loan repayment assistance, amount varies based on education level and licensure/credentials

Illinois Teachers Loan Repayment Program

Who: Teachers working in Illinois schools in low-income areas, who qualified for the federal Teacher Loan Forgiveness Program.

Application Process: The Illinois Teachers Loan Repayment Program application

Amount: Education loan repayment assistance up to $5,000

John R. Justice Student Loan Repayment Program

Who: State and federal public defenders and state prosecutors.

Application Process: John R. Justice Student Loan Repayment Program application

Amount: Education loan repayment assistance up to $10,000 per year, with a $60,000 limit on total assistance

Human Services Professional Loan Repayment Program

Who: Illinois professionals providing direct and indirect human services to clients in community-based human service organizations and agencies.

Application Process: The Human Services Professional Loan Repayment Program application

Amount: Education loan repayment assistance, amount varies based on education level and licensure/credentials

Nurse Educator Loan Repayment Program

Who: Illinois nurse educators licensed by the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation.

Application Process: The Nurse Educator Loan Repayment Program application

Amount: Education loan repayment assistance up to $5,000 per year

School and Municipal Social Work Shortage Loan Repayment Program

Who: Illinois social workers working in public school districts and municipalities.

Application Process: The School and Municipal Social Work Shortage Loan Repayment Program application

Amount: One-time education loan repayment assistance up to $6,500

Veterans' Home Medical Providers' Loan Repayment Program

Who: Illinois medical providers (physicians, certified nurse practitioners, registered professional nurses, certified nursing assistants, licensed practical nurses) employed at Illinois veterans' homes.

Application Process: The Veterans' Home Medical Providers' Loan Repayment Program application

Amount: Education loan repayment assistance up to $5,000 per year

Available programs are subject to change. Detailed information about ISAC programs, including all eligibility, and enrollment requirements; the application process; and program processing updates, is available on ***isac.org***



College Planning and Financial Aid Outreach Services and Resources



ISACorps™

The ISACorps™ offers free expert assistance with planning for education after high school and navigating the financial aid process. These recent college graduates, who are trained to serve as near peer mentors to high school students, partner with local schools, businesses, and nonprofit organizations across the state to provide workshops, presentations, and one-on-one mentoring for students and families. ISACorps members can help you with career exploration, college selection and applications, scholarship searches, financial aid planning, and completion of financial aid forms.

While the ISACorps is available to assist any student or family, they particularly focus their efforts on working with students whose families have no prior college-going experience. To better connect with students, every effort is made to recruit ISACorps members who are first generation college students themselves and who come from the Illinois community in which they will work.

ISACorps members are available to provide assistance statewide — at in-person workshops, virtual outreach events, or one-on-one in person or on the phone, online, or via email or text. You will find ISACorps members in your high school supporting the college counseling office, or meeting with students at community locations. Visit **isac.org/isacorps** to find the ISACorps member or a workshop in your area or book a free virtual meeting with an ISACorps member, **isac.org/booking**.

The NEW isac.org

ISAC's new website (Fall, 2026) makes it easier for you to find the information you need to make more informed decisions about education after high school and financial aid.

On our new website, you can search by category, or use the student search to find topics and resources that can help you. We've got simple tools to help you keep track of college planning deadlines, your ISAC program benefits, and to help you calculate financial aid and compare financial aid offers.

Find links to ISAC partner websites for college and scholarship search; career and job search; and resources to help with financial literacy, money management and student loan repayment. Check out all of ISAC's videos on our YouTube page for quick tips and important information on college planning and financial aid, with a special series of videos for first generation college students and their families.

Looking for a college or financial aid workshop in your area? Check out our free public events and workshops in your area, isac.org/OutreachEvents, or check the calendar of events at your high school.

ISAC College Q&A Text Messaging Service

Get answers to questions about college planning and financial aid sent directly to your phone with the ISAC College Q&A text messaging service. Text with an ISAC college planning and financial aid expert and receive alerts about college planning events and deadlines. It's free and easy to sign up. **isac.org/collegeqa**

ISAC Student Engagement and Support Services

ISAC Student Engagement representatives are available Monday through Friday from 8 am to 4:30 pm CT to answer questions about ISAC financial aid programs, applications, and other services. Call the toll-free number at 800.899.ISAC (4722) or email **isac.studentservices@illinois.gov** for assistance. Spanish-speaking representatives are also available to assist you.

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800.899.ISAC (4722)
isac.studentservices@illinois.gov
isac.org

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SPRINGFIELD 500 W. Monroe, 3rd floor, Springfield, IL 62704-1876

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