

GRANT PROGRAM FOR EXONEREES APPLICATION 2020-21 ACADEMIC YEAR FALL 2020 THROUGH SPRING 2021

You may contact a Call Center Representative via telephone at 800.899.4722 or
 e-mail at isac.studentservices@illinois.gov regarding information on this application and/or visit our website isac.org.

Application Information

IMPORTANT PLEASE NOTE that your Social Security number is needed for identification, verification and processing purposes in furtherance of your request for financial aid.

Apply Early/Check Applicant Status

Applications are processed in date-received (i.e., "first come, first served") order. For priority consideration each year, your complete application – including any supporting documentation, as outlined on the application – must be submitted (if applying online) or postmarked (if applying with the PDF version) as soon as possible after it becomes available; allow up to four weeks after receipt of the application. Visit the website at isac.org for processing updates. You must submit a new application each year you wish to be considered for a grant. Even if you are not certain where you will be attending college in the fall, you are strongly encouraged to submit a complete application as soon as possible, listing the Illinois public college or community college you are most likely to attend. If you then decide to attend a different approved college after your application has been submitted, you must report that change to the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC).

PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY IN INK OR TYPE. The applicant is to answer each of the items below, sign the certification statement, date the application and send it, along with any required documentation as outlined on the next page under "Annual Application Procedures," to ISAC at the address noted below. Incomplete applications may result in the delay of payment or disqualification. The applicant must read the second page of this form regarding eligibility, benefits and application procedures.

Applicant's Information (Applicant must reapply each academic year)

Social Security Number			Last Name		First Name		MI
Prior Last Name, if applicable			Date of Birth		E-mail Address (optional)		
Permanent Address Line 1			Area Code and Phone Number				
			() -				
Address Line 2		City	State	ZIP Code		State of Legal Residence	

Please check only ONE:

- I received a pardon from the Governor of the State of Illinois issued on the grounds of innocence on the following date ___/___/____
- I received a certificate of innocence from a circuit court on the following date ___/___/____

Please indicate for what the grant will be used (check all that apply):

- Reimbursement of High School Equivalency Course and Certificate* Reimbursement of High School Equivalency Course Transcript* Payment of Public or Community College Tuition and Fees

*See Item 3 under "Annual Application Procedures" on page 2 for a list of required documentation.

College applicant will attend: _____

Federal School Code: _____

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A listing of Illinois 2- or 4-year public colleges approved to participate in the Grant Program for Exonerees, including each college's 6-digit Federal School Code, is available online at isac.org.

Sign and date this certification section:

I certify, under the penalties of perjury as provided by law, that all information on this application and the required documentation is true and correct and that I meet the eligibility requirements itemized on page 2 of this application. I certify that I do not owe a refund on a federal or state grant. I certify that I am not in default on any educational loan or, if in default, have reinstated my eligibility for ISAC administered programs in accordance with ISAC Rules. I certify that I meet federal Selective Service registration requirements. I have read both pages of this application before signing it. I give my consent to the college I attend to release information to ISAC concerning my eligibility for the Grant Program for Exonerees.

_____ Applicant's Signature

_____ Date

2020-21 GRANT PROGRAM FOR EXONEREES APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

To receive benefits under this program an applicant shall:

1. be a resident of Illinois;
2. have received:
 - a. a pardon from the Governor of the State of Illinois issued on the grounds of innocence; or
 - b. a certificate of innocence from a circuit court;
3. be an exonerated person who:
 - a. has not yet received a high school diploma or a high school equivalency certificate and is completing a high school equivalency preparation course through an Illinois Community College Board-approved provider and/or is seeking an Illinois high school equivalency certificate; or
 - b. is enrolled at an ISAC-approved public university or community college in an eligible degree or certificate program (see 34 CFR 668.8) for a semester term, throughout the institution's tuition refund/withdrawal adjustment period;
4. not be in default on any educational loan or, if in default, have reinstated eligibility in accordance with ISAC Rules;
5. not owe a refund on any state or federal grant;
6. not have to demonstrate financial need to receive this grant;
7. maintain satisfactory academic progress as determined by the institution;
8. file a complete application each academic year, indicating the college to be attended;
9. meet the applicable deadline for the term(s) for which he/she is applying;
10. notify ISAC, in writing, of name, address or college choice changes as they occur.

BENEFITS AND RESTRICTIONS:

1. Tuition and fee benefits are limited to the full-time enrollment equivalent of 8 semesters of payment for undergraduate or graduate study. Recipients may accumulate up to 48 eligibility units.
2. In any regular school year in which the qualified applicant accepts or receives financial assistance through the Monetary Award Program (23 Ill. Adm. Code 2735), the qualified applicant shall not be eligible for assistance under this program.
3. The Grant Program for Exonerees funds shall be applicable only to tuition and mandatory fees and only for two semesters in a regular school year, and/or the grant may be used to reimburse costs associated with obtaining a high school equivalency certificate and up to one retest on each test module, and/or the grant may be used to reimburse costs associated with obtaining an official transcript of test scores after successful completion of the high school equivalency test.
4. The total amount of Grant Program for Exonerees funds awarded pursuant to Section 2743.30(b) to a qualified recipient in a given academic year, when added to other financial aid available to the qualified recipient for that year, shall not exceed the cost of attendance.

In order to receive benefits, one application must be filed for each academic year, which begins with the fall term and concludes the following spring term. No payments will be made on behalf of any eligible student unless a current and complete application is on file.

ANNUAL APPLICATION PROCEDURES:

1. The applicant must apply to ISAC for these educational benefits and must complete all requested information on page 1 of this application. Applicants must provide a copy of their certificate of innocence or a pardon on the grounds of innocence. Additional documentation may be required and, if submitted, will not be returned to the applicant.
2. Applications are processed in date-received (i.e., "first come, first served") order. For priority consideration each year, your complete application – including any supporting documentation, as outlined on the application – must be submitted (if applying online) or postmarked (if applying with the PDF version) as soon as possible after it becomes available; allow up to four weeks after receipt of the application. You must submit a new application each year you wish to be considered for a grant.
3. For reimbursement of costs associated with a high school equivalency preparation course or certificate, or for an official transcript of test scores after completion of the high school equivalency test, your application will not be considered complete until all necessary documentation has been received by ISAC. You must provide proof of payment (i.e. a copy of the payment receipt). We will consider for reimbursement expenses paid on or after January 1, 2016.
4. Applicants who do not provide all requested information will be sent a "Notice of Incomplete Application". ISAC must receive the required information before processing can continue.
5. The total number of grants awarded in a given fiscal year is contingent upon available funding. If funding is insufficient to pay all eligible applicants of the grant, awarding will be based on the date the completed application is received in ISAC's Deerfield office. Preference may be given to renewal applicants, provided that the recipient continues to meet the eligibility requirements.
6. Qualified applicants selected to receive a grant will receive an eligibility letter from ISAC for the specific terms of eligibility during each academic year following the filing of the application. If required by the college, a selected applicant should present his/her eligibility letter to the college financial aid office as soon as he/she receives it. The college also has deadlines for requesting payment on a student's behalf. Failure to present the eligibility letter and/or to notify ISAC of a college choice change, as required, may result in the loss of benefits.
7. ISAC shall select the recipients from among those who have submitted complete applications, including qualified new applicants and those who filed timely renewal applications and have supplied information required.
8. Ineligible applicants and applicants not selected due to limited funding will receive written notification from ISAC of their ineligibility to receive program benefits. If qualified, but not selected, the applicant can reapply for the following academic year.
9. ISAC pays grant funds directly to the institution of record in the name of the recipient; however, ISAC reserves the right to reimburse costs associated with obtaining a high school equivalency certificate or in obtaining transcripts and test scores directly to the qualified applicant.
10. **Allow up to four weeks for the processing of this application. Visit the ISAC website at isac.org for processing updates or call ISAC at 800.899.ISAC (4722). Mail page 1 of the completed application to:**

**Illinois Student Assistance Commission
Dept. D
1755 Lake Cook Road
Deerfield, IL 60015-5209**