ISAC FAFSA SYMPOSIUM

Overview of New ISAC Programs

Presented by:

Stephanie Claudio
Training Specialist, Partner Services

Daniela Rios
Training Specialist, Partner Services

Sherry Schonauer
Training Specialist, Partner Services

Fall 2023

ISAC FAFSA SYMPOSIUM

Aspirational Institutional Match Helping Illinois Grow Higher Education (AIM HIGH) Grant Program

AIM HIGH Grant Program

ISAC FAFSA SYMPOSIUM

- Aspirational Institutional Match Helping Illinois Grow Higher Education (AIM HIGH) Grant Program
- 2023-24 appropriation – $50,000,000
  - Funds are disbursed in lump sums by ISAC to public universities
- Permanent program starting 2023-24 award year – no longer a pilot program
  - https://ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/fulltext.asp?Name=103-0516
- Provides assistance toward a full-time undergraduate's cost of attendance
- Available through one of Illinois' 12 public four-year institutions
- Also, universities will provide matching funding for institutional awards
  - May or may not be available to the same students who receive the AIM HIGH grant, depends on how the matching program is designed by the university
- Program information is described in detail on the university's website
  - https://www.isac.org/students/during-college/types-of-financial-aid/grants/aim-high.html#Participating_Schools

AIM HIGH Grant Program

- Provides assistance toward a full-time undergraduate student's cost of attendance at the university
  - Is renewable and if a student receives it once and continues to meet the eligibility requirements, the student will be eligible to receive a renewal grant in subsequent years
  - The renewal award will be an amount no less than the award the student received first year of attendance, unless the cost of attendance is reduced
    - for example, if the student reduces the number of credit hours, or switches to a major with a lower tuition rate

AIM HIGH Grant Program - Eligibility

ISAC FAFSA SYMPOSIUM

To be eligible, an applicant must:

- have attended an Illinois high school
- be engaged in a program of study that will be completed by the end of the school year
- apply to be enrolled for the first time at the public university
- be a resident of Illinois
- be a U.S. citizen or an eligible non-citizen or meet the “undocumented student” criteria of the RISE Act
- file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) and demonstrate financial need, with a household income no greater than 6 times the poverty guideline established by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

AIM HIGH Grant Program - Eligibility

To be eligible, an applicant must: (con't)

- meet the minimum cumulative grade point average or ACT or SAT, determined by the university
- be enrolled as an undergraduate student on a full-time basis
- have not received a bachelor's degree
  - or the equivalent of 135 semester credit hours
- not be incarcerated
- not be in default on any student loan, nor owe a refund on any state or federal grant
- meet any other criteria established by the university
  - Students applying only for a university's matching funding may not need to meet these eligibility requirements; refer to the university program information

AIM HIGH Grant Program

ISAC FAFSA SYMPOSIUM

Applying

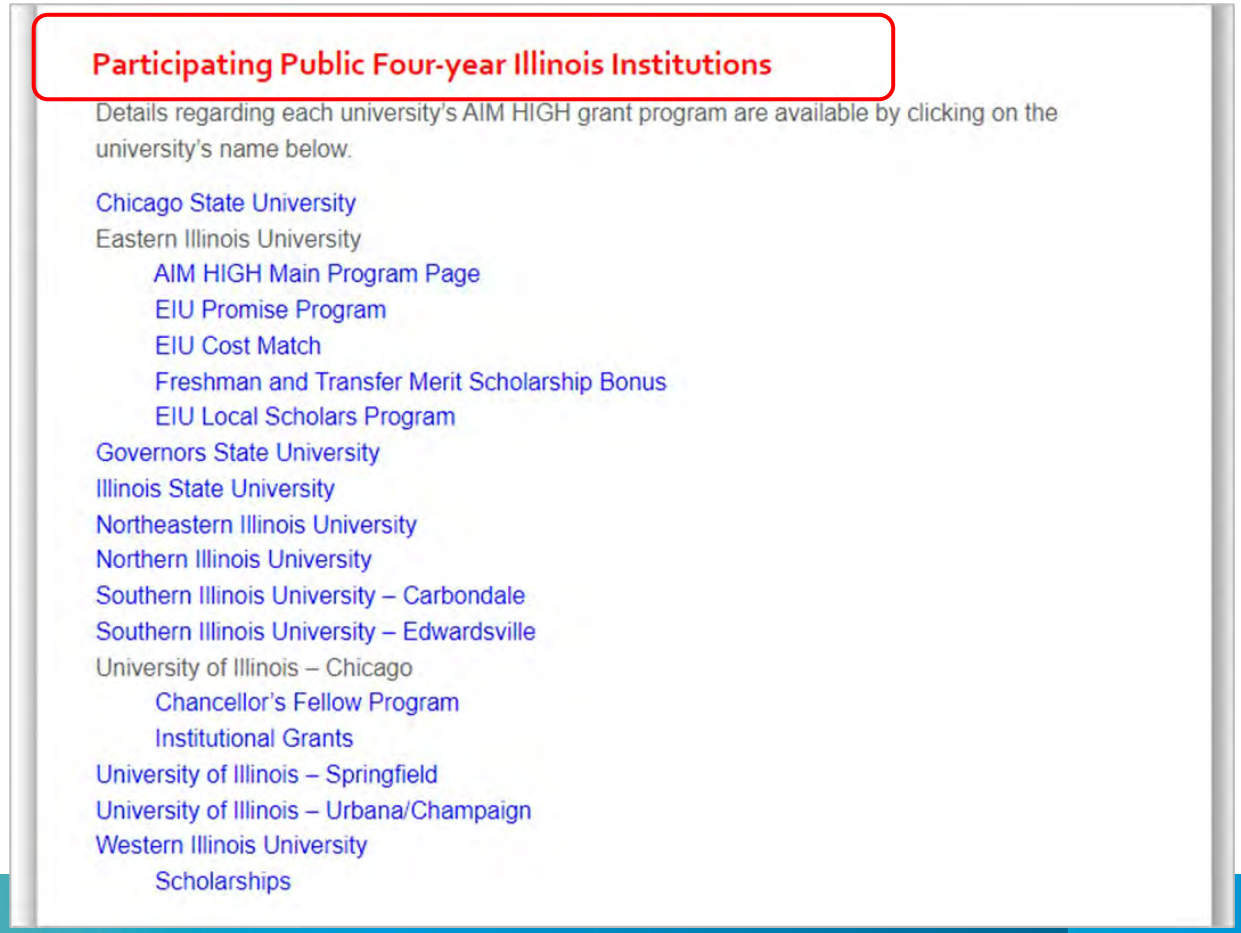
- Students applying for the AIM HIGH Grant Program and/or for the matching funding must:
  - File a FAFSA
  - Refer to the universities program information, or
  - Contact the Financial Aid Office

Disbursement of Funds

- ISAC determines the amount of the AIM HIGH grant funding for each university each academic year
- Disbursements are made to the universities
- Universities develop procedures to disburse funds to students

AIM HIGH Grant Program

https://www.isac.org/students/during-college/types-of-financial-aid/grants/aim-high.html



Participating Public Four-year Illinois Institutions

Details regarding each university's AIM HIGH grant program are available by clicking on the university's name below.

- Chicago State University
- Eastern Illinois University
  - AIM HIGH Main Program Page
  - EIU Promise Program
  - EIU Cost Match
  - Freshman and Transfer Merit Scholarship Bonus
  - EIU Local Scholars Program
- Governors State University
- Illinois State University
- Northeastern Illinois University
- Northern Illinois University
- Southern Illinois University – Carbondale
- Southern Illinois University – Edwardsville
- University of Illinois – Chicago
  - Chancellor's Fellow Program
  - Institutional Grants
- University of Illinois – Springfield
- University of Illinois – Urbana/Champaign
- Western Illinois University
  - Scholarships

Nursing Education Scholarship (NES) Program

Nursing Education Scholarship (NES)

ISAC FAFSA SYMPOSIUM

- The 2024 fiscal year, July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024, appropriation is $4,000,000
- The NES Scholarship provides assistance to those who are pursuing:
  - a certificate in practical nursing,
  - an associate's degree in nursing,
  - a hospital-based diploma in nursing, or
  - a bachelor's or graduate degree in nursing.
- The program was designed to increase the number of nurses available for employment in Illinois by offering scholarships to overcome financial barriers to education
- The scholarship pays for coursework within the nursing curriculum, but does not pay for pre-requisite coursework

Nursing Education Scholarship (NES)

- The number of years a recipient may receive funding from this program is based on the certificate, diploma, or degree being pursued.

Certificate, Diploma, or Degree Pursued:	*Maximum Years of Scholarship Assistance:*
Certificate in Practical Nursing	One Academic Year
Associate Degree in Nursing	Two Academic Years
Hospital-Based Diploma in Nursing	Three Academic Years
Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing	Four Academic Years
Graduate Degree in Nursing	Five Academic Years
Graduate Degree in Nursing to become a Nurse Educator	Three Academic Years

- Full-time students may receive a stipend
  - Part-time students are not eligible for a stipend

Nursing Education Scholarship (NES)

ISAC FAFSA SYMPOSIUM

- If awarded, must sign an agreement promising to begin full- or part-time employment as a licensed practical nurse, a registered nurse, or a nurse educator in Illinois within six months of graduating and remain employed for a period equivalent to the educational time supported by the scholarship.

- If the recipient terminates studies, or fails to become employed, they will be required to repay the full scholarship amount, plus 7% interest per year.

NES Eligibility

- To qualify, applicant must:
  - be a U.S. citizen or an eligible non-citizen or meet the "undocumented student" criteria of the RISE Act
  - be an Illinois resident for at least one year prior to applying
  - be enrolled or accepted for enrollment to a nursing program in Illinois that is approved by the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation or the Illinois Board of Higher Education
  - demonstrate financial need
  - maintain satisfactory academic progress, as determined by the college
  - establish satisfactory repayment arrangements if they are in default on any federal student loan
  - sign an Application/Promissory Note/Grant Agreement promising to fulfill the employment commitment or repay funds received plus interest

Applying for NES

ISAC FAFSA SYMPOSIUM

- Applications can be accessed from the ISAC Student Portal
- Application period each year starts on March 1 and continues through April 30
- Must complete and submit application **each year** to be considered for an award
- Applicant will receive an email confirming their application was received
  - Processing time may be up to 4 weeks
- If an applicant needs to change their response(s) to any item(s) and/or update any information after the application has been submitted, they will need to provide the information to ISAC using one of the below methods, but cannot be done over the telephone.
  - via e-mail to isac.studentservices@illinois.gov
  - via FAX to 847-831-8549
  - via letter to ISAC Dept D, 1755 Lake Cook Road, Deerfield, IL 60015-5209
- The request must include the last four digits of your Social Security number (for identification purposes) and clearly state what change(s) need to be made.

NES Certification & Payment Process

ISAC FAFSA SYMPOSIUM

- Certification Data is now being accepted; colleges certify 2023-24 NES eligibility using the NESP system.
  - Beginning with the 2023-24 award year, certification takes place prior to the awarding process (similar to the certification process of the MTI Scholarship Program).
    - Colleges must provide the student's Expected Family Contribution (EFC).

- NES certification is done for the academic year (rather than by term).
  - Colleges verify recipients' enrollment status as part of the payment request process, which will be implemented later this year after awarding has taken place.
  - All certification records available in the system must be completed, regardless of whether the college certifies a student as eligible or ineligible and regardless of whether the student is currently enrolled.

- The only way an applicant can be considered for an award and/or receive an NES notification letter about their ineligibility is if the applicant's certification has been completed by the college.

- If a college certifies a student as ineligible for an award, a 'Notice of Ineligibility' is sent to the applicant.
  - Copies of the ineligible student letters are not sent to the college.

- ISAC authorizes a voucher in the amount of the payment claim and submits it to the State Comptroller's Office which issues payment to the institution.

NES Certification & Payment Process

ISAC FAFSA SYMPOSIUM

- Colleges are encouraged to certify all pending records for 2023-24 NES eligibility via the NESP system as soon as possible to ensure students are included in the awarding process

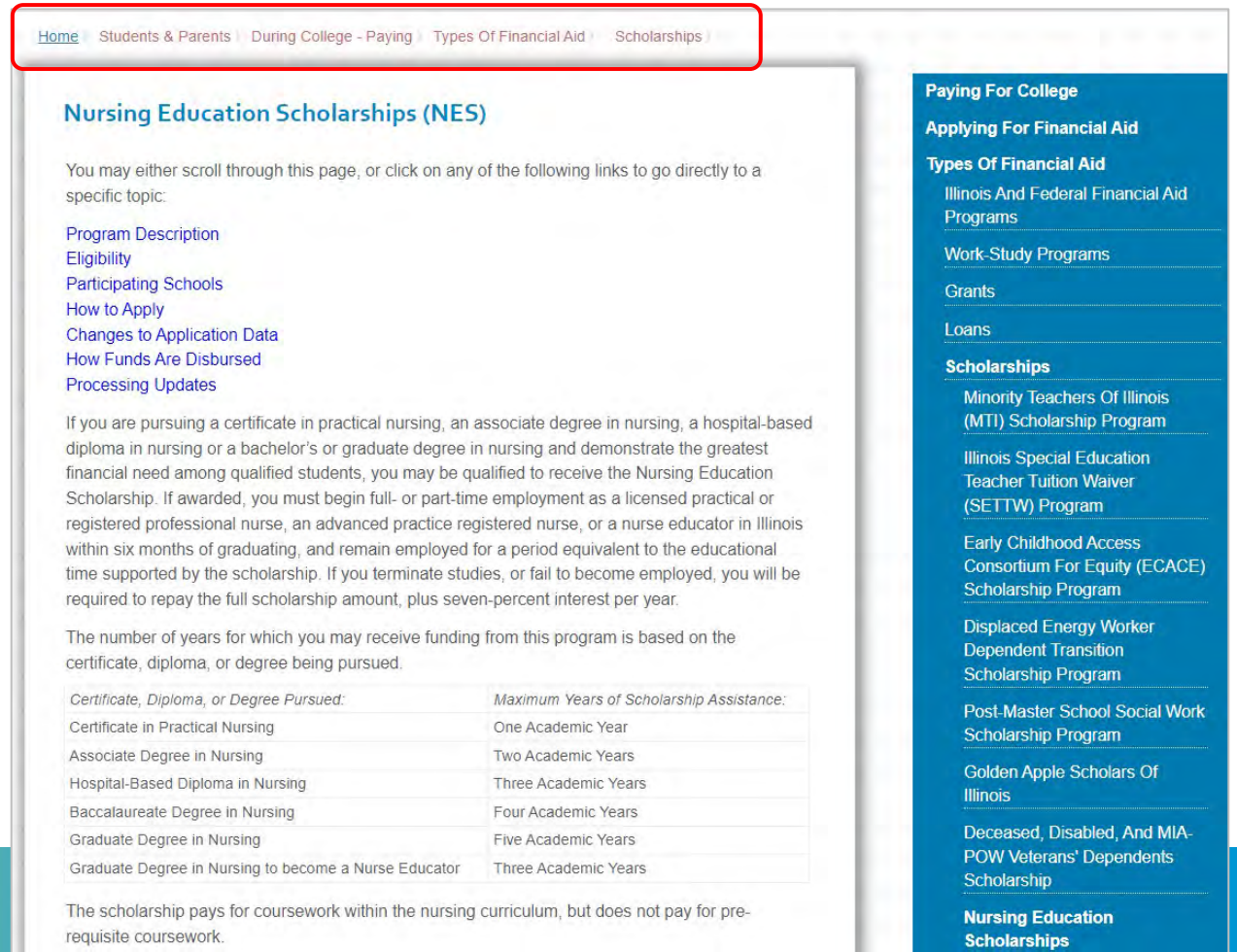
- 2023-24 NES payment processing will soon be available via GAP Access

- **Following changes will be in effect:**
  - Awarded funds that had been disbursed directly to students as a "stipend" in the 2022-23 and earlier academic years **will now be included in the scholarship amount requested by and paid to the college**
    - i.e., NES awards will no longer have a stipend component
  - Funds resulting from each payment request submitted via the NESP system will be delivered to the college in a lump sum, rather than as individual checks for each student
    - either electronically or as a check, depending on how the college has set up their payments
  - Payment Offset and Reconciliation procedures now apply to Nursing Education Scholarships
    - Refund checks should not be sent for cancellations/adjustments made throughout the award year
    - Funds should only be returned to ISAC after a final reconciliation has been completed at the end of the regular award year

Nursing Education Scholarship (NES)

ISAC FAFSA SYMPOSIUM

- isac.org/students/during-college/types-of-financial-aid/scholarships/nursing-education-scholarship-program.html



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Nursing Education Scholarships (NES)

You may either scroll through this page, or click on any of the following links to go directly to a specific topic:

Program Description
Eligibility
Participating Schools
How to Apply
Changes to Application Data
How Funds Are Disbursed
Processing Updates

If you are pursuing a certificate in practical nursing, an associate degree in nursing, a hospital-based diploma in nursing or a bachelor's or graduate degree in nursing and demonstrate the greatest financial need among qualified students, you may be qualified to receive the Nursing Education Scholarship. If awarded, you must begin full- or part-time employment as a licensed practical or registered professional nurse, an advanced practice registered nurse, or a nurse educator in Illinois within six months of graduating, and remain employed for a period equivalent to the educational time supported by the scholarship. If you terminate studies, or fail to become employed, you will be required to repay the full scholarship amount, plus seven-percent interest per year.

The number of years for which you may receive funding from this program is based on the certificate, diploma, or degree being pursued.

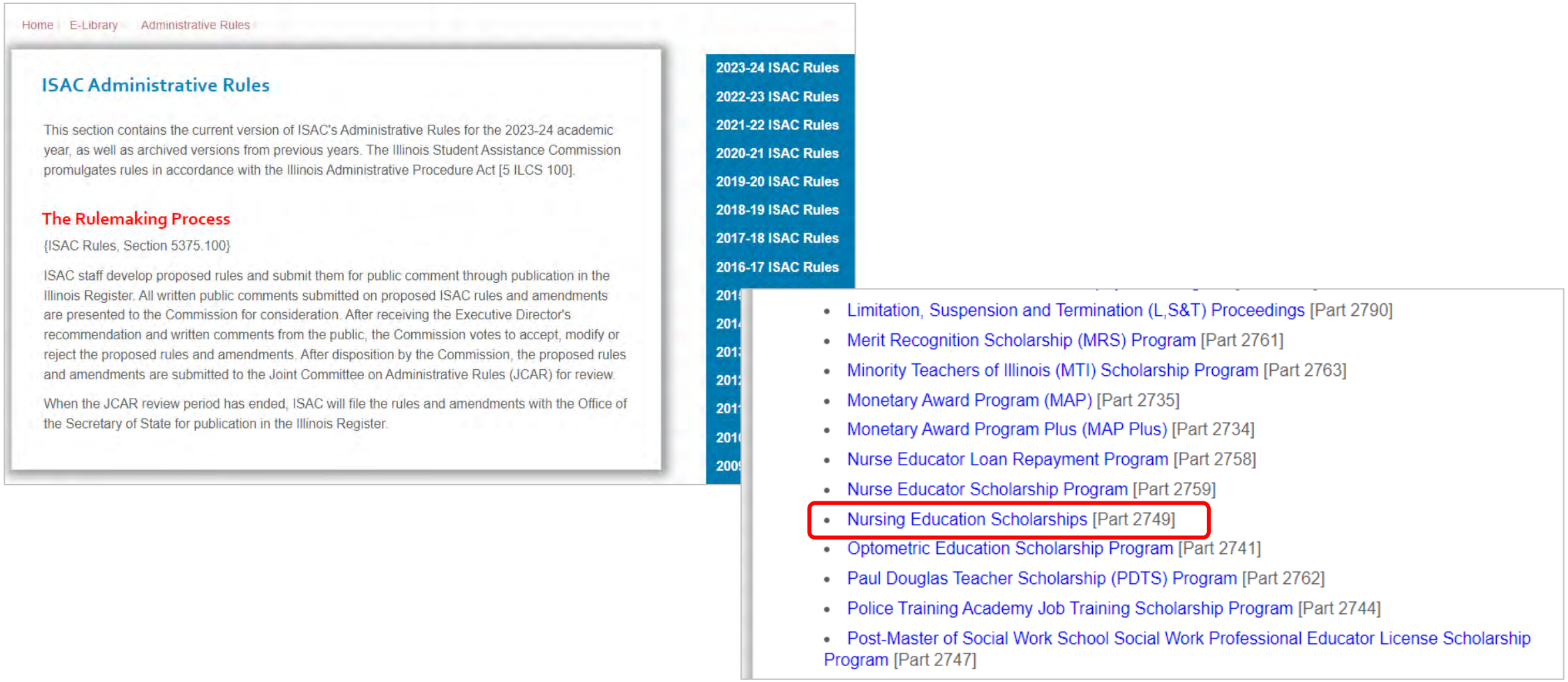
Certificate, Diploma, or Degree Pursued:	*Maximum Years of Scholarship Assistance:*
Certificate in Practical Nursing	One Academic Year
Associate Degree in Nursing	Two Academic Years
Hospital-Based Diploma in Nursing	Three Academic Years
Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing	Four Academic Years
Graduate Degree in Nursing	Five Academic Years
Graduate Degree in Nursing to become a Nurse Educator	Three Academic Years

The scholarship pays for coursework within the nursing curriculum, but does not pay for pre-requisite coursework.

Paying For College
Applying For Financial Aid
Types Of Financial Aid
Illinois And Federal Financial Aid Programs
Work-Study Programs
Grants
Loans
Scholarships
Minority Teachers Of Illinois (MTI) Scholarship Program
Illinois Special Education Teacher Tuition Waiver (SETTW) Program
Early Childhood Access Consortium For Equity (ECACE) Scholarship Program
Displaced Energy Worker Dependent Transition Scholarship Program
Post-Master School Social Work Scholarship Program
Golden Apple Scholars Of Illinois
Deceased, Disabled, And MIA-POW Veterans' Dependents Scholarship
Nursing Education Scholarships

Nursing Education Scholarship (NES)

ISAC FAFSA SYMPOSIUM



Home | E-Library | Administrative Rules

ISAC Administrative Rules

This section contains the current version of ISAC's Administrative Rules for the 2023-24 academic year, as well as archived versions from previous years. The Illinois Student Assistance Commission promulgates rules in accordance with the Illinois Administrative Procedure Act [5 ILCS 100].

The Rulemaking Process

{ISAC Rules, Section 5375.100}

ISAC staff develop proposed rules and submit them for public comment through publication in the Illinois Register. All written public comments submitted on proposed ISAC rules and amendments are presented to the Commission for consideration. After receiving the Executive Director's recommendation and written comments from the public, the Commission votes to accept, modify or reject the proposed rules and amendments. After disposition by the Commission, the proposed rules and amendments are submitted to the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules (JCAR) for review.

When the JCAR review period has ended, ISAC will file the rules and amendments with the Office of the Secretary of State for publication in the Illinois Register.

2023-24 ISAC Rules
2022-23 ISAC Rules
2021-22 ISAC Rules
2020-21 ISAC Rules
2019-20 ISAC Rules
2018-19 ISAC Rules
2017-18 ISAC Rules
2016-17 ISAC Rules
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- Limitation, Suspension and Termination (L,S&T) Proceedings [Part 2790]
- Merit Recognition Scholarship (MRS) Program [Part 2761]
- Minority Teachers of Illinois (MTI) Scholarship Program [Part 2763]
- Monetary Award Program (MAP) [Part 2735]
- Monetary Award Program Plus (MAP Plus) [Part 2734]
- Nurse Educator Loan Repayment Program [Part 2758]
- Nurse Educator Scholarship Program [Part 2759]
- Nursing Education Scholarships [Part 2749]
- Optometric Education Scholarship Program [Part 2741]
- Paul Douglas Teacher Scholarship (PDTS) Program [Part 2762]
- Police Training Academy Job Training Scholarship Program [Part 2744]
- Post-Master of Social Work School Social Work Professional Educator License Scholarship Program [Part 2747]

Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity (ECACE) Scholarship Program

Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity (ECACE) Scholarship Program

ISAC FAFSA SYMPOSIUM

- This is the third year of this federally-funded program
- The ECACE program provides funds for those who are currently working or have worked in the early childhood education field and are seeking additional credentials and degrees
- Must be an undergraduate or graduate student who attends a public or non-profit private 2- or 4-year Gateways-entitled and Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity member institution
- Enhancements to eligibility have expanded access to the program for the 2023-24 award year
- Covers up to cost of attendance, after all other aid has been applied
  - Can be used for any educational expense
  - Scholarship is not need-based aid
- Recipients are expected to continue or return to teaching or direct services in the early childhood care and education field in Illinois after completion of their program of study

ECACE Eligibility

To qualify for the ECACE Scholarship Program during the 2023-24 academic year, an applicant must:

- be a U.S. citizen or eligible noncitizen (federal definition)
- be a member of the incumbent workforce, currently working or having worked in the early childhood industry (in either a licensed or license-exempt facility), including home-based child care (e.g., family, friend, neighbor), center-/community-based care, Preschool for All programs, school-based preschool settings, and Head Start programs, that serve children from birth to age 5. Acceptable positions include teachers, assistant teachers, directors, family child care providers and assistants
    - applicants must provide documentation confirming their current membership in the Gateways to Opportunity® Registry
- Maintain satisfactory academic progress as established by the college
- be certified as meeting eligibility requirements by the college at which the scholarship will be used
- not be in default on any student loan, nor owe a refund on any State or federal grant

ECACE Eligibility

- Be enrolled or accepted for enrollment on a full- or part-time (at least 3 credit ours) basis at the undergraduate or graduate level at a public or non-profit private 2- or 4-year Gateways-entitled and Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity (ECACE) member institution, and be pursuing at least one of the following:
  - an Associate of Applied Science degree (or related certificate) in early childhood education or an associate degree with a concentration in early childhood at an approved college;
  - a bachelor's degree in early childhood education, with or without a Professional Educator License; or
  - for those who already hold a bachelor's degree:
    - courses to make them eligible for a lead teacher position in a licensed program;
    - Director, Early Childhood or Infant Toddler Credentials;
    - a Professional Educator License with an Early Childhood Endorsement;
    - for those who already have a Professional Educator License with an Early Childhood Endorsement, additional endorsements or letters of approval in Bilingual, English as a Second Language, or Special Education; or,
    - for those seeking licensure, and/or an additional endorsement, a Master's degree in early childhood.

2023-24 ECACE

Enhancements to newly eligible students include:

- Those seeking an Associate of Applied Science (or related certificate) in early childhood education or an Associate degree with a concentration in early childhood
- Freshmen and sophomores at four-year institutions
- Those with a Bachelor's degree seeking:
  - Courses to make them eligible for a lead teacher position in a licensed program;
  - Professional Educator License with an Early Childhood Endorsement;
  - Additional endorsements (Bilingual, English as a Second Language, Special Education) or letters of approval or credentials;
  - A Master's degree in early childhood (for those seeking licensure and/or an additional endorsement)

2023-24 ECACE

This is what's stayed the same:

- Eligible students must still be incumbent early childhood workers (work or have worked in a congregate care setting like childcare or preschool that serves children from birth to age five).
- Institutions must continue to support currently eligible students, with an emphasis on those without an Associate or Bachelor's degree and specifically those who wish to transfer from a two- to four-year institution.
- Students must intend to work in an early childhood congregate care setting post-graduation.

Applying for ECACE

ISAC FAFSA SYMPOSIUM

- Applications can be accessed from the ISAC Student Portal.
- Applicant will receive an email confirming their application was received.
  - Processing time may be up to 4 weeks.
- The priority access to funding date for the 2023-24 academic year was August 7, 2023.
- Untimely applications (i.e., those received after that date) will continue to be considered only if funding remains available after all timely, qualified applicants have been awarded.
- A notification will be sent to applicants after a final decision has been made regarding their award status.
- The applicant will be asked to provide the job title for their most recent position, which must match what is listed on the Eligibility Verification Form.
- Further details, including proof of employment requirements, are provided at the Application Procedures for ECACE webpage.
  - isac.org/isac-gift-assistance-programs/ECACE-scholarship/Application-Procedures/index.html

2023-24 ECACE Program Processing

ISAC FAFSA SYMPOSIUM

- Applications are categorized as Timely New, Timely Renewal, Untimely New and Untimely Renewal as they are received by ISAC
  - All complete applications, regarding of how they are categorized are considered when prequalifying applicants for program eligibility

- Prequalification results are available in ECACE system in GAP Access twice each week -- on Wednesday and Friday mornings
  - Only records for students who have completed the online application process and who meet all initial eligibility requirements are considered for prequalification

- Prequalified applicants who have been awarded are eligible for payment
  - 2023-24 maximum award amounts (based off the different types of institutions a student may attend during the award year)
    - $33,558 at four-year institutions
    - $18,262 at community colleges

- Colleges must determine the award amount(s) based on other financial aid the student is receiving
  - ECACE is the last payer , after all other aid has been provided
  - May be used to replace student loan that might otherwise have been part of the student's aid package

2023-24 ECACE Program Processing

ISAC FAFSA SYMPOSIUM

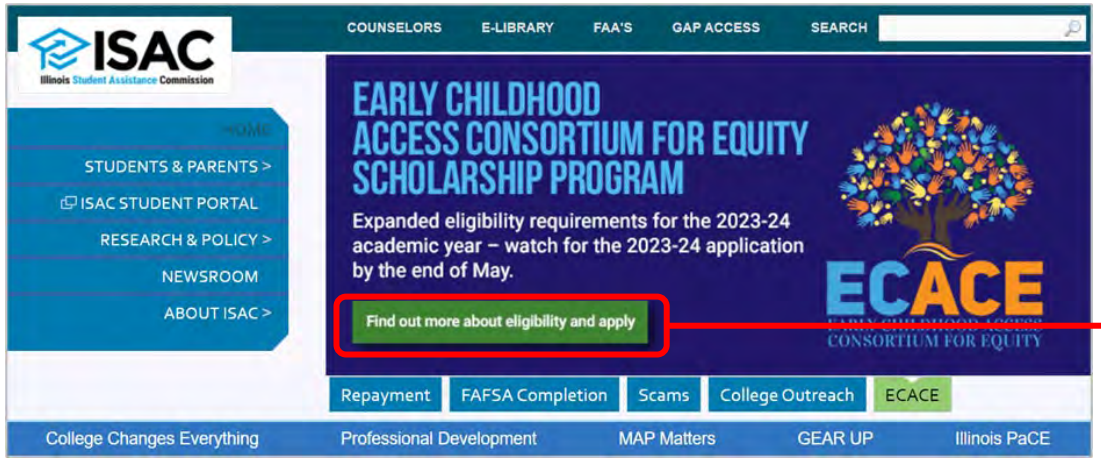
- Once ISAC determines that **both** the ECACE Scholarship application **and** the FAFSA have been submitted, the applicant will receive a letter stating that their application is considered complete.
  - Unless the applicant needs to change any of their application data, there is nothing more for them to do at this point.
- Following the date for priority access to funding (August 7, 2023, for the 2023-24 academic year), ISAC will send a letter notifying the applicant of their pre-qualified status.
- Pre-qualified means that the applicant has met the initial eligibility requirements, and the next step will be verification of their enrollment and program eligibility by the college.
- Only records for students who have completed the online application process and who meet all initial eligibility requirements are considered for prequalification.
- Colleges may submit 2023-24 ECACE first-term payment/claims requests for students who have completed the prequalification process.
- ISAC authorizes a voucher in the amount of the payment claim and submits it to the State Comptroller's Office which issues payment to the institution.

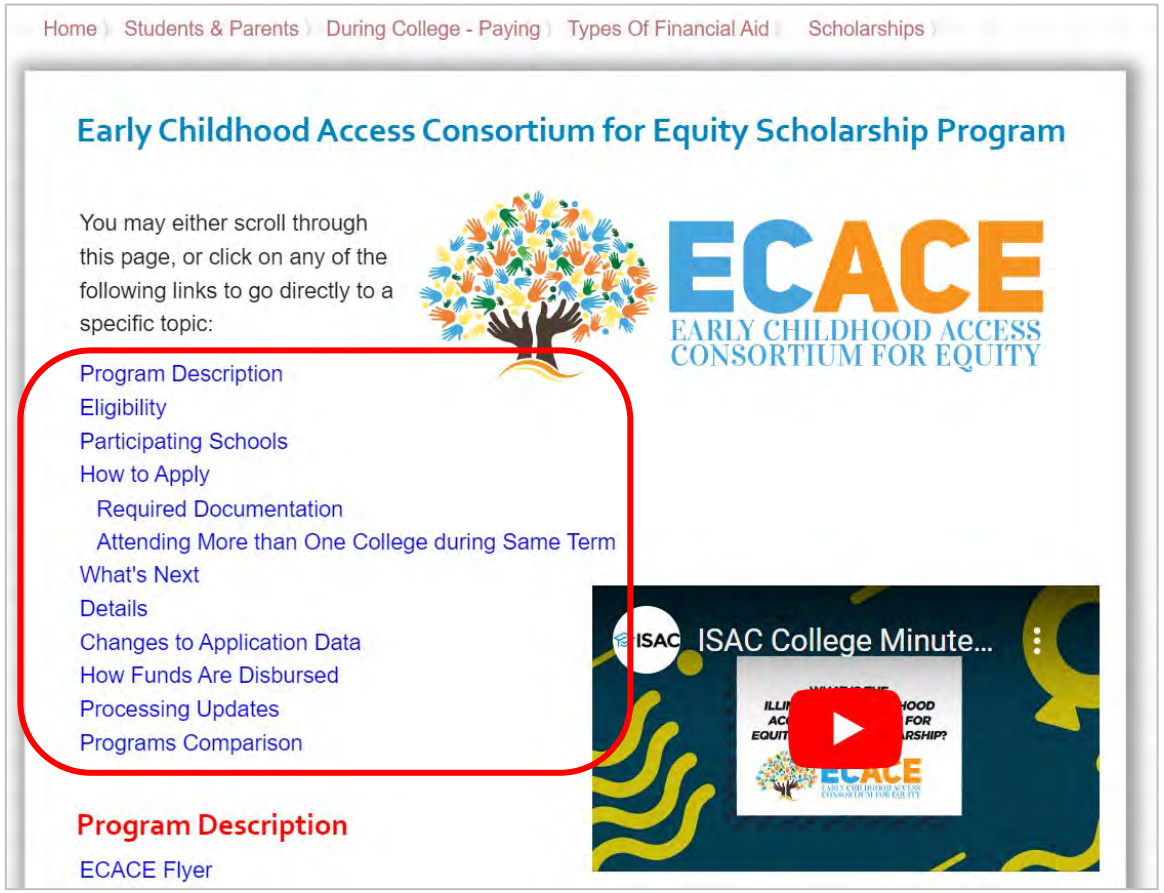
Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity (ECACE) Scholarship Program

ISAC FAFSA SYMPOSIUM

ECACE Resources

isac.org





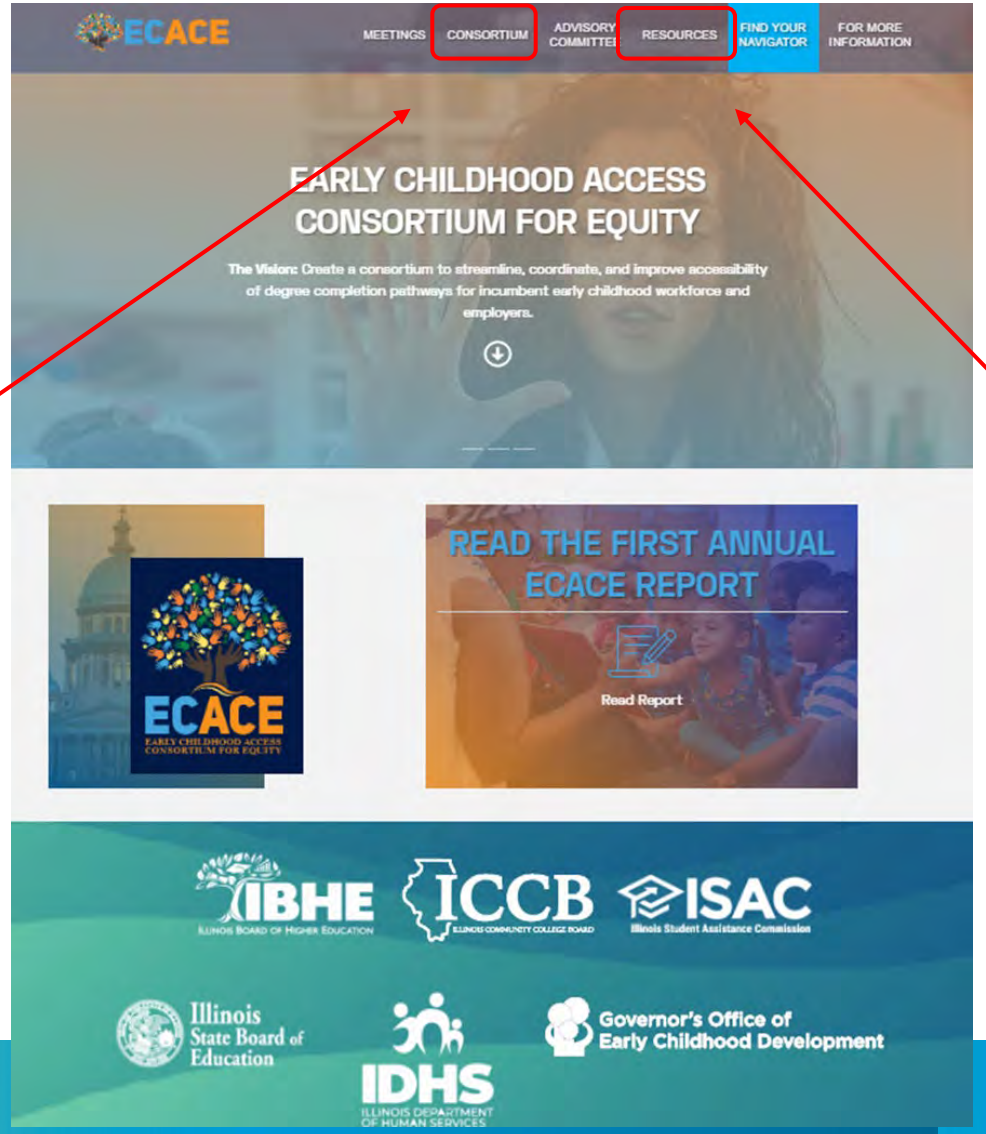
Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity (ECACE) Scholarship Program

ISAC FAFSA SYMPOSIUM

ecace.org

To locate Consortium Member List:

Hover over Consortium and click on Consortium Members List



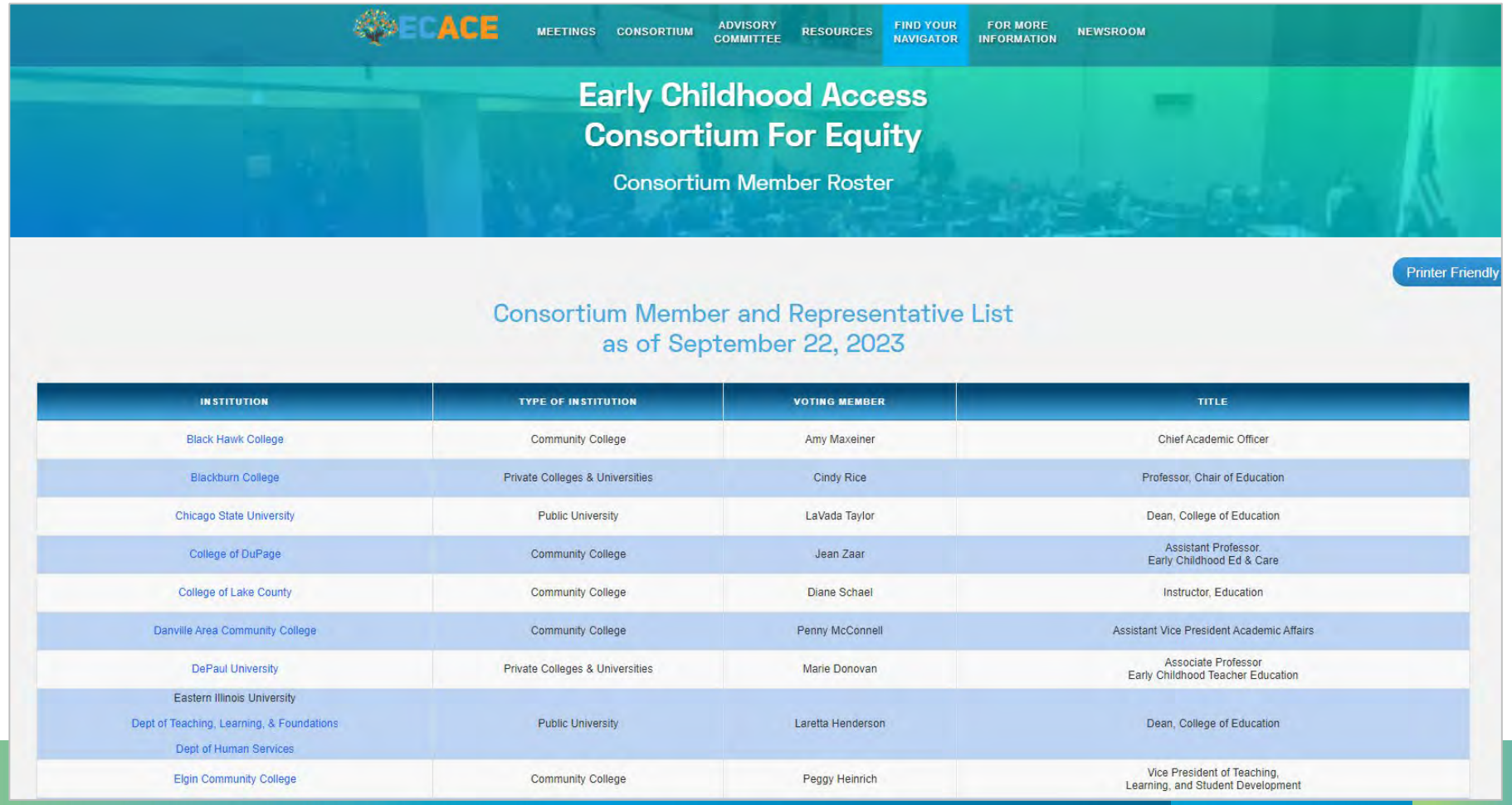
To locate Frequently Asked Questions:

Hover over Resources and click on Frequently Asked Questions

Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity (ECACE) Scholarship Program

ISAC FAFSA SYMPOSIUM

https://www.ecace.org/Consortium_Member_Roster.html



ECACE

MEETINGS | CONSORTIUM | ADVISORY COMMITTEE | RESOURCES | FIND YOUR NAVIGATOR | FOR MORE INFORMATION | NEWSROOM

Early Childhood Access Consortium For Equity

Consortium Member Roster

Printer Friendly

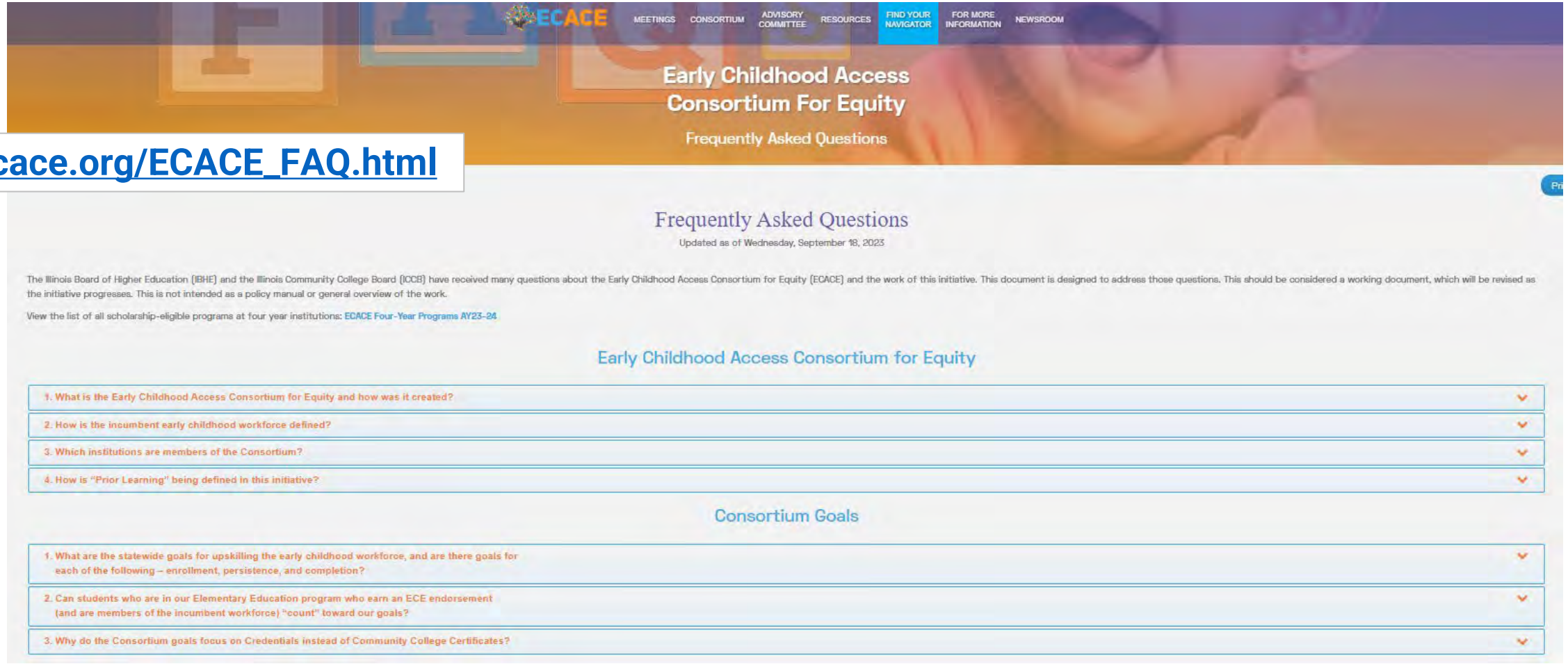
Consortium Member and Representative List as of September 22, 2023

INSTITUTION	TYPE OF INSTITUTION	VOTING MEMBER	TITLE
Black Hawk College	Community College	Amy Maxeiner	Chief Academic Officer
Blackburn College	Private Colleges & Universities	Cindy Rice	Professor, Chair of Education
Chicago State University	Public University	LaVada Taylor	Dean, College of Education
College of DuPage	Community College	Jean Zaar	Assistant Professor, Early Childhood Ed & Care
College of Lake County	Community College	Diane Schael	Instructor, Education
Danville Area Community College	Community College	Penny McConnell	Assistant Vice President Academic Affairs
DePaul University	Private Colleges & Universities	Marie Donovan	Associate Professor Early Childhood Teacher Education
Eastern Illinois University Dept of Teaching, Learning, & Foundations Dept of Human Services	Public University	Laretta Henderson	Dean, College of Education
Elgin Community College	Community College	Peggy Heinrich	Vice President of Teaching, Learning, and Student Development

Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity (ECACE) Scholarship Program

ISAC FAFSA SYMPOSIUM

ecace.org/ECACE_FAQ.html



Post-Master of Social Work School Social Work Professional Educator License Scholarship Program (SWSP)

Post-Master of Social Work School Social Work Professional Educator License Scholarship Program (SWSP)

ISAC FAFSA SYMPOSIUM

- The 2024 fiscal year, July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024, appropriation is $6,000,000.
- Provides scholarship assistance to licensed social workers with master's degrees in social work who wish to obtain an Illinois Professional Educator License with an Endorsement in School Social Work.
- Program was designed to encourage students to work as social workers in Illinois schools.
- Provide minority children with access to a greater number of positive minority role models, more reflective of the diversity of Illinois students.
- Each scholarship pays tuition and mandatory fees for an academic year (including summer) at Illinois public universities.
  - With priority given to minority applicants.
- A total of 250 scholarships may be awarded each year.

SWSP Eligibility

- To be eligible for the program, applicants must:
  - Be a U.S. citizen or an eligible non-citizen or meet the “undocumented student” criteria of the RISE Act
  - Hold a valid Illinois clinical social work license or social work license
  - Have obtained a master’s degree in social work from an approved program
  - Take courses to obtain an Illinois Professional Educator License with an Endorsement in School Social work
  - Maintain satisfactory academic progress, as determined by the college

SWSP Eligibility

- To be eligible for the program, continued:
  - Enroll or be accepted for enrollment, on a full or part-time basis (at least 3 hours), at the University of Illinois, Southern Illinois University, Chicago State University, Eastern Illinois University, Governors State University, Illinois State University, Northeastern Illinois University, Northern Illinois University or Western Illinois University
  - Establish satisfactory repayment arrangements if the student is in default on any federal student loan
  - Qualified minority students that apply by deadline date may be given priority during the awarding process
  - All scholarship recipients must commit to a specific agreement requiring them to work as a social worker at an Illinois school

Applying for SWSP

ISAC FAFSA SYMPOSIUM

- Applicants must agree to the terms and conditions outlined in the Application/Promissory Note.
- The application/promissory note is available in the ISAC student portal.
- By receiving the scholarship, student must work as a social worker in an Illinois school.
- The online application has built-in edits to prevent errors and will send an immediate e-mail to the applicant when their application has been received.
- An e-mail will also be sent from ISAC for incomplete applications, explaining the reasons and how to resolve the issue.
- If commitment is not fulfilled, the scholarship converts to a loan, and must repay the entire amount, plus interest.

SWSP Certification & Payment Process

ISAC FAFSA SYMPOSIUM

- Certification is the first step in the awarding process.
- Colleges may certify applicants' eligibility for the 2023-24 academic year, including the 2024 summer term (Term 3) via SWSP system within GAP Access.
- The only way an applicant can be considered for an award and/or receive an SWSP notification letter about their ineligibility is if the applicant's certification has been completed by the college.
- Then submits a payment request on behalf of the student after the application deadline has passed for each term.
- ISAC authorizes a voucher in the amount of the payment claim and submits it to the State Comptroller's Office which issues payment to the institution.

Displaced Energy Worker Dependent Transition Scholarship Program

Displaced Energy Worker Dependent Transition Scholarship Program

ISAC FAFSA SYMPOSIUM

- The 2024 fiscal year, July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024, appropriation is $1,100,000.
- Provides scholarship assistance to children (including adopted and stepchildren) of eligible displaced energy workers.
- Designed to support students who are deterred from attending or completing an educational program at an Illinois institution due to a parent's layoff from a retiring power plant or a closing coal mine.
- Pays tuition and fee costs at public colleges or community colleges for the equivalent of one calendar year, including summer, for undergraduate or graduate study.
- Applicant does not need to be a resident of Illinois at the time of enrollment; however, the award is limited to the cost of in-district and in-state tuition and fees.
- The award amount will not exceed the cost of tuition and fees at the institution.

Displaced Energy Worker Dependent Transition Scholarship Program - Eligibility

ISAC FAFSA SYMPOSIUM

- To qualify, applicants must:
  - a U.S. citizen or an eligible non-citizen or meet the "undocumented student" criteria of the RISE Act;
  - the natural child, legally adopted child or stepchild of an energy worker who has lost employment due to the reduced operation or closure of a fossil fuel power plant or coal mine;
  - enrolled or accepted for enrollment, on a full- or part-time basis (at least 3 credit hours) at an Illinois public university or community college; and
  - in the absence of transition scholarship assistance, deterred by financial considerations from completing an educational program at the Illinois public university or community college of choice, as shown by there being unmet need in their financial aid package.
  - Student must be meeting satisfactory academic progress towards a degree or certificate, as determined by the college

Applying for Displaced Energy Worker Dependent Transition Scholarship Program

ISAC FAFSA SYMPOSIUM

- The application may be completed and submitted by applicants via the Program Applications & Status Checks area of the ISAC Student Portal.

- An application must be submitted each time the student is requesting an award.
  - FAFSA must also be completed.

- First time applicants will include biographical information regarding the eligible displaced energy worker.
  - Once eligibility is established for one member of a family regarding the displaced worker, it is established for all qualified applicants in the family.

- The online application will have built-in edits to prevent errors, and ISAC will send immediate confirmation to the applicant's e-mail address that their application has been received.

- If the application is incomplete, including any required documentation that is missing, the applicant will receive a letter from ISAC explaining the reason(s) and advising how to resolve the issue.

Applying for Displaced Energy Worker Dependent Transition Scholarship Program

ISAC FAFSA SYMPOSIUM

- The date by which an application must be submitted is based on the first term for which the applicant wishes to receive funds for the 2023-24 academic year:
  - October 1, 2023 – 1st Term Only or Full Year Consideration
  - March 1, 2024 – 2nd Semester (2nd/3rd Quarter) Only or 2nd Semester (2nd/3rd Quarter) and Summer Term Consideration
  - June 15, 2024 – Summer Term Only Consideration

Certification & Payment Process

ISAC FAFSA SYMPOSIUM

- How Funds are Disbursed:
  - The scholarship is applicable toward tuition and fees.
  - The student cannot receive funds that exceed the cost of tuition and fees for that institution.
    - This include the difference between in-district and out of district tuition
  - The college certifies student eligibility
    - After the deadline date has passed for each term
    - Submits a payment request
    - ISAC authorizes a voucher in the amount of the payment claim and submits it to the State Comptroller's Office which issues payment to the institution
  - A student who receives funds but is found to be ineligible are responsible to pay the institution the total amount of funds received while they were ineligible.
  - A student must notify ISAC in writing, within 15 days of any change affecting enrollment status, name or address.

Illinois National Guard (ING) Grant

2023-24 Illinois National Guard (ING) Grant

ISAC FAFSA SYMPOSIUM

- Starting with the 2023-24 academic year:
  - there are no longer term deadline dates by which applications must be submitted each term
  - applications must be received by ISAC in time for eligibility to be determined
  - the applicant will need to notify the college about their eligibility no later than the last scheduled day of classes for the first term for which benefits have been requested

Amended Parts:

- Part 2730 – Illinois National Guard (ING) Grant Program
  - Deleting application deadlines for each term
  - Adding language stating the applicant must notify the institution of eligibility status no later than the last scheduled day of classes for the term
    - Similar to IVG

Administrative Rules https://www.isac.org/e-library/documents/administrative-rules/2023-24-isac-rules/2730-ING.pdf

- A reminder of additional eligibility for some Illinois National Guard Students
  - Members of the Illinois National Guard who have served at least 10 years in the Guard may be eligible to receive up to 180 Units (6 years) of eligibility for the ING Grant

ISAC FAFSA SYMPOSIUM

2024-25 State Scholar Program

2024-25 State Scholar Program

ISAC FAFSA SYMPOSIUM

Reminder…

- Sixth semester data is due to ISAC no later than **Friday, November 3, 2023**.
- A weekly announcement of 2024-25 State Scholars will be made for students attending high schools that have submitted sixth semester data with no unresolved discrepancies and have chosen to participate in the early announcement process.
- Results for these high schools will be reflected in the SSP system on Tuesday mornings.
- A sample press release, which can assist schools in announcing State Scholars, will be provided at the ISAC website after final announcements have been made.
- An e-Message was emailed to high schools on to provide assistance for the State Scholar processing cycle and to answer some commonly-asked questions.
    - https://www.isac.org/e-library/partner-e-messages-and-newsletters/Counselor-e-messages/eLibrary-counselor-2023-1026-2.html

2024-25 State Scholar Program

ISAC FAFSA SYMPOSIUM

- ISAC confers this prestigious recognition to top Illinois high school students annually
- Identifies graduating high school seniors who possess superior academic potential and will be a college freshmen during the 2024-25 academic year
- Designation was first introduced in 1958
- An outstanding accomplishment that will be a highlight of the recipient's academic record
- Is awarded to high school seniors based on ACT or SAT test scores, sixth semester class rank and GPA
- Does not include a monetary prize
- Each student designated receives a congratulatory letter from ISAC, a Certificate of Achievement and statewide recognition in the news media
    - Approximately 10% of all Illinois high school graduates are named State Scholars

2024-25 State Scholar Program

ISAC FAFSA SYMPOSIUM

- To be selected, a high school student must:
  - attend an approved high school and graduate during the academic year in which the student is selected as a State Scholar;
  - be a U.S. citizen or eligible noncitizen or meet the “undocumented student” criteria of the RISE Act;
  - be a resident of Illinois and be at an approved high school by the end of the sixth semester;
  - rank in the upper half of their high school class at the end of the third semester prior to graduation from high school (normally the sixth semester); and
  - take either the ACT or SAT exams between August 1 and June 30 during the third and fourth semester prior to graduation (typically this is a student's junior year but may be the sophomore year if the student is an early graduate).
    - A student may take either or both examinations during the designated period.
    - All scores from tests taken during the designated period must be submitted to ISAC.
    - If a student submits scores from multiple exams taken during the designated period, ISAC will use the highest score.

2024-25 State Scholar Program

ISAC FAFSA SYMPOSIUM

- Schools are asked to **submit the required data for the entire class**
  - Ensures all students are considered during the selection process
  - Reduces the risk that a qualified student(s) is inadvertently omitted
  - Provides the disqualification codes for students who do not meet the eligibility criteria
  - Also, any other Exception Reporting information that applies

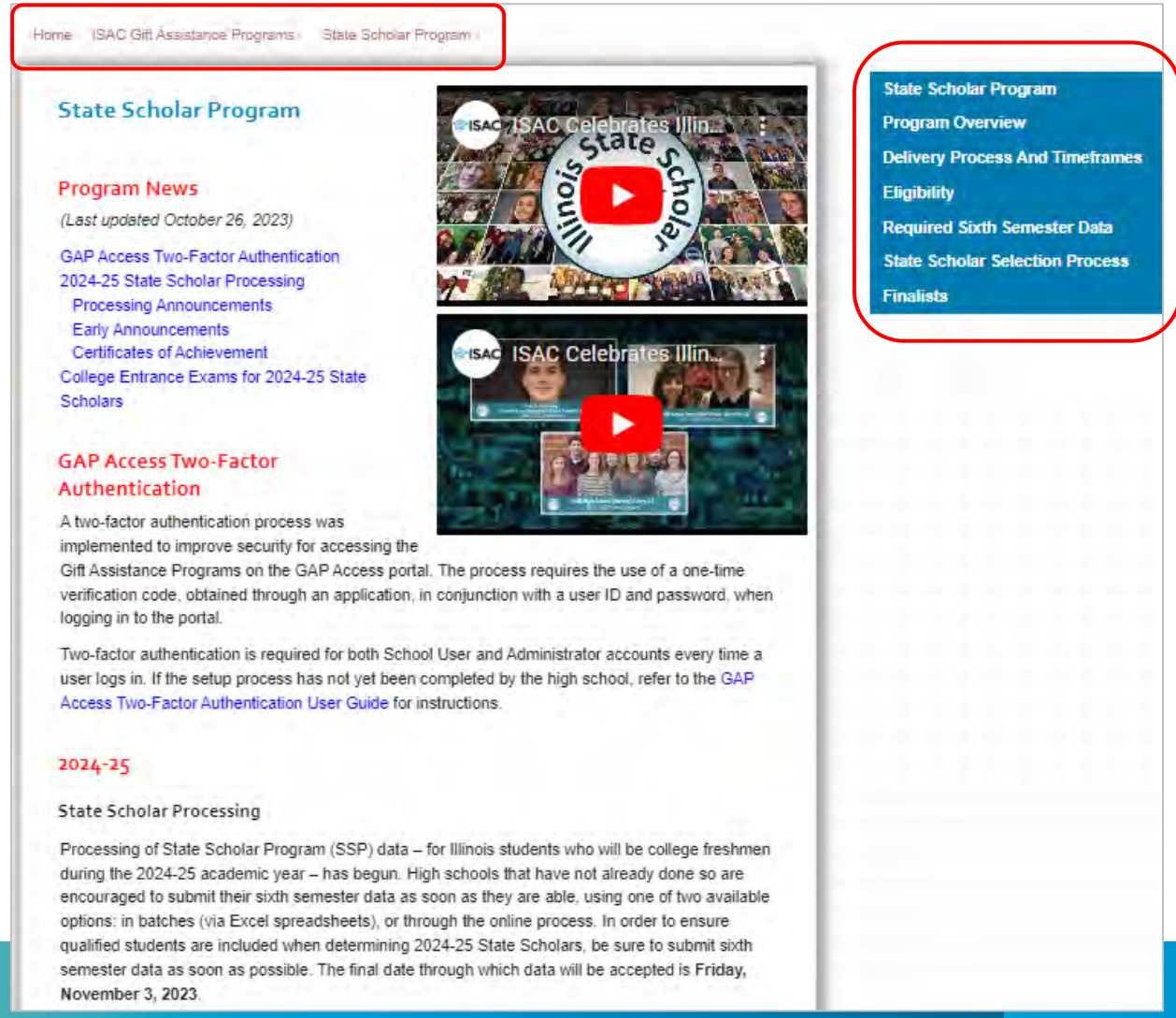
2024-25 State Scholar Program

ISAC FAFSA SYMPOSIUM

- High schools must include the following information
  - The high school's six-digit ACT code
  - Class size at the end of the sixth semester
  - GPA scale - - 4.0, 5.0 or other
    - A scale reported, and the unweighted GPA calculated must be consistently applied for all students reported
- Test scores from the ACT and SAT exams taken between August 1 and June 30
  - During the student's third and fourth semester prior to graduation
- Provide either the sixth semester unweighted class rank (if the school ranks) or the unweighted GPA (if the school does not rank)

2024-25 State Scholar Program

ISAC FAFSA SYMPOSIUM



2024-25 State Scholar Program

ISAC FAFSA SYMPOSIUM

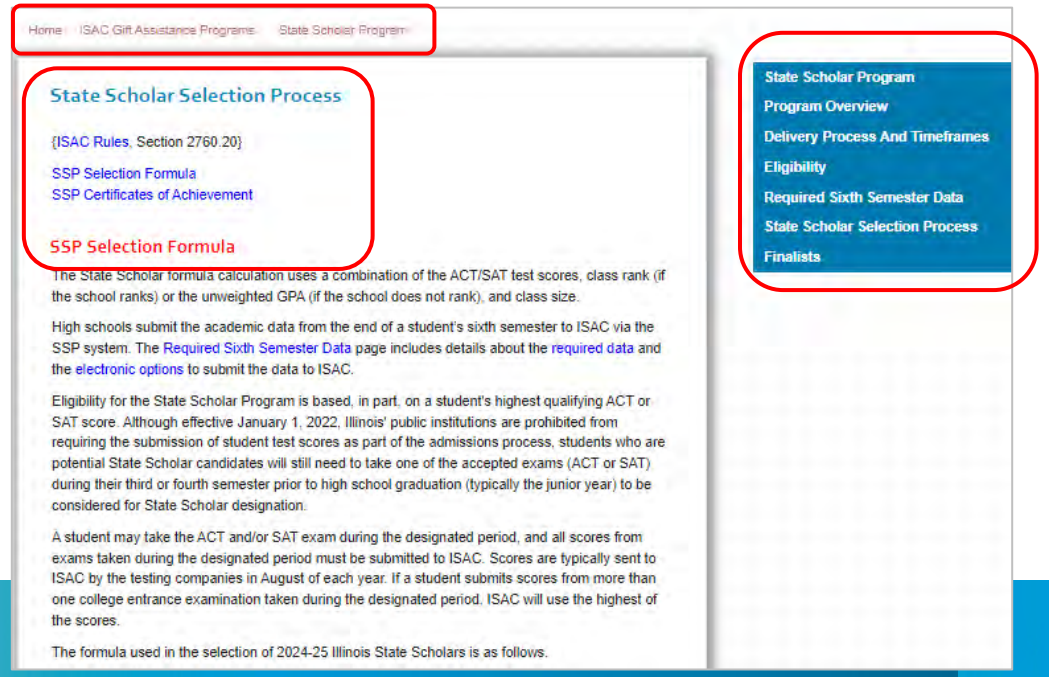
- The State Scholar formula calculation uses a combination of:
  - the ACT/SAT test scores,
  - class rank (if the school ranks), or
  - the unweighted GPA (if the school does not rank), and
  - class size

- In any academic year, approximately 10% of all Illinois high school graduates are named State Scholars

- ISAC mails Certificates of Achievement to high schools
  - if they do not opt to download and print the certificates in GAP
  - schools also have the option of downloading and printing duplicate Certificates of Achievement, if needed

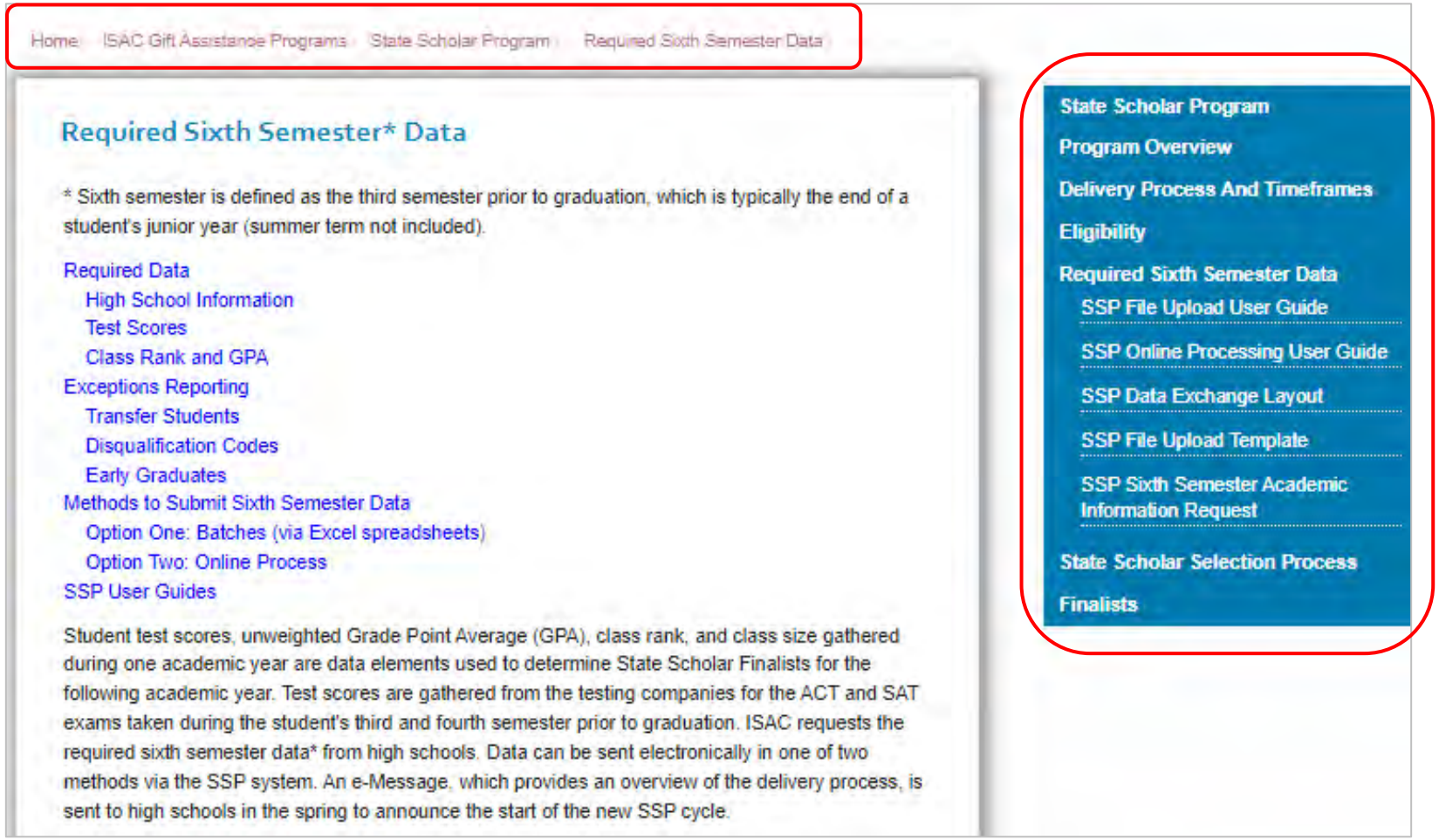
2024-25 State Scholar Program

- The requirements qualify the student to be considered for this program but does not guarantee State Scholar designation.
- Once all applicants who meet the requirements have been identified, a specific formula is used to select State Scholars.
- High schools submit the student's academic data in GAP Access via the State Scholar Program System



2024-25 State Scholar Program

ISAC FAFSA SYMPOSIUM



ISAC Loan Repayment/Forgiveness Programs

ISAC Loan Repayment/Forgiveness Programs

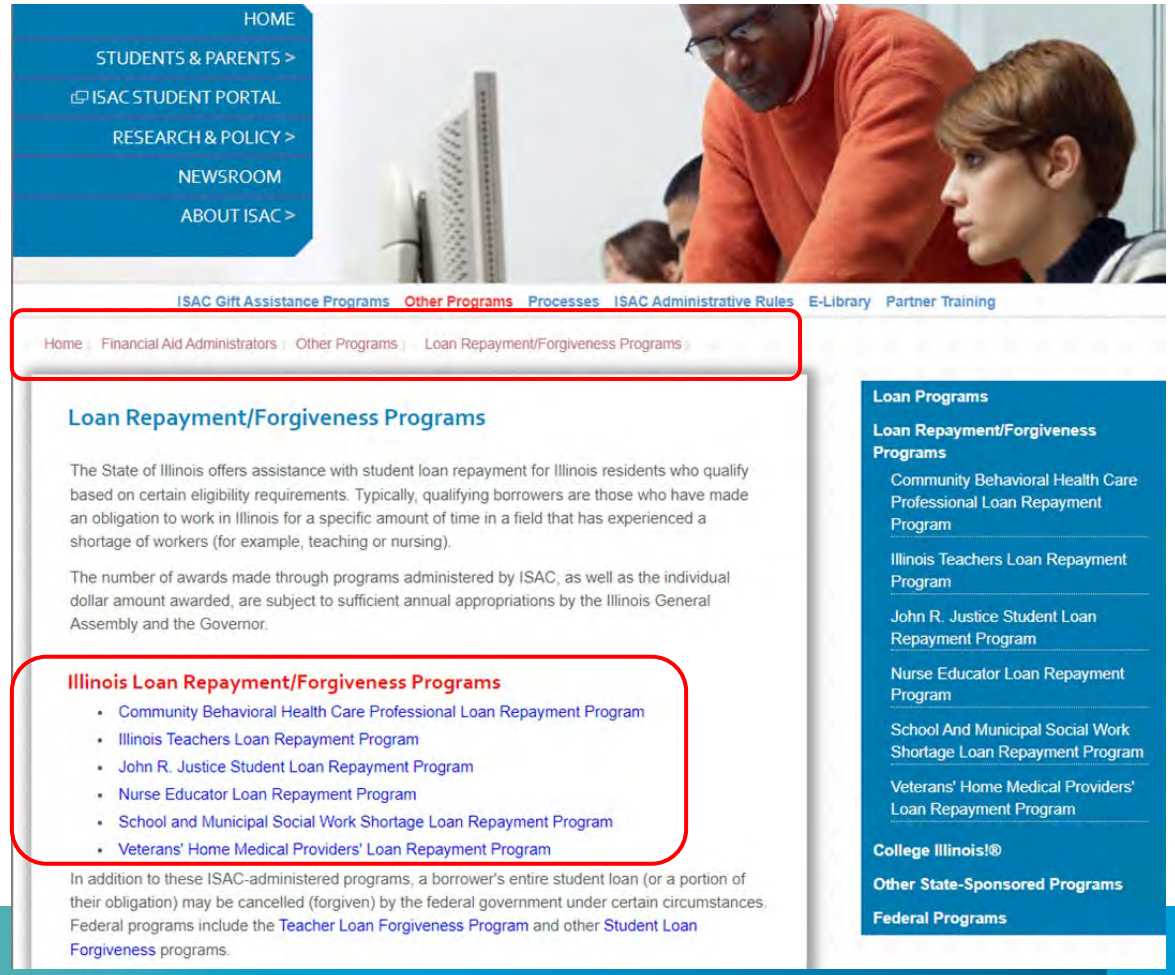
ISAC FAFSA SYMPOSIUM

- Community Behavioral Health Care Professional Loan Repayment Program
- Illinois Teachers Loan Repayment Program
- John R Justice Student Loan Repayment Programs
- Nurse Educator Loan Repayment Program
- School and Municipal Social Work Shortage Loan Repayment Program
- Veterans' Home Medical Providers Loan Repayment Program

ISAC Loan Repayment/Forgiveness Programs

ISAC FAFSA SYMPOSIUM

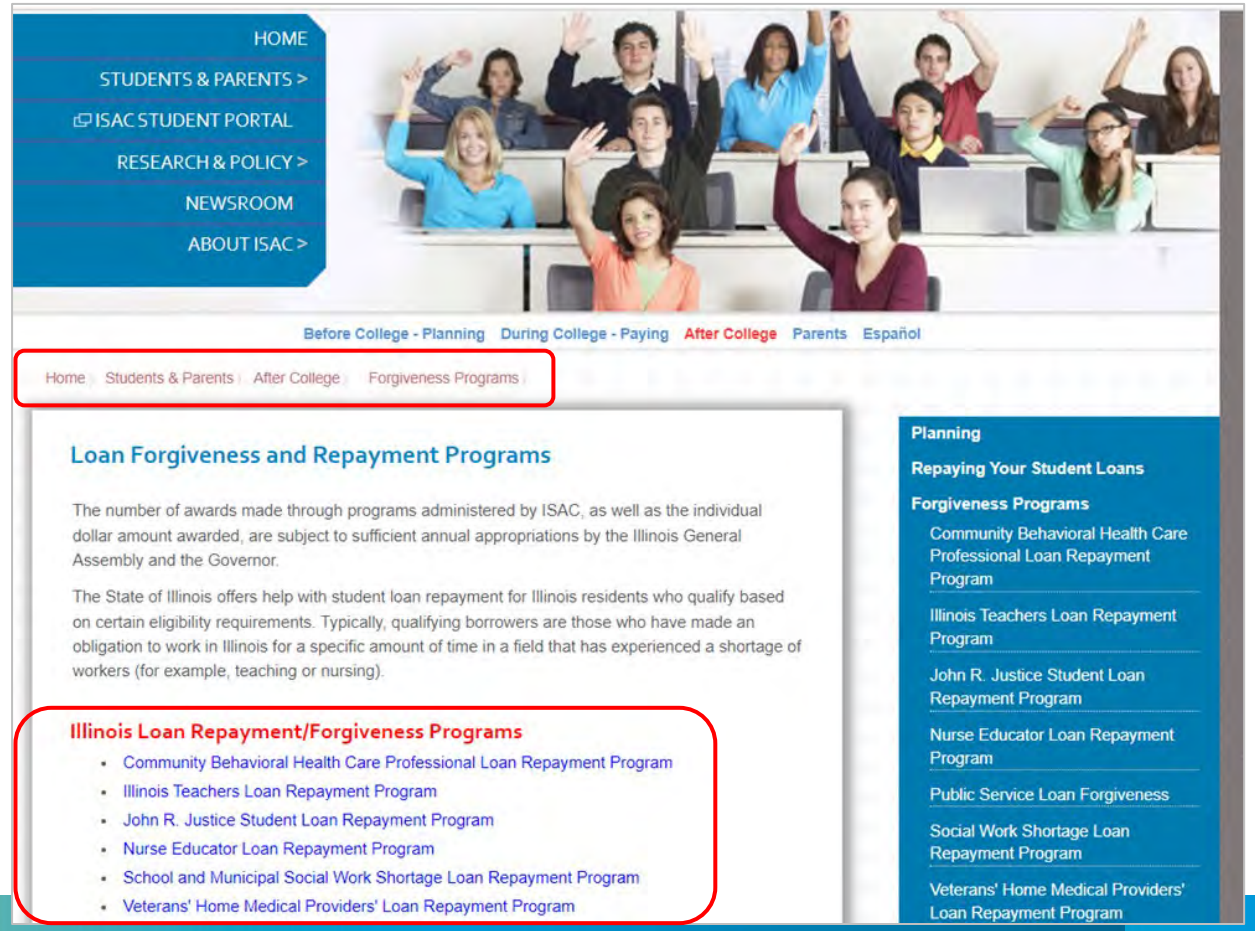
https://www.isac.org/faas/other-programs/loan-repaymentforgiveness-programs/



ISAC Loan Repayment/Forgiveness Programs

ISAC FAFSA SYMPOSIUM

https://www.isac.org/students/after-college/forgiveness-programs/



Community Behavioral Health Care Professional Loan Repayment (CBHCPLR) Program

ISAC FAFSA SYMPOSIUM

- The 2024 fiscal year (July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024) appropriation is $5,000,000.
- Provides loan repayment assistance to qualified mental health and substance use professionals.
- Intended to encourage recruitment and retention of those who practice in underserved or rural areas.
- The amount of the annual award to qualified applicants to repay their student loan debt is based on their position and may be received for up to four years.
- Application is accessible at: isac.org/students/during-college/applying-for-financial-aid/applications/cbhcp/index.html

Community Behavioral Health Care Professional Loan Repayment (CBHCPLR) Program

ISAC FAFSA SYMPOSIUM

- Eligibility requirements
  - To qualify for the program, applicants must:
    - Be a U.S. citizen or an eligible non-citizen
    - Be an Illinois resident
    - Have an outstanding balance on an eligible educational loan
      - Stafford loans
      - Graduate PLUS Loans
      - Consolidation loans
      - Supplemental Loans for Students
      - Alternative Loans
      - Other types of government and institutional loans used for education expenses
    - Not be in default on any federal guaranteed educational loan, nor owe a refund on any scholarship or grant program administered by ISAC

Community Behavioral Health Care Professional Loan Repayment (CBHCPLR) Program

ISAC FAFSA SYMPOSIUM

- Eligibility requirements, continued
  - To qualify for the program, applicants must:
    - Be a qualifying behavioral health professional who meets licensing requirements of the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation or holds certification as a Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor from the Illinois Alcoholism and Other Drug Abuse Professional Certification Association (iaodapca.org/)
      - Psychiatrist
      - Advanced practice registered nurse
      - Physician assistant
      - Psychologist who holds a doctoral degree (Psy.D or Ph.D.)
      - Licensed clinical social worker (LCSW)
      - Licensed clinical professional counselor (LCPC)
      - CADC-certified substance use professional
    - Have worked as a behavioral health professional in a community mental health center in an underserved or rural health professional shortage area (HPSA) mental health discipline for the past 12 consecutive months prior to the date of each application

Applying for CBHCPLR

ISAC FAFSA SYMPOSIUM

- All applicants must submit a complete Community Behavioral Health Care Professional Loan Repayment Program application to ISAC each academic year.
- In order to be considered timely, the application must be submitted on or before the priority consideration date, which will be announced when the application is made available each year.
- If the application is incomplete, a letter will be sent to the applicant to request the missing information.
- Processing cannot take place prior to the date a complete application is received in ISAC's Deerfield office.
- Qualified applicants will be sent a Notice of Eligibility letter from ISAC.

Awards for CBHCPLR

- The total number of awards each year is contingent on available funding.

- If funding in any year is insufficient to pay all eligible applicants, awarding will be determined in the following order:
  - Renewal applicants, in the order in which their applications were received
  - New applications, using the mental health portion of the HPSA database to rank eligible rural and underserved applications, giving priority to the areas with the highest degree of shortage (score) for that applicant's profession
    - If multiple applicants have the same score, they will be given consideration in the order received
    - If an applicant works for an organization located in an HPSA mental health discipline that has satellite clinics and the applicant more than one of the clinics, the highest HPSA score where the applicant works will apply.
    - If an applicant works for different employers in multiple HPSA mental health disciplines having different degrees of shortage, the location having the highest HPSA mental health discipline score will apply.

- Proceeds will be remitted directly to the holder of the loan(s) to be repaid.

Illinois Teachers Loan Repayment Program

ISAC FAFSA SYMPOSIUM

- The 2024 fiscal year (July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024) appropriation is $ 975,000
- This is an increase of $535,100 from last years appropriation of $439,900
- Encourages students to enter and continue teaching in Illinois schools in low-income areas
- Eligible applicants can receive up to $5,000 to repay student loan debt

Illinois Teachers Loan Repayment Program

ISAC FAFSA SYMPOSIUM

- Eligibility requirements:
  - U.S. citizen or eligible noncitizen
  - Resident of Illinois
  - Be a borrower who has had an amount of their educational loans forgiven by the federal teacher loan forgiveness program
    - Fulfilled the federal requirements at a school in Illinois
  - Have a balance remaining on eligible student loan(s)

Illinois Teachers Loan Repayment Program

ISAC FAFSA SYMPOSIUM

- Applicants:
  - Must first qualify for the federal Teacher Loan Forgiveness Program
    - Teach full-time for five complete and consecutive academic years in a low-income school
    - Must complete 5-year teaching requirement at a low-income Illinois school
  - Complete an ISAC application available at: isac.org/students/after-college/forgiveness-programs/illinois-teachers-and-child-care-providers-loan-repayment-program.html
    - Must be submitted to ISAC **within six months of the date on the Notice of Federal Teacher Loan Forgiveness eligibility**

Illinois Teachers Loan Repayment Program

ISAC FAFSA SYMPOSIUM

- Awarding and Disbursing of Funds
  - The total amount of awards each year is based on available funding
  - If funding in any given year is insufficient to pay all eligible applicants
    - Awarding will be based on the date the complete application (with all required documentation) is received at the ISAC Deerfield Office
    - A minimum of 4–5 week turnaround from the date recipients are approved by ISAC to when funds are disbursed

John R. Justice Student Loan Repayment Program

ISAC FAFSA SYMPOSIUM

- Provides loan repayment assistance for state and federal public defenders and state prosecutors
- Requires three years of service
- Federal program administered at the state level
  - Funding designated to states is based on population
- Illinois recipients can receive an annual award of up to $4,000 (can lead to an aggregate total of $60,000)
- Application is accessible at: isac.org/students/after-college/forgiveness-programs/john-r-justice-student-loan-repayment-program.html
- For more information about the program:
  - www.equaljusticeworks.org

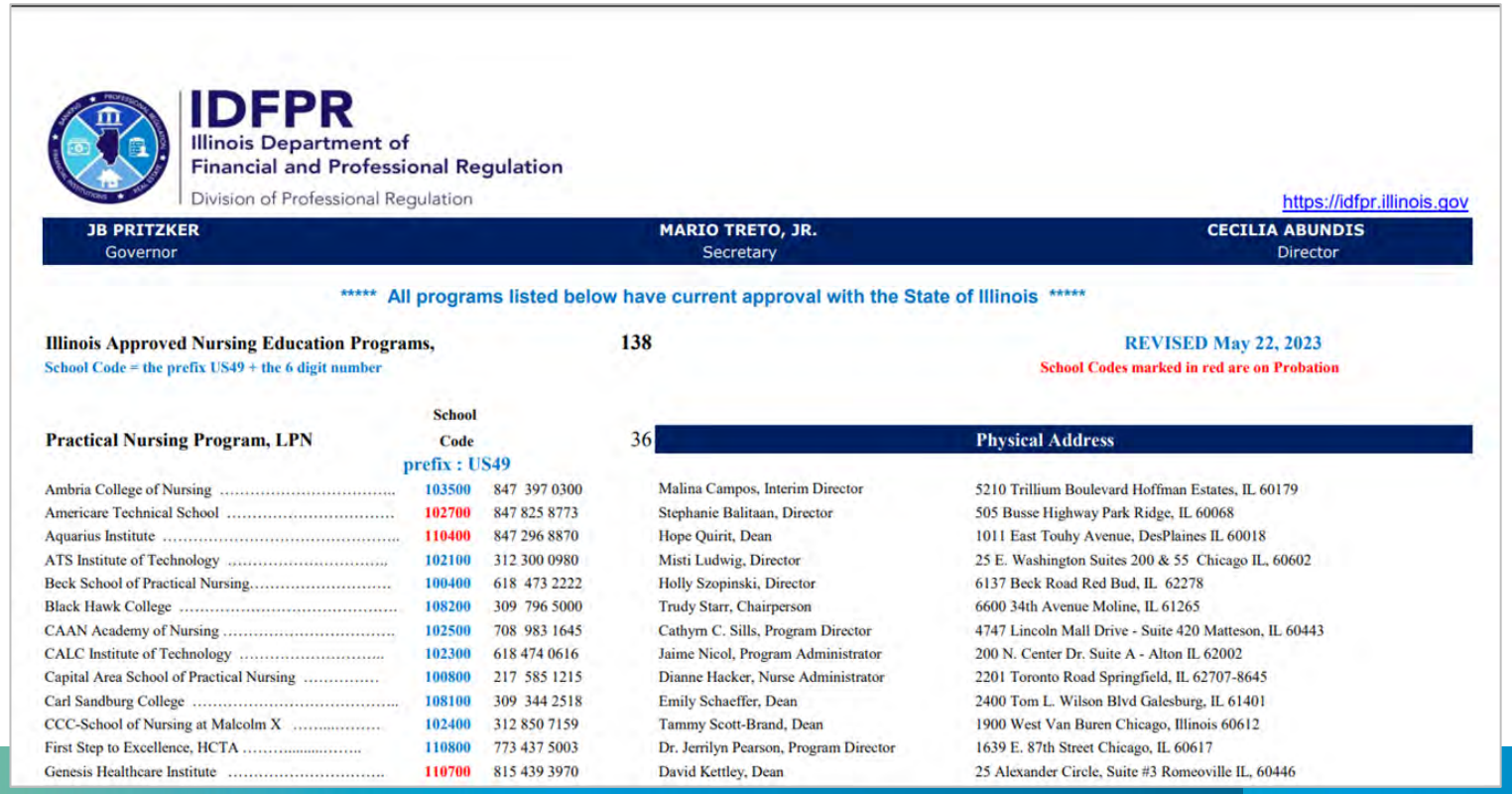
Nurse Educator Loan Repayment Program

ISAC FAFSA SYMPOSIUM

- The 2024 fiscal year (July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024) appropriation is $500,000
- The program is an incentive to nurse educators to maintain their teaching careers in Illinois and is intended to help address the shortage of nurses and the lack of nurse educators in Illinois.
- Provides grants of up to $5,000 per year to nurse educators who have instructed practical or professional nurses at an approved Illinois institution
  - May be received for up to a maximum of four years
- Application is available at isac.org/students/after-college/forgiveness-programs/nurse-educator-loan-repayment-program.html

Nurse Educator Loan Repayment Program

- List of approved institutions maintained by the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation:
  - https://nursing.illinois.gov/education.html



IDFPR
Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation
Division of Professional Regulation
https://idfpr.illinois.gov

JB PRITZKER, Governor | MARIO TRETO, JR., Secretary | CECILIA ABUNDIS, Director

***** All programs listed below have current approval with the State of Illinois *****

Illinois Approved Nursing Education Programs, 138
School Code = the prefix US49 + the 6 digit number
REVISED May 22, 2023
School Codes marked in red are on Probation

Practical Nursing Program, LPN	School Code prefix : US49		36 Physical Address	
Ambria College of Nursing	103500	847 397 0300	Malina Campos, Interim Director	5210 Trillium Boulevard Hoffman Estates, IL 60179
Americare Technical School	102700	847 825 8773	Stephanie Balitaan, Director	505 Busse Highway Park Ridge, IL 60068
Aquarius Institute	110400	847 296 8870	Hope Quirit, Dean	1011 East Touhy Avenue, DesPlaines IL 60018
ATS Institute of Technology	102100	312 300 0980	Misti Ludwig, Director	25 E. Washington Suites 200 & 55 Chicago IL, 60602
Beck School of Practical Nursing	100400	618 473 2222	Holly Szopinski, Director	6137 Beck Road Red Bud, IL 62278
Black Hawk College	108200	309 796 5000	Trudy Starr, Chairperson	6600 34th Avenue Moline, IL 61265
CAAN Academy of Nursing	102500	708 983 1645	Cathyrn C. Sills, Program Director	4747 Lincoln Mall Drive - Suite 420 Matteson, IL 60443
CALC Institute of Technology	102300	618 474 0616	Jaime Nicol, Program Administrator	200 N. Center Dr. Suite A - Alton IL 62002
Capital Area School of Practical Nursing	100800	217 585 1215	Dianne Hacker, Nurse Administrator	2201 Toronto Road Springfield, IL 62707-8645
Carl Sandburg College	108100	309 344 2518	Emily Schaeffer, Dean	2400 Tom L. Wilson Blvd Galesburg, IL 61401
CCC-School of Nursing at Malcolm X	102400	312 850 7159	Tammy Scott-Brand, Dean	1900 West Van Buren Chicago, Illinois 60612
First Step to Excellence, HCTA	110800	773 437 5003	Dr. Jerrilyn Pearson, Program Director	1639 E. 87th Street Chicago, IL 60617
Genesis Healthcare Institute	110700	815 439 3970	David Kettley, Dean	25 Alexander Circle, Suite #3 Romeoville IL, 60446

Nurse Educator Loan Repayment Program

ISAC FAFSA SYMPOSIUM

- To qualify for the program, applicants must:
  - Be a U.S. citizen or an eligible non-citizen
  - Be an Illinois resident
  - Have an outstanding balance on an eligible educational loan
  - Be a nurse educator who meets licensing requirements of the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation
  - Have worked as a nurse educator instructing practical or professional nurses in an approved Illinois institution for the past 12 consecutive months prior to the date of each application
  - Not be in default on any federal guaranteed educational loan, nor owe a refund on any scholarship or grant program administered by ISAC

Nurse Educator Loan Repayment Program

ISAC FAFSA SYMPOSIUM

- All applicants must submit a complete Nurse Educator Repayment Program application to ISAC each academic year.

- Applicant must complete all sections and include documentation listed in section 3
  - a letter from the employer verifying that the applicant worked as a nurse educator instructing practical or professional nurses in an approved Illinois institution for at least 12 consecutive months prior to the date of this application
  - a copy of the statement from the institution(s) currently holding the eligible loan(s) that shows the outstanding balance on the account to which these proceeds are to be applied
  - if the applicant is a prior recipient, a copy of the payment history from the last institution(s) to which the Nurse Educator Loan Repayment proceeds were paid. The Nurse Educator Loan Repayment payment transaction must be clearly identified

- If the application is incomplete, a letter will be sent to the applicant to request the missing information.

Nurse Educator Loan Repayment Program

- Award Determination and Payment
  - The total amount of awards each year is based on available funding
  - If funding in any given year is insufficient to pay all eligible applicants
    - Awarding will be based on the date the complete application (with all required documentation) is received at the ISAC Deerfield Office
    - Preference may be given to renewal applicants provided that the recipient continues to meet the eligibility criteria

School and Municipal Social Work Shortage Loan Repayment Program

ISAC FAFSA SYMPOSIUM

- This program encourages Illinois students to work, and to continue to work, as social workers in public school districts and Illinois municipalities, by providing assistance toward the repayment of student loans.
- This is intended to assist in paying eligible loans as an incentive to participate in the social work field, particularly by minority applicants, who are underrepresented as school and municipal social workers.
- A one-time award of up to $6,500 is available.
- 2024 fiscal year (July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024) lump-sum appropriation is $600,000,000
- If an application is incomplete (including required documentation), the applicant will receive a letter from ISAC explaining the reason(s) and advising how to resolve the issue. Qualified applicants will be sent a Notice of Eligibility from ISAC.

School and Municipal Social Work Shortage Loan Repayment Program

ISAC FAFSA SYMPOSIUM

- Eligibility requirements
  - To qualify for the program, applicants must:
    - Be a U.S. citizen or an eligible non-citizen
    - Be an Illinois resident
    - Have an outstanding balance on an eligible educational loan
    - On the date of application submission must be currently and was employed as a social worker for at least 12 consecutive months by
      - an Illinois public elementary school,
      - an Illinois public secondary school, or
      - an Illinois municipality where the social worker did not report directly to a police department
    - Not be in default on any federal guaranteed educational loan, nor owe a refund on any scholarship or grant program administered by ISAC

School and Municipal Social Work Shortage Loan Repayment Program

ISAC FAFSA SYMPOSIUM

- Application
  - Once application becomes available each year, the applicant must complete all sections and include documentation listed in section 3
  - Additionally, an authorized official of the applicant's place of employment is required to complete section 4, certifying the employment requirements have been met
  - The address to submit the application is included on the form

- If the application is incomplete, a letter will be sent to the applicant to request the missing information.

School and Municipal Social Work Shortage Loan Repayment Program

- Award Determination and Payment
  - Recipients are selected from among qualified applicants, with priority given to minority applicants
  - The total amount of awards each year is based on available funding
  - If funding in any given year is insufficient to pay all eligible applicants
    - Awarding will be based on the date the complete application (with all required documentation) is received at the ISAC Deerfield Office
    - Award amounts are based on the applicant's remaining balance on eligible education loans, not to exceed $6,500

Veterans' Home Medical Providers' Loan Repayment Program

ISAC FAFSA SYMPOSIUM

- The 2024 fiscal year (July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024) appropriation is $ 26,400
- Intended to encourage medical professionals to pursue and continue their careers at a State of Illinois veterans' home
- Provides grants of up to $5,000 per year to medical professionals who have worked in veterans' homes in Illinois
- Grant dollars must be used to pay down existing student loan debt
- Can receive for a maximum of 4 years
- Application is available at isac.org/students/after-college/forgiveness-programs/veterans-home-nurse-loan-repayment-program.html

Veterans’ Home Medical Providers’ Loan Repayment Program

- To qualify for the program, applicants must:
  - Be a U.S. citizen or an eligible non-citizen
  - Be an Illinois resident
  - Have an outstanding balance due on an eligible educational loan
  - Be a medical provider who meets licensing requirements of the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation or a certified nursing assistant who passed the state-specified examinations to be fully certified
  - Be a medical provider whose employment is in good standing as determined by the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs
  - For each year during which an award is received, fulfill a separate 12-month period as a physician, certified nurse practitioner, registered professional nurse, certified nursing assistant or licensed practical nurse in an approved State of Illinois veterans' home
  - Not be in default on any federal guaranteed educational loan or owe a refund on any scholarship or grant program administered by the ISAC

Veterans' Home Medical Providers' Loan Repayment Program

ISAC FAFSA SYMPOSIUM

- Award Determination and Payment
  - Recipients are selected from among qualified applicants, with priority given to minority applicants
  - The total amount of awards each year is based on available funding
  - If funding in any given year is insufficient to pay all eligible applicants
    - Awarding will be based on the date the complete application (with all required documentation) is received at the ISAC Deerfield Office
    - Award amounts are based on the applicant's remaining balance on eligible education loans, not to exceed $5,000

Questions/Comments

Thank you for attending today!

ISAC FAFSA SYMPOSIUM

Thank you!

School Services

866-247-2172

isac.schoolservices@illinois.gov

ISAC Call Center – Student Services

800-899-4722

isac.studentservices@illinois.gov

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Partner & Training Services

Stephanie Claudio - Stephanie.Claudio@illinois.gov

Kim Eck -- Kimberly.Eck@illinois.gov

Daniela Rios – Daniela.Rios@illinois.gov

Sherry Schonauer -- Sherry.Schonauer@illinois.gov