

# ISAC Operational Update and Program News

June 24, 2026



# Agenda

- 2025-2026 Year-End Close Out
- 2026-2027 Operational Update
- Important Dates & Contact Information
- Questions

# **2025-26 Award Year Fiscal Year (FY) 2026**

# Monetary Award Program – MAP

- Although the priority claim deadline dates for all terms of the 2025-26 academic year have passed, ISAC will continue to accept and hold 2025-26 MAP *initial claims* and *increases to previously submitted claims* for all terms through (including) **Tuesday, June 30, 2026**.
  - Payment has been approved for first, second, and third-term initial claims and increases to previously submitted claims that were received through (including) June 22, 2026.
  - Schools should regularly monitor the [MAP system](#) to review payment results for initial claims and increases as **we continue to monitor available funding and may release more claims**.
  - Colleges are encouraged to *continue the process of reconciling 2025-26 MAP data*, which assists ISAC staff in determining whether sufficient funds will be available to pay additional late claims.
- Adjustments to *cancel* or *reduce* previously submitted MAP claims will continue to be accepted for all terms through (including) **Thursday, July 30, 2026**.\*
- Effective **Friday, July 31, 2026**, 2025-26 data in the [MAP system](#) will become available for historical view only.\*\*

# Other Programs – Year-End Close Out

- ISAC will continue to **accept 2025-26 initial claims and increases to previously submitted claims for all terms** through (including) **Tuesday, June 30, 2026, for the following programs:**
  - Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity (**ECACE**) Scholarship Program
  - Golden Apple (**GA**) Scholars of Illinois Program
  - Grant Program for Dependents of Police, Fire, or Correctional Officers (**PFC**)
    - ISAC anticipates accepting 2025-26 PFC summer-term claims starting in mid-June.
  - Nursing Education Scholarship (**NES**)
  - Post-Master of Social Work School Social Work Professional (**SWSP**) Educator License Scholarship Program
    - 2025-26 SWSP summer-term claims submitted by July 1 will be considered timely.
  - Teachers of Illinois (**TI**) Scholarship Program
- **Adjustments to cancel or reduce** previously submitted claims for the above programs will continue to be accepted for *all terms* through (including) **Thursday, July 30, 2026.\***
- Effective **Friday, July 31, 2026**, 2025-26 data in the above programs systems will become **available for historical view only.\*\***

# Illinois National Guard (ING) Grant Year-End Close Out

## Illinois National Guard (ING) Grant Program

- The ING Grant system will continue to accept 2025-26 benefit usage data for *all terms* through (including) **Thursday, July 30, 2026**.
  - *Summer-term* benefit usage data submitted on or before **Wednesday, July 1, 2026**, will be considered timely.
  - Although the timely submission dates for *fall-* and *spring-term* have passed, colleges are still encouraged to report data for these terms no later than **July 30**.
  - Even though ISAC may not be able to fully reimburse institutions for 2025-26 ING Grant awards, *reporting of enrollment hours must still take place as soon as possible* so that benefit usage (i.e., eligibility units) can be accurately assessed to students' accounts.
- Effective **Friday, July 31, 2026**, 2025-26 data in the [ING Grant system](#) will become available for historical view only.\*\*

# Illinois Veterans Grant (IVG) Year-End Close Out

## Illinois Veteran Grant (IVG) Program

- The IVG system will continue to accept 2025-26 benefit usage data for *all terms* through (including) **Thursday, July 30, 2026**.
  - Even though ISAC may not be able to fully reimburse institutions for 2025-26 IVG awards and all deadline dates have passed, *reporting of enrollment hours must still take place as soon as possible* so that benefit usage (i.e., eligibility units) can be accurately assessed to students' accounts.
- Effective **Friday, July 31, 2026**, 2025-26 data in the [IVG system](#) will become available for historical view only.\*\*

# \*Continue Reconciling Data for Programs

- Remember, due to the [payment offset process](#), **only data reconciliation activities should take place at this time** for the 2025-26:
  - ECACE Scholarship,
  - Golden Apple,
  - PFC,
  - MAP,
  - NES,
  - Social Work Scholarship,
  - TI Scholarship programs.
- After ISAC determines that all payment processing is final, colleges with an outstanding amount owed to ISAC will receive an email notice indicating the total amount to be returned for each program.
- **Until then, no funds should be returned to ISAC.**

## \*\*Historical View and Reports

- As a reminder, reports continue to be available for colleges to access after data has been moved to historical view.
- However, after submitting claims or adjustments and/or reporting benefits used, colleges are encouraged to always review the **Payment/Benefits Results Exceptions report that is available the next business day.**
- Refer to the appropriate program's "Payment" area (located in the [ISAC Gift Assistance Programs](#) area) to view information regarding a report for tracking payment vouchers and warrants.

# Illinois Special Education Teacher Tuition Waiver (SETTW) Program

- Functionality to certify eligibility for 2025-26 SETTW Program is available in the SETTW system.
- If subsequent 2025-26 SETTW awards are announced, ISAC will send e-mail messages to impacted institutions.
  - We ask that you certify each student's eligibility via the SETTW system within 60 days of the date on which the e-mail is received.

# Displaced Energy Worker Dependent Transition Scholarship

- The 2025-26 online application is closed.
  - The due date for summer consideration was **June 15, 2026**.

# Grant Program for Exonerees and Their Dependents (GPE)

- The 2025-26 online application is closed.

# Teachers of Illinois (TI) – Additional Round of Awarding

- The last day to complete certifications is **June 24, 2026**.
- ISAC will complete a final round of awarding on **Thursday, June 25, 2026**.
- Schools are encouraged to continue monitoring the TI program to check for recent awards and submit payment requests as soon as possible.

# Dual-Awarding Reminders

- If a student is awarded SETTW, TI and/or Golden Apple in the same award year, the student must choose which program they would like to use.
  - A student cannot receive the benefits of two of these programs in the same award year.
  - ISAC will send the student a letter asking them to choose which program they want to accept.
  - These letters include a deadline date to return the form.
- The ECACE Scholarship may be used with one of these programs, and ECACE would be last payer
- If a student decides to change which program benefit, he/she wants to receive:
  - First confirm that the student has been awarded the other program in GAP Access before cancelling a payment request/claim that may have already been made.
    - For example, make sure that the student was awarded funds for TI before cancelling a payment request for Golden Apple.
- Program teaching obligations:
  - SETTW requires two-year teaching commitment.
  - Golden Apple requires a five-year teaching commitment.
  - TI has a one-year teaching commitment for each year that the scholarship is received.
- See ISAC's website for specific program information:
  - [isac.org/e-library/administrative-rules/index.html](https://isac.org/e-library/administrative-rules/index.html)
  - [isac.org/isac-gift-assistance-programs/index.html](https://isac.org/isac-gift-assistance-programs/index.html)
  - [isac.org/gap-access/#guide](https://isac.org/gap-access/#guide)

# Dual Awarding Students TI, GA, and SETTW.

- In the TI program, students are marked on the **Student Detail: Eligibility** screen under the columns “Awarded GA” and “Awarded SETTW”.

- In the GA and SETTW programs, students are marked on the **Student List Eligibility: View** screen under the Columns “Awarded TI”, “Awarded SETTW”, and “Awarded GA”.

Awarded GA	Awarded SETTW
Y	
Y	

Awarded TI	Awarded SETTW
Y	

# Reconciliation Reminders

- After receiving funds for a term, colleges are required to reconcile the payment for accuracy. Award amounts may only be applied to the students for whom ISAC made payment.
- Award payments made in the name of one recipient cannot be applied to another recipient at the same school.
  - A refund of the payment made must be submitted to ISAC and a payment request must be processed for the proper recipient.
- Cancellations of prior payments will be deducted from any future payments until the end of the academic year, when refunds must be identified and [returned to ISAC](#) no later than 60 days after the term ends.
- When the college receives payment **after** the end of the term, the college has 60 days following the receipt of the funds to identify and return any refunds.


# Reconciliation – Payment Processing Adjustments

- After submitting your payment requests and the requests have processed, ensure that results are as expected.
  - Check your Payment Results/exceptions report under the **Reports** tab.
- If a **student's situation has changed, do an adjustment.**
- If an **error was made in the initial request, submit a correction.**
  - An adjustment or correction is simply a subsequent payment request.
    - Select the appropriate Request on the **Student Detail: Payments** screen:
      - **Payment** – to request a payment.
      - **Cancel** – to cancel a previously requested award.
      - **Ineligible** – to be selected for students who are ineligible.
      - **Delete** – to remove the payment request before submitting.
- Always request what the student is eligible for – for the term.
  - ISAC does the math (calculates the difference between 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> requests)
- Dollars are offset against future payment, so no money is returned until the end of the processing cycle

# Returning Funds to ISAC

- When it is necessary for schools to return scholarship and grant program funds to ISAC, a [Gift Assistance Refund Check Form](#) should be completed and submitted along with the payment.
- The purpose of the form is to:
  - Provide information about program funds being returned
  - Ensure that refunds are credited to the proper account (both school and/or student), program, and academic year
  - Provide student-level information for funds that are being returned
- The Refund Check Form, along with the check(s) **made payable to the Illinois Student Assistance Commission**, should be sent to:

**Illinois Student Assistance Commission**  
**Attn: Cash Receipts**  
**1755 Lake Cook Road**  
**Deerfield, IL 60015-5209**



**ISAC**  
Illinois Student Assistance Commission

1755 Lake Cook Road  
Deerfield, IL 60015-5209  
888.247.2172  
isac.schoolservices@illinois.gov

**GIFT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS  
REFUND CHECK FORM**

Please report the dollar amount refunded for each program/year if submitting a single check with funds for **multiple** programs or academic years.

Mail Refund Checks to: Illinois Student Assistance Commission  
Attn: Cash Receipts  
1755 Lake Cook Road  
Deerfield, IL 60015-5209  
**Payable to:** Illinois Student Assistance Commission

To ensure refunds are credited to the correct account (both school and/or student) and the appropriate ISAC gift assistance program, please complete the requested information below.

DATE SENT TO ISAC	
SCHOOL NAME	
MAP CODE /ED CODE/IVG CODE	
PROGRAM(S)	
ACADEMIC YEAR(S)	
VOUCHER NUMBER <i>(specific to the above academic year)</i>	
TERM(S)	
CHECK NUMBER	
CHECK DOLLAR AMOUNT	\$

REASON FOR REFUND

[ ] Returning Amount Due at End of Year: Per ISAC's letter indicating total amount owed.

[ ] Current and/or Prior Year Refund:
 

- Provide the students' names and Social Security numbers (last4-digits);
- Indicate actual credit hours enrolled;
- List dollar amount refunded for each term; and
- State the institution's reason for the refund.

[ ] External Compliance: ISAC's Finance & Accounting Division will forward a copy of the Final Program Review Report to the appropriate internal department.

[ ] Other Refund: Provide Explanation

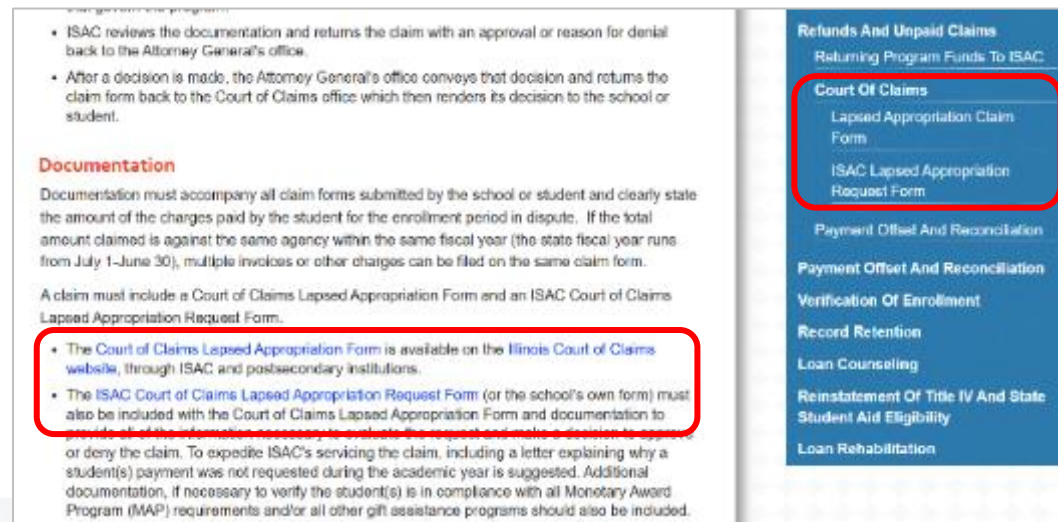
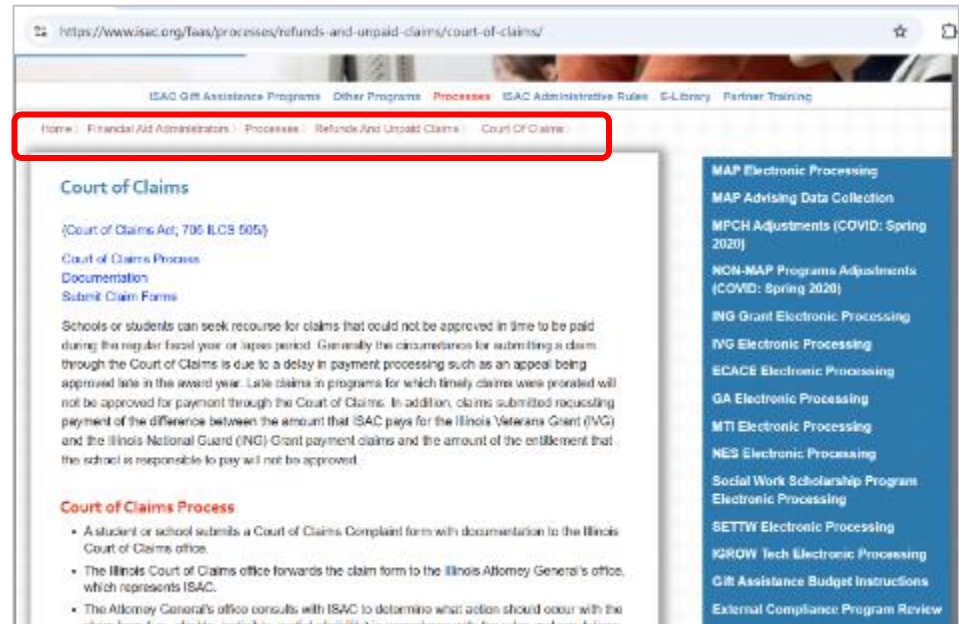
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# Court of Claims

- Schools or students can seek recourse for claims that could not be approved in time to be paid during the regular fiscal year or lapse period
  - Generally, the circumstance for submitting a claim through the Court of Claims is due to a delay in payment processing such as an appeal being approved late in the award year
  - Late claims in programs for which timely claims were prorated will not be approved for payment through the Court of Claims
- A student or school submits a Court of Claims Complaint form with documentation to the Illinois Court of Claims office, and the Court of Claims office forwards the claim form to the Illinois Attorney General's office, which represents ISAC
  - The AG's office consults with ISAC to determine what action should occur with the claim form (e.g., eligible, ineligible, partial eligibility) in accordance with the rules and regulations that govern the program
  - ISAC reviews the documentation and returns the claim with an approval or reason for denial back to the AG's office
- After a decision is made, the AG's office conveys that decision and returns the claim form back to the Court of Claims office which then renders its decision to the school or student
- For more information see: [Court of Claims](#)

# Court of Claims – Website Page

- From the [Court of Claims](#) section of the [Isac.org](#) website, more information on how to complete the court of claims process can be found.
- Under “Documentation” links to the required documents can be found along with information on how to complete each form.



# **2026-27 Award Year Fiscal Year (FY) 2027**

# 2026-27 Applications Available

Program	OPEN?	Priority Deadline for 2026-27
Monetary Award Program (MAP)	Y	ISAC is <b>suspending</b> the announcement of MAP awards for all students whose initial FAFSA® is received by FPS, or whose initial Alternative Application for Illinois Financial is received by ISAC, after <b>Thursday, April 23, 2026</b>
Golden Apple (GA)	N	<b>TBD</b> – Apply through the <a href="#">Golden Apple Foundation website</a> . There is an option to be notified when the application opens.
Special Education Teacher Tuition Waiver (SETTW)	Y	Was <b>March 1, 2026</b> (Can still apply but will only be considered after priority applications have been awarded)
Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity (ECACE) Scholarship Program	Y	<b>May 31, 2026</b> (Can still apply late but will only be considered after priority applications have been awarded)
Teachers of Illinois Scholarship Program (TISP)	N	<b>TBD</b>
Nursing Education Scholarship (NES)	Y	<b>May 31, 2026</b> (Can still apply late but will only be considered after priority applications have been awarded)
Illinois National Guard Grant (ING)	N	When made available each year, applications are submitted on a rolling basis, must apply w/ enough time for ISAC to review application for the term recipient wants benefits used for.
Illinois Veteran Grant (IVG)	N	Same as ING above.
Displaced Energy Worker Dependent Transition Scholarship Program (DEWSP)	N	<b>October 1, 2026</b> – Full year consideration <b>March 1, 2027</b> – Spring-term <b>June 15, 2027</b> – Summer-term
Grant Programs for Dependents of Police-Fire-Correctional Officers (PFC)	N	<b>October 1, 2026</b> – Full year consideration <b>March 1, 2027</b> – Spring-term <b>June 15, 2027</b> – Summer-term

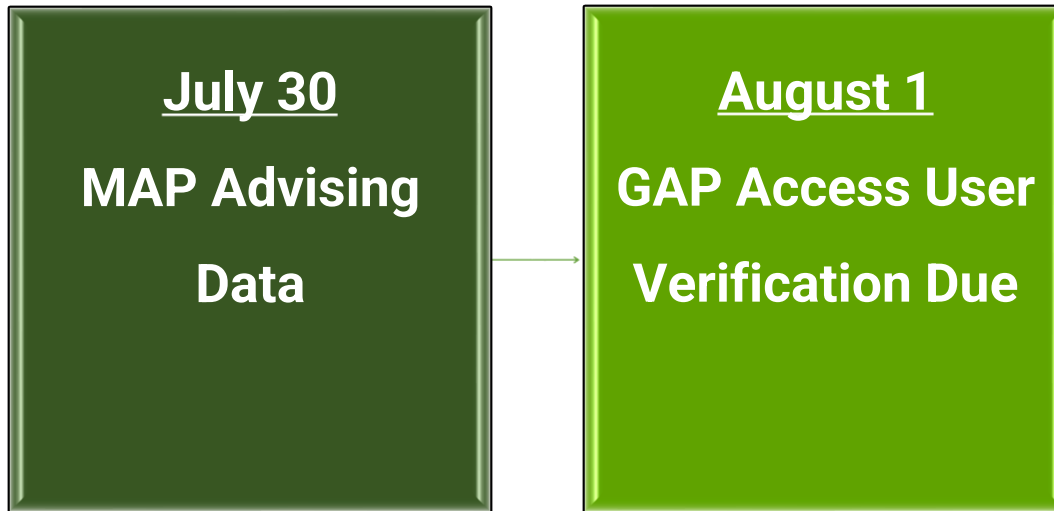
# Public Comment Being Accepted for Proposed Rules and Amendments

- Public comment is being accepted on proposed amendments to several Parts of the [ISAC Administrative Rules](#).
- Specific details, including the date by which public comment for each Part must be submitted, are provided at the [Proposed Rules and Amendments](#) page of the [e-Library](#) and in a [May 26, 2026 "ISAC Administrative Rules Update – Public Comment Being Accepted" e-Message](#).

## June 25, 2026: Next Commission Meeting

- The next meeting of the Illinois Student Assistance Commission is scheduled to take place at 1:00 p.m. (CT) on **Thursday, June 25, 2026**.
  - Further details, including a listing of tentative agenda items, will be available prior to the meeting via the [ISAC's Governing Board: The Commission](#) section of the [About ISAC](#) area.
- Visit the [Commission Meeting Schedule](#) page for information regarding all meetings scheduled in 2026.

# Upcoming Important Dates – for 2026-27



Colleges are to [report the following MAP Advising data via the GAP Access portal](#)

- available advising and support programs (for the 2025-26 academic year) and
- course completion data (for the 2024-25 academic year).

To make the process easier for schools, the collection of MAP Advising Data has moved to a biennial process. Schools can anticipate the next [MAP Advising Data Collection](#) process during the 2027-28 academic year.

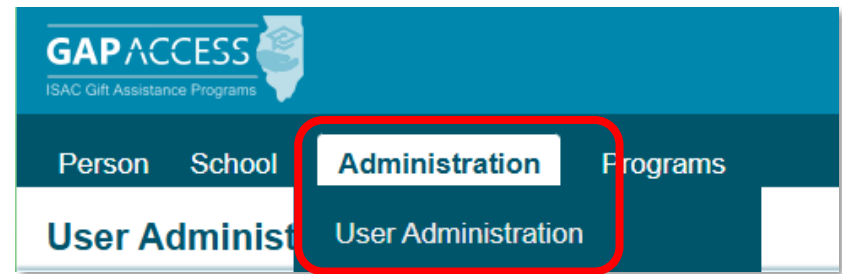
Further details are provided in an [April 21, 2026 "MAP Advising Data Updates" e-Message](#).

# GAP Access User Verification

GAP Access User Verification is now an online process available in GAP Access. After receiving an e-mail from ISAC that the user verification process timeframe is under way, the school's Primary Administrator is responsible for checking, updating and verifying GAP Access users at the school, then submitting a confirmation of the verification online to ISAC.

Primary Administrator will do the following:

1. Log in to GAP Access.
2. Hover over the Administrator tab, then click the User Administrator option.
3. **Make corrections and/or deletions** to the list in GAP Access, as necessary.
4. After any necessary modifications, **review the list** to make sure it is a correct list of users for your school.
5. Once sure the list is correct, **click the School Users Verified checkbox**.
6. **Click Submit** to transmit the verified list of users to ISAC.



# Important Dates & Contact Information

# College Changes Everything (CCE) Conference



- Thursday, July 16, 2026
  - Tinley Park Convention Center in Tinley Park, Illinois.
- Further details are provided at the [College Changes Everything conference web page](#).

# OB3 Brown Bag Lunch Sessions



The ILASFAA Training and Development Committee is seeking panelist for helping host Brown Bag Sessions covering topics related to upcoming changes following OB3.

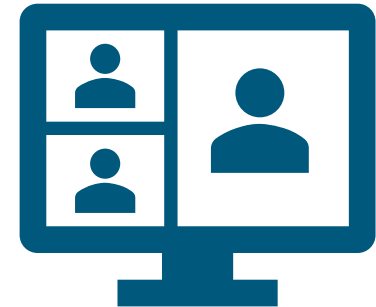
Some potential topics include:

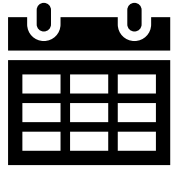
- Workforce Pell
- New Graduate Loan Limits
- Legacy Provisions
- New Parent Plus Loan Limits
- Schedule of Reduction
- Loan Repayment

Anyone interested in volunteering as a panel member for any of the above topics or if you have any ideas to share, please contact:

❖ **Hannah Castellanos:** [Hannah.castellanos@illinois.gov](mailto:Hannah.castellanos@illinois.gov)

❖ **Katie Glascott:** [KGLASC01@depaul.edu](mailto:KGLASC01@depaul.edu)





# ISAC Calendar

## Webinars - Monthly Program & Operational Update

July

29<sup>th</sup>

@ 2 p.m.

August

26<sup>th</sup>

@ 2 p.m.

September

23<sup>rd</sup>

@ 2 p.m.




# Holiday Schedules

ISAC Staff will be unavailable:

- Fourth of July Observance – Friday, July 3, 2026

# ISAC's Student Engagement & Support Services

For inquiries from students, parents, and the general public:

 : **800-899-ISAC (4722)**


 : **[isac.studentservices@illinois.gov](mailto:isac.studentservices@illinois.gov)**

Fax : 847-831-8549

Spanish-speaking counselors are available  
8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. CT

# ISAC's Partner Services Department

Provides program information, policy guidance, training and support to colleges, high schools and other ISAC partners

 : 866-247-2172

 : [isac.schoolservices@illinois.gov](mailto:isac.schoolservices@illinois.gov)

Fax : 847-831-8549

## Partner Services Team

**Hannah Castellanos** [Hannah.Castellanos@illinois.gov](mailto:Hannah.Castellanos@illinois.gov)

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**Sherry Schonauer** [Sherry.Schonauer@illinois.gov](mailto:Sherry.Schonauer@illinois.gov)

**Thank you for attending today.**

**Questions?**

