

2008-09 Silas Purnell Illinois Incentive for Access (IIA) Grant Program Information

- **What is the IIA Program?**

IIA is an ISAC-administered program that provides grants to freshman students who have a limited ability to pay for college.* The number of IIA grants available each year is limited based on the number of applicants and funding levels approved by the Illinois General Assembly.

- **Who is eligible to get an IIA grant?**

Due to limited program funding for 2008-09, only students classified as freshmen by their college with an Expected Family Contribution (EFC) of \$0 on their federal *Student Aid Report* (SAR) may be eligible. In addition, students must be Illinois residents, they must be enrolled at least half time at a college approved for the IIA Grant Program, and meet the other Monetary Award Program (MAP) eligibility requirements (see the enclosed *Rights & Responsibilities* document for the MAP grant).

- **How do I apply for the IIA grant?**

You already have. By completing the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA), you applied for an IIA grant. After you enroll, your college's financial aid office will verify your eligibility. If you meet all the eligibility requirements [freshman status, EFC of \$0, etc.], and funding is available, the college will request an IIA grant payment on your behalf.

- **How much is the IIA grant?**

Due to limited program funding for 2008-09, a qualified applicant may receive one grant in an amount not to exceed \$500.

- **Do I receive the funds directly from ISAC?**

No. The IIA grant is paid on your behalf to the college you are attending. The college will notify you when funds are available to you, or when funds have been credited to your student account.

- **For what educational expenses can the IIA grant be used?**

The IIA grant can be used for any expense that is included in your cost of attendance at the college. It is not limited to tuition and fees.

- **If the college verifies my eligibility for an IIA grant, how will it impact my other financial aid? How will I know if I receive the IIA grant?**

Each college's financial aid office has its own financial aid packaging procedure. The financial aid office will inform you if you will receive the IIA grant. Only if funding is available, and only if you are eligible, will an estimated IIA award for 2008-09 appear on your financial aid award letter from your college.

- **If I am at the freshman class level with a \$0 EFC, meet all the other eligibility requirements and received some IIA grant funds last school year, am I still eligible to receive an IIA grant this year?**

For the 2008-09 academic year, the maximum amount a student can receive in IIA funds is \$500. If you received the full \$500 IIA grant in a previous school year, you cannot get additional IIA grant funds. If you received only part of the IIA grant in a previous school year, please check with your college.

- **If I transfer colleges, can I use the IIA grant at the new college?**

You may be able to receive the grant at the new college if:

- the new college you transfer to is an Illinois IIA-approved institution;
- you are classified as a freshman at the new college and have not received the full award; and
- you continue to meet all the other IIA Program eligibility requirements.

* *Throughout this document when a reference is made to "college," it means an Illinois IIA-approved postsecondary institution.*