

Important Message from ISAC to Students Regarding 2009-10 MAP Grant Funding October 20, 2009

Governor Signs Legislation Restoring MAP Appropriation for Second Half of 2009-10 Academic Year

The Monetary Award Program (MAP) provides grants that are funded by the state of Illinois and administered by the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC). Each year the amount of a student's award depends on a number of factors - including program funding levels, which are determined by state legislators and the governor when they approve the annual state budget. Based on funding levels from the fiscal year 2010 (FY2010) state budget that was passed in July 2009, MAP funding was enough to cover only the first half of the 2009-10 academic year, and only for those eligible applicants whose initial 2009-10 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) was received by the federal processor on or before May 14, 2009. (As has been previously communicated, ISAC has suspended the announcement of 2009-10 MAP grants to all students whose initial 2009-10 FAFSA is received by the federal processor on or after May 15, 2009.)

Subsequent to the July budget decision, on October 18, 2009, Governor Pat Quinn signed into law Senate Bill 1180 (which had been passed by the General Assembly on October 15th), making it Public Act 96-792, which takes effect immediately. The new law appropriates an additional \$205 million to ISAC for the current fiscal year, to restore MAP funding for the remainder of the 2009-10 academic year for those eligible applicants whose initial 2009-10 FAFSA was received by the federal processor on or before May 14, 2009.

The passage of the bill coincided with a visit to Springfield by more than 2,500 college students and supporters from around the state, who rallied for restoration of MAP and visited legislators to outline the potential consequences of financial aid cuts.

ISAC and Your Financial Aid Office

Administrators in the financial aid office at your school are working diligently with ISAC to make available the most current and up-to-date information about your MAP grant. Please check collegezone.com, ISAC's Web site, for status updates about MAP awards. If you have questions, feel free to contact an ISAC College Zone Counselor at the number or e-mail address above.