

**Important Message from ISAC to Illinois Students  
Regarding 2011-12 MAP Awards  
Last Updated on December 22, 2011**

The Monetary Award Program (MAP), funded by the state of Illinois and administered by the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC), provides grant assistance to eligible students demonstrating financial need. 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.

**No Reduction Necessary for 2011-12 MAP Second- and Third-Term Awards**

Students who received MAP grants last year may recall that limited funding and high application volume made it necessary for second- and third-term awards to be reduced for the 2010-11 academic year. Again this year, a shortfall existed that could have meant reductions in later term award amounts.

However, to address the shortfall, ISAC sought authority from the state's General Assembly to spend \$33.5 million in funds that were reserved for student financial assistance and did not require additional General Revenue Funds. Fortunately, that request was granted during a brief extension of the fall veto session, and the governor signed the bill on December 19<sup>th</sup>, granting final approval for the spending authority.

Because of this additional funding, **reductions to second- and third-term award amounts are not necessary** beyond the already-reduced maximum award amount. (Maximum awards for the 2011-12 academic year were reduced by 5% from \$4,968 to \$4,720.)

**Limited Release of Suspended Awards**

This additional \$33.5 million in funding also allows a limited number of suspended MAP awards to be released, and those students will receive full-year award payment, if eligible.

**Your Financial Aid Office**

The financial aid office of the college you are or will be attending will contact you with any additional information regarding your MAP award. You can also continue to check ISAC's website, [collegeillinois.org](http://collegeillinois.org) for status updates.

*This message will be updated, if necessary, as new information regarding 2011-12 MAP awards becomes available.*