

COMMUNITY CONVERSATION:

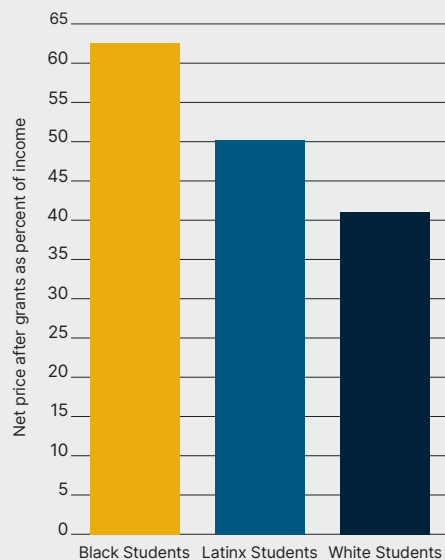
Illinois Has a University Funding Problem

Public universities are not able to serve Illinois students the way they need to be served. That's a fact – look at the **price students pay**, the **debt they incur**, and how Illinois has the greatest **enrollment declines** in the country for proof of that.

Why is this happening? Public universities need state funding, and they get half of what they did twenty years ago. And, 99.5% of that state funding is distributed with no system to ensure that the money goes toward institutions and students that need it most.

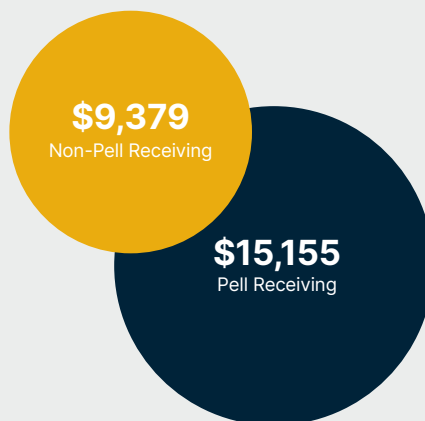
Price Students Pay

Black and Latinx Students Pay More for IL Universities



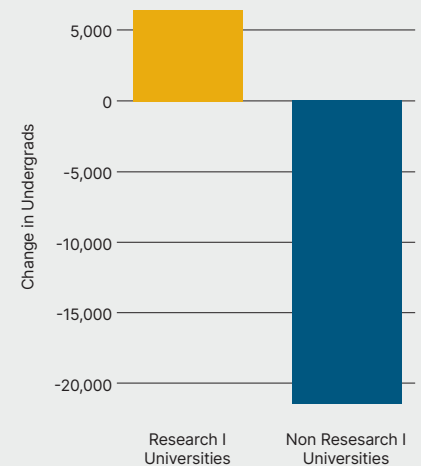
Debt They Incur

Students from low-income backgrounds incur more debt on average than wealthier students



Enrollment Declines

Change in Undergrads, 2008–2018



We're Working to Solve This

Right now, the state has an opportunity to transform how it funds Illinois public universities to make sure every student has what they need to persist and complete their degree. SB 815 passed last year, starting a Commission on Equitable Public University Funding that will recommend solutions by July 2023.

Your Voice Needs to Be Heard

These are complex, technical issues, but they have huge effects on the future of Illinois, its economy, and its students. Students and communities need to be at the center of this process, sharing what the state must provide for them to be able to enroll and complete college.

Illinois Must Re-Imagine How Public Institutions Are Funded.

In 2021, Illinois approved SB815 establishing the Commission on Equitable Public University Funding to evaluate existing funding methods in order to recommend data-driven approaches for equitably funding all of Illinois' public universities to the General Assembly by July 2023.

The 33-person commission includes elected officials, representatives of Illinois' 12 public universities, state agencies, nonprofit leaders, and unions.



Join the Coalition for Transforming Higher Education Funding

Help us advocate for student-centered approaches to higher education funding, call for increased investment in all our public universities, and for more state resources to be directed to public Illinois universities that disproportionately serve Black and Latinx students, students from low-income households, students from rural communities, first-generation students, and other students historically excluded from or underserved by higher education.

Join the Coalition to connect with community members from across the state who believe every Illinois student should have equitable and affordable access to any of Illinois' public universities. It is crucial that our institutions are adequately resourced to support student persistence through college and beyond.

Let's work together towards a more adequate, equitable, and stable higher education funding system for our state.

Interested in learning more about the Coalition?
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