

INVESTING IN THE MONETARY AWARD PROGRAM (MAP)

All students deserve an affordable education!

For many Illinoisans, college is out of reach without substantial financial aid. In 1967, Illinois created the Monetary Award Program (MAP) with the intent of covering the full cost of tuition at Illinois public colleges for all students from low-income families. But lagging state investment has led to a crisis for MAP and Illinois students.

MAP is currently the single most powerful vehicle this state has to address affordability in an equitable way, providing grants to support:



Racial Equity

Over 60% of Latinx students and over 65% of Black students at Illinois public universities rely on MAP.



First-Generation Students

58% of MAP recipients are first-generation college students.



Students from Low-Income Households

The average household income of MAP recipients is barely above poverty line for a family of four.

Investing in MAP is a critical investment in Illinois and our future.

However, MAP's impact has been reduced by rising tuition costs due to underfunding.

In February, Governor Pritzker will share his FY2026 budget proposal. While recent years have seen investments into the program, those investments have not been enough to support all students across the state who rely on MAP to fund their college education.

The Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) recommends a \$73 million increase into MAP, which will help make college more affordable for MAP-eligible students by increasing the total grant amount awarded. An increase also continues the trend from the last several years to serve all eligible applicants.

The Coalition comes alongside ISAC to ask Governor Pritzker and the state legislature to approve this increase into MAP, which will better support students and create greater affordability overall.

Make Your Voice Heard: Contact the Governor's office & speak to your legislator about the importance of investing into MAP!