

# ENSURE NO ILLINOIS STUDENT IS DENIED AN AFFORDABLE COLLEGE EDUCATION

The Monetary Award Program (MAP) was created in 1967 with the intent of covering the full cost of tuition at Illinois public colleges for all students from low-income families. As recently as 2022, every eligible low-income Illinois student could receive MAP, but lagging state investment has led to a shortfall, meaning that college will be out of reach for thousands of Illinoisans who qualify and apply for aid.

MAP makes college affordable for low-income students. Yet in 2023 and 2024, more than 67,000 eligible students were denied grants. **If we keep funding level, another 35,700 eligible low-income Illinois students will be denied state aid.**

**MAP is currently the single most powerful vehicle the state has to address affordability in an equitable way, supporting:**



**First-generation students:** 58% of MAP recipients are first-generation college students



**Students from low-income households:** 55% of MAP-eligible students have no financial resources for college



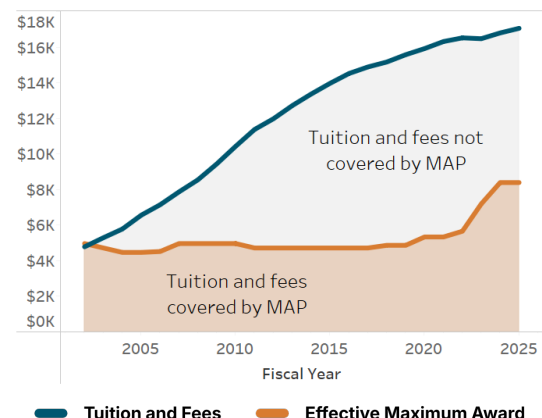
**Racial equity:** 65% of Black students and 60% of Latinx students at public universities rely on MAP

In FY2026, the MAP investment reached a historic high of \$721.5 million, with a maximum award of \$8,064. However, underfunding in the previous two years resulted in thousands of grants being denied to eligible students. Additionally, underfunding led to MAP amounts not keeping pace relative to tuition and fees. The maximum MAP award now covers only 47% of what it costs to attend a public university.

This means that students from low-income families must take out loans, work long hours, and/or only attend school part-time to make up the difference, if they decide to attend college at all.

**This is unacceptable.**

**Maximum MAP Award vs. Illinois 4-Year Public Tuition & Fees**



**CONTACT YOUR STATE LEGISLATOR & URGE THEM TO INVEST THE NECESSARY \$71 MILLION INTO MAP!**