

INVEST IN ILLINOIS COMMUNITY COLLEGES

ICCTA supports the Governor's proposed Fiscal Year 2023 community college budget

● COMMUNITY COLLEGE OPERATIONS ●

ICCTA supports the Governor's proposed budget recommending a **\$13.2 million increase (5%)** in FY23 funding for community college Base Operating and Equalization grants.

Community colleges play a vital role in meeting the state's workforce needs. The 2021 Illinois Community College System Economic Impact Report found that community colleges contribute more than \$3.5 billion and 43,000 jobs annually to the Illinois economy. The study also found that community colleges engaged with nearly 9,800 unique employers.

Illinois community colleges enrolled over 230,000 students in Fall 2021, about 12% of whom were African American and 26% Latinx. Community colleges also serve many rural students and low-income students. Investing in community colleges is essential to Illinois closing its equity gaps.

● ADULT EDUCATION AND POSTSECONDARY CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION ●

ICCTA supports the Governor's proposed budget recommending a **\$2.6 million increase (5%)** in FY23 for adult education and career and technical education (CTE) programs.

Adult Education programs provide critical services to adults with less than a 12th grade education; adults for whom English is a second language; and high school and adult students pursuing CTE training through integrated education and training programs. CTE programs offered by the colleges provide students with opportunities in over 100 career & technical fields.

● MONETARY AWARD PROGRAM ●

ICCTA supports the Governor's proposed budget recommending a **\$122 million increase** in the Monetary Award Program and expanding MAP eligibility to short-term credential programs.

The state's MAP investment has not kept up with rising costs. The proportion of community college tuition and fees covered by a MAP grant has fallen to 38%. This directly impacts low-income students' ability to afford college. The proposed investment in MAP is a giant step toward the goal of covering at least half of the average tuition and fees for low-income students while also serving more students.

Expanding the financial assistance of the MAP program to those working towards one of the thousands of shorter-term credentials not previously eligible for financial aid creates more opportunities for working adults. Expanded MAP eligibility will better allow this need-based financial aid program to meet Illinois residents wherever they are on their journey to economic empowerment.

● HEALTHCARE TRAINING PIPELINE ●

ICCTA supports the Governor's FY23 proposed budget recommending \$25 million to create a new **Pipeline for Advancement of Healthcare (PATH) Workforce program** to encourage and support Illinoisians to enter healthcare fields through our community colleges. The budget also includes additional \$2.8 million to encourage and support recruitment and retention of nurse professionals.

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