

**DIVERSIFYING HIGHER EDUCATION FACULTY IN ILLINOIS PROGRAM  
FISCAL YEAR 2009 SUPPLEMENTAL GRANT ALLOCATION**

**Submitted for:** Action.

**Summary:** This item recommends a supplemental allocation of the available fiscal year 2009 appropriation for grants authorized by the Diversifying Higher Education Faculty in Illinois Act. The Diversifying Higher Education Faculty in Illinois Program (DFI) provides financial assistance to minority students pursuing graduate and professional degrees at Illinois public and private institutions. The purpose of the DFI Program is to advance the goal of increasing the number of minority faculty and staff employed at Illinois colleges and universities.

Supplemental grant awards for current DFI fellows will be made through participating DFI institutions to provide additional financial support to approximately 137 DFI fellows, including supplemental awards for 97 continuing recipients and 40 new recipients.

**Action Requested:** That the Illinois Board of Higher Education hereby authorizes the Executive Director to allocate \$400,000 of fiscal year 2009 DFI funding and any additional funds that may become available to support supplemental awards for grants authorized by the statute and recommended by the DFI Program Board.



STATE OF ILLINOIS  
BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

**DIVERSIFYING HIGHER EDUCATION FACULTY IN ILLINOIS PROGRAM  
FISCAL YEAR 2009 SUPPLEMENTAL GRANT ALLOCATION**

The DFI Program provides financial awards to eligible minority students pursuing graduate and professional degrees at Illinois public and private institutions. As a condition of the award, recipients agree to accept a teaching or staff position at an Illinois higher education institution or governing board, or an education-related position in a state agency equal to the number of years that he or she was a participant in the grant program. The DFI Act authorized the Illinois Board of Higher Education to appoint a 21-member board to establish policies and procedures to administer the program. The Illinois Board of Higher Education staff provides program leadership and administrative services to support the DFI Program.

On June 3, 2008, the Illinois Board of Higher Education approved the allocation of \$2.4 million to support 153 grant awards to DFI fellows. Subsequent to that action, funding for the DFI Program was vetoed from the fiscal year 2009 state budget. On November 21, 2008, funding for the DFI Program was restored through the approval of a supplemental appropriation bill signed by the Governor. However, due to program attrition, 137 DFI fellows actually received awards totaling \$2.2 million.

As a result of the decrease in grant awards combined with a decrease in program administration costs, additional funding is available for increased financial awards to fellows. At its December 8, 2008, meeting, the DFI Program Board approved using the additional funds as supplemental grant awards to current DFI fellows. Supplemental grant awards may be used by DFI fellows to support continued professional development opportunities, continued academic training, and participation in academic discipline-based conferences.

The staff recommends adoption of the following resolution:

*The Illinois Board of Higher Education hereby authorizes the Executive Director to allocate \$400,000 of fiscal year 2009 DFI funding and any additional funds that may become available to support supplemental DFI awards for grants authorized by the statute and recommended by the DFI Program Board.*

