

**ILLINOIS BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION
FISCAL YEAR 2017 GRANT ALLOCATIONS**

Submitted for: Action.

Summary: This item requests approval to allocate two general grants in Fiscal Year 2017. On June 30, 2016, Governor Rauner signed into law Public Act 99-0524 as a Stop-Gap measure allocating a lump sum from the Education Assistance Fund (EAF) to the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) for Fiscal Year 2017 for costs associated with operational expenses, grants and programs administered by IBHE, but not including personal services. While the appropriation is for Fiscal Year 2017, it only gives authorization for costs incurred through December 31, 2016.

The Board is asked to approve funding as a general grant allocation of \$532,500 for the partial-year operations of University Center of Lake County (UCLC) and an allocation of \$97,000 for the MyCreditsTransfer program in order to avoid potential gaps in service in Fiscal Year 2017.

Action Requested: That the Illinois Board of Higher Education approves a general grant of \$532,500 for operations of University Center of Lake County and a general grant of \$97,000 to support the MyCreditsTransfer program.

STATE OF ILLINOIS
BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

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FISCAL YEAR 2017 GRANT ALLOCATIONS**

Background

On June 30, 2016, Governor Rauner signed into law Public Act 99-0524, a Stop-Gap measure allocating a lump sum of \$1,665,000 from the Education Assistance Fund (EAF) to the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) for operational expenses, grants and programs administered by IBHE, but not including personal services.¹ While this appropriation is effective for Fiscal Year 2017, it gives authorization for costs incurred only through December 31, 2016.² No grant entities were specifically identified in this lump sum appropriation.

The Governor's Office and General Assembly provided direction on the grant allocation for IBHE. Their aim is to provide expenditure authority for only those programs that are absolutely essential under a Stop-Gap budget. The following explains the suggested allocations:

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| \$97,000 | For a general grant for the MyCreditsTransfer program in order to continue basic operations of the program and to avoid potential gaps in service by providing partial funding of the statewide Transferology license and staffing support. Despite no state appropriation in Fiscal Year 2016, critical funding for the MyCreditsTransfer program was provided by the University of Illinois. In Fiscal Year 2015, a full year appropriation for this program was \$203,700. The MyCreditsTransfer program provides online academic transfer information to 186,000 unique users on behalf of all 12 public universities and all 48 community colleges. |
| \$532,500 | For a general grant for the operations of the University Center of Lake County (UCLC). This represents a half year's funding. State appropriations typically support approximately 55 percent of the operating budget for UCLC with other revenues derived from classroom rentals and fees to member institutions and income from catering and food service. The UCLC relied on its reserve funds to offset the shortfall of state appropriations in Fiscal Year 2016 for operations that provides for nine full-time staff and six part-time staff. The UCLC supports 130 degree and certificate programs serving nearly 1,850 enrolled students. |

¹ Article 149, Section 5, Public Act 99-0524.

² Article 149, Section 15 & Article 998, Section 1, Public Act 99-0524

Recommendations

Staff recommends adoption of the following resolution, pursuant to the administrative code on IBHE General Grant Programs (23 Ill. Adm. Code 1001.30). Where the appropriation appears to leave discretion in the allocation of grant funds to the Board, the Board shall determine the intent of the Governor and the General Assembly in passing the legislation and allocate grants accordingly.

That the Illinois Board of Higher Education hereby approves the allocation of two general grants from the available lump sum appropriation to the Board from the Education Assistance Fund for Fiscal Year 2017 as follows:

- *\$ 97,000 for MyCreditsTransfer Program; and*
- *\$532,500 for University Center of Lake County*