



Illinois Board of Higher Education

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Illinois Public and Private, Not-for-Profit, Higher Education Community
FROM: Ginger Ostro, Executive Director
DATE: October 25, 2022
RE: Request for Proposals: Addressing Student Housing Insecurity
Due Date: ~~November 21, 2022 @ 12:00pm~~ **Deadline extended to December 9, 2022 @ 12 pm**

The purpose of the End Student Housing Insecurity (ESHI) grants is to support institutions in implementing the Higher Education Housing and Opportunities Act¹. Institutions will designate Housing and Opportunities that are Useful for Students' Excellence (HOUSE) liaisons and expand support services and resources available to "students experiencing homelessness"¹ ("homeless students") and "students in care"¹ on their campuses. Consistent with Equity Strategy #1 in *A Thriving Illinois*², the proposed grant program would seek to address homelessness and housing insecurity in holistic and transformational ways so students can focus on completing their degrees. Priority will be given to proposals that foster innovation and collaboration across campus units, community organizations, and education systems to address the root causes of homelessness and support students in their transition to and through higher education.

Eligible Institutions: Illinois public and non-profit, independent four-year institutions or two-year graduate-level institutions holding accreditation from the Higher Learning Commission.

Grant Period: The anticipated grant period will be January 1, 2023 to June 30, 2023.

Grant Funding: Institutions may apply for grants in the amount required to implement the initiatives within the term of the grant. IBHE anticipates funding grants at a maximum of \$50,000.

Grants to institutions will be supported through funds provided in a grant to the Illinois Board of Higher Education from the Illinois Department of Human Services (CSFA Number 444-80-2937).

Application Deadline: The application materials must be submitted via email to ESHI@ibhe.org. Applications must be received by 12:00 pm on ~~November 21, 2022~~ **December 9, 2022** to be considered for funding.

Contact Person: For more information on this application, send inquiries to ESHI@ibhe.org.

¹ [PA 102-0083](#)

² [A Thriving Illinois](#): Higher Education Paths to Equity, Sustainability, and Growth (2021)

Background and Program Specifications

The Illinois Board of Higher Education is offering a competitive grant opportunity to Illinois' public and non-profit, independent four-year or two-year graduate-level institutions holding accreditation from the Higher Learning Commission.

The purpose of the End Student Housing Insecurity (ESHI) grants is to support institutions in implementing the Higher Education Housing and Opportunities Act³. Institutions will designate Housing and Opportunities that are Useful for Students' Excellence (HOUSE) liaisons and expand support services and resources available to "students experiencing homelessness"¹ ("homeless students") and "students in care"¹ on their campuses. Consistent with Equity Strategy #1 in *A Thriving Illinois*⁴, the proposed grant program will seek to address homelessness and housing insecurity in holistic and transformational ways so students can focus on completing their degrees. Priority will be given to proposals that foster innovation and collaboration across campus units, community organizations, and education systems to address the root causes of homelessness and support homeless students and students in care in their transition to and through higher education.

Grant Priority

During the review process, priority will be given to institutions which enroll student populations that predominantly include a combination of the following:

- Low income as defined by Map-recipient
- Underrepresented (e.g., African American, Hispanic/Latinx)

Funding Allowances

Funding may be used to support target initiatives that address the root causes of homelessness and support homeless students and students in care in their transition to and through higher education.

A non-exhaustive list of potential uses of grant funds:

- Training for HOUSE liaisons in the services and resources available (financial and otherwise) to homeless students and students in care
- Partnerships with local K-12 schools or community organizations to facilitate the transition for homeless students and students in care into higher education and provide resources and support along the way
- Focus groups to understand better the needs of homeless students and students in care
- Collaboration across campus units (financial aid, enrollment management, career services, counseling center, etc.) to create programs and services that will prevent and end homelessness
- Efforts to increase awareness of financial aid and other resources, services available to homeless students and students in care, and eliminate barriers to accessing them
- Other programs and services directed at serving the unique needs of homeless students and students in care

³ [PA 102-0083](#)

⁴ [A Thriving Illinois](#): *Higher Education Paths to Equity, Sustainability, and Growth* (2021)

Review of Proposals

Proposals will be reviewed, scored according to the rubric below, and selected by a committee convened by the Illinois Board of Higher Education. All applicants will be notified of the panel’s recommendations via an email message to each institution’s primary grant contact.

Submitted the Required Documents:

- Uniform Application for State Grant Assistance – **Attachment 1**
- Proposal Narrative – **Attachment 2**
- A Grant Budget with narrative descriptions of each line and signed certification statement – **Attachment 3**

Institutional Eligibility:

- Public University or Independent, Non-Profit 4-year institution or 2-year graduate-level institution in Illinois: YES NO
- Higher Learning Commission accreditation
(*Institution provides statement or support for accreditation*) YES NO

If any of the above is NO, the institution is not eligible for the grant.

GRANT PRIORITIES	MAX. POINTS
Institution fulfills the purpose of the grant in the following ways:	
High need as defined by Map-receipt (5 points for every quartile of Map students served)	15
Extent to which the institution’s <i>domestic</i> student population includes members of the following underrepresented groups (5 points for every quartile) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • African American • Hispanic/Latinx • Asian • Native Hawaiian, other Pacific 	15
Proposed program will facilitate the work of HOUSE liaisons to offer assistance and resources to homeless students and students in care.	15
Proposed program is integrated into existing institutional strategies/approaches to supporting historically underrepresented students.	15
Proposed program fosters innovation and collaboration across campus units, community organizations, and/or education systems.	10
Proposed program is research based and data informed.	10
Strength of institution’s plan to evaluate the success of these initiatives in terms of the enrollment, retention, and completion outcomes of the identified student population(s) over the long term (not necessarily within the term of the grant).	10
Strength of institution’s plan to use this grant to create systemic institutional change that will live on past the grant period.	10
TOTAL SCORE	<u>100</u>

Proposal Format

Each proposal must be submitted in the format outlined below. Please review the attachments carefully. The following may be used as a checklist in assembling your completed proposal.

1. **Uniform Application for State Grant Assistance (Attachment 1):**

This form must be completed, dated, and signed by the President/CEO of the fiscal agent.

2. **Proposal Narrative (Attachment 2):**

Limit to 5-7 double spaced pages. Within the proposal narrative, please explain how the proposed program:

- will facilitate the work of HOUSE liaisons to offer assistance and resources to homeless students and students in care;
- is integrated into existing institutional strategies/approaches to supporting historically underrepresented students;
- fosters innovation and collaboration across campus units, community organizations, and/or education systems; and
- is research based and data informed.

In addition (within the same 5-7 pages), describe the institution's plan to

- evaluate the success of these initiatives in terms of the enrollment, retention, and completion outcomes of the identified student population(s) over the long term (not necessarily within the term of the grant), and
- create systemic institutional change that will live on past the grant period.

3. **A Grant Budget with narrative descriptions of each line (Attachment 3):**

Complete the budget template for each category including a detailed narrative of the estimated expenditures in the budgeted category. Sign the certification statement indicating your institution is eligible for this grant program based on the criteria listed above.

Items #4 to #5 are for informational purposes only and not required as part of the request for proposal submission.

4. **Project, Expenditure Reporting and Grant Payments:**

Each grantee will be required to submit project and expenditure reports. The reports will describe the progress of the project in carrying out the activities described in the proposal. The anticipated submission and period of these reports will be the following:

<u>Project Period</u>	<u>Submission Due Date</u>
Period 1 – January 1 to March 31, 2022	April 30, 2023
Period 2 – April 1 to June 30, 2023	Expenditure report by July 14
Close-out Report Due (narrative and financial)	July 31, 2023

Uniform Grant Agreement Sample (Attachment 4):

This is a sample of the agreement that will be used between the IBHE and grantee. This is not required to be completed and submitted with the request for proposal.

