

**APPROVED**  
**JUNE 9, 2020**

Item #G-10  
June 9, 2020

**ILLINOIS COOPERATIVE WORK STUDY GRANT  
FISCAL YEAR 2021 AWARDS**

**Submitted for:** Action.

**Summary:** This item requests approval for the Executive Director to allocate the Illinois Cooperative Work Study, pending an appropriation of funding for Fiscal Year 2021.

The Illinois Cooperative Work Study (ICWS) Program provides grants to public and nonpublic colleges and universities to support education-related work experiences that benefit students academically and financially. Colleges and universities, in cooperation with public and not-for-profit agencies and private companies, provide paid work experiences to Illinois college and university students. The ICWS program supports Goal 2 of the *Public Agenda* by allowing students to reduce their reliance on student loans while providing a link between academic programs and employment. The ICWS program supports Goal 3 of the *Public Agenda* by prioritizing work study opportunities for students seeking degrees in high-demand fields. Finally, the ICWS program supports Goal 4 of the *Public Agenda* by increasing the pool of funds for job training, which can result in businesses expansions in Illinois and full-time employment for students after graduation.

**Action Requested:** That the Illinois Board of Higher Education hereby authorizes the Executive Director to allocate the anticipated Fiscal Year 2021 appropriation for the Illinois Cooperative Work Study Grants to eligible ICWS program applicants.

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

**ILLINOIS COOPERATIVE WORK STUDY GRANT  
FISCAL YEAR 2021**

The Illinois Cooperative Work Study Program was established in 1991 to support student cooperative work study programs. The Board of Higher Education administers the program and makes grants to public and nonpublic institutions of higher education.

Grants will be awarded for proposals submitted based on evaluation criteria included in the administrative rules. Proposals are requested for projects that will:

- benefit students academically and financially;
- reduce reliance on student loans;
- enhance public-private sector partnerships; and
- encourage students to seek permanent employment in Illinois.

Grants shall be made for projects that support Illinois resident undergraduate students. In addition, the Board shall consider whether the projects:

- expand opportunities for students to pursue internships, clinical placement, cooperative programs with business and industry, and other work opportunities linked to a student's academic program;
- strengthen cooperation between higher education, business, industry, and government;
- encourage social and community service;
- maximize the use of matching contributions from business and industry, and governmental and social agencies;
- create new opportunities for public/private partnerships;
- integrate other components of student financial aid to reduce reliance on student loans; and
- encourage students to seek permanent employment in Illinois.

Within the project narrative and goals and objectives, institutions must demonstrate how these objectives will be achieved.

The grant application was released to the public on February 27, 2020, with an original closing date of April 30, 2020. However due to the COVID-19 crisis, the grant deadline was extended to June 1, 2020. The anticipated term of the grant will be July 1, 2020 to August 31, 2021. The grant application can be viewed on the IBHE website at <https://www.ibhe.org/icws.html>.

IBHE staff will review and recommend awards for qualifying entities. Details on the grant awards will be provided to Board members at the next meeting after a fiscal year 2021 budget is approved. For reference, the Fiscal Year 2020 appropriation was \$980,500.

## **Recommendation**

The staff recommends the adoption of the following resolution:

*The Illinois Board of Higher Education hereby authorizes the Executive Director to allocate the anticipated Fiscal Year 2021 appropriation for the Illinois Cooperative work Study Grant as specified by statute and administrative rule. The Board authorizes the Executive Director to:*

- 1) *Continue to monitor and determine eligibility of institutions pursuant to the statute (110 ILCS 225 ) and the rules implementing that statute (23 Ill. Adm. Code 1015 );*
- 2) *To withhold payment or adjust a grant allocation, if necessary, to conform to existing statute, rule, or available funding or to assure compliance with any previous grant agreements;*
- 3) *Equitably distribute grant awards to eligible ICWS institutions:*
  - a. *Expand opportunities for students to pursue internships, clinical placement, cooperative programs with business and industry, and other work opportunities linked to a student's academic program;*
  - b. *Strengthen cooperation between higher education, business, industry, and government;*
  - c. *Encourage social and community service;*
  - d. *Maximize the use of matching contributions from business and industry and governmental and social agencies;*
  - e. *Create new opportunities for public/private partnerships;*
  - f. *Integrate other components of student financial aid to reduce reliance on student loans; and*
  - g. *Encourage students to seek permanent employment in Illinois.*
- 4) *Re-allocate funds between projects, fund other projects as necessary, and allocate any remaining funds at the end of the fiscal year.*