

**APPROVED**  
**JUNE 8, 2021**

June 8, 2021

**ILLINOIS COOPERATIVE WORK STUDY GRANT  
FISCAL YEAR 2022 GRANT ALLOCATIONS**

**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 2022.

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 will allow students to depend less on student loans by constructing a bridge between academic programs at Illinois postsecondary institutions and significant but student-sensitive employment. Through the ICWS program, work-study opportunities will be prioritized for students seeking degrees in fields where there is a high demand for specialized knowledge and skills, as well as STEM professions. Lastly, the ICWS program seeks to expand funding for job training. This is an essential component of the program because it would stimulate growth for Illinois businesses, and thereby offer more full-time employment opportunities for graduating postsecondary students.

**Action Requested:** That the Illinois Board of Higher Education hereby authorizes the Executive Director to allocate the anticipated Fiscal Year 2022 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 2022 GRANT ALLOCATIONS**

The Illinois Cooperative Work Study (ICWS) Program was established in 1991 to support student cooperative work-study programs. The Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) oversees the program and distributes grants to public and nonpublic postsecondary institutions of higher learning.

The primary objective of the ICWS program is to support Illinois resident and undergraduate students. In keeping with that objective, IBHE will look for proposals and projects with practical goals to:

- Create, develop and improve opportunities for internships, clinical placement, cooperative programs with business and industry, and other prospective work in alignment with a student's academic program;
- Ensure equitable policies and practices are inherent in the proposed project or program;
- Strengthen cooperation between higher education, business, industry, and government;
- Promote social and community service;
- Expand matching contributions from business and industry, as well as governmental and social agencies;
- Develop partnerships and collaborations between Illinois' public and private sectors;
- Integrate other components of student financial aid to reduce reliance on student loans;
- Establish sound and innovative practices that motivate students to stay and seek employment in Illinois upon graduation.

Grants will be awarded based on the evaluation criteria of ICWS' administrative guidelines, with primary consideration given to institutions whose proposals most closely align with the program's objectives. Institutions with proposals that address the above-mentioned objectives must delineate how these objectives will be achieved within their proposal.

Details regarding grant awards will be provided to Board members at the next meeting and after a Fiscal Year 2022 budget is approved. For reference, the Fiscal Year 2021 appropriation was \$980,500.

The anticipated term of the grant will be July 1, 2021 to August 31, 2022. The grant application can be viewed on the IBHE website at <https://www.ibhe.org/icws.html>.

Grant applications were released to the public on March 3, 2021 with a closing date of April 30, 2021.

## 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 2022 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) Distribute equitably all 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.