

APPROVED
June 26, 2024

Melissa Bealon
Board Secretary Melissa Bealon

Item #G-1
June 26, 2024

STATE OF ILLINOIS
BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Submitted for: Action.

Summary: This item requests approval to grant the Executive Director authority to enter into Fiscal Year 2025 agreements and take necessary steps to implement the Fiscal Year 2025 budget

Action Requested: That the Illinois Board of Higher Education approves and authorizes the Executive Director to award the Fiscal Year 2025 grants and implement programs for the following items included in the Fiscal Year operating budget.

- Ending Student Homelessness and Housing Insecurity
- Behavioral Health Workforce Center
- Mental Health Early Action on Campus
- High-Poverty University Grants
- Common Application Implementation, Analysis, and University Allocations
- Illinois Tutoring Initiative
- Grow Your Own Teacher Program Historically Disadvantaged Male Initiative
- Grow Your Own Teacher Education Initiative
- Diversifying Higher Education Faculty in Illinois
- Nurse Educator Fellowships
- Nursing School Grants
- Creating Pathways and Access for Student Success
- University Center of Lake County
- Illinois Cooperative Work Study Grant
- Illinois Math and Science Academy STEM Fusion
- MyCredits Transfer
- Quad Cities Graduate Studies Center
- Sexual Misconduct on Campus Climate Survey
- HOPE Chicago
- Re-Engaging Adults Grants
- University of Illinois-UI Health Capital Grant

STATE OF ILLINOIS
BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

FISCAL YEAR 2025 BUDGET IMPLEMENTATION AND GRANT ALLOCATIONS

Summary

IBHE received Fiscal Year 2025 appropriations to support grants and programs aligned with *A Thriving Illinois*. This item requests approval to develop and enter into agreements to implement the Fiscal Year 2025 budget, including all appropriated operating and capital grants and programs, including:

- Ending Student Homelessness and Housing Insecurity
- Behavioral Health Workforce Center
- Mental Health Early Action on Campus
- High-Poverty University Grants
- Common Application Implementation, Analysis, and University Allocations
- Illinois Tutoring Initiative
- Grow Your Own Teacher Program Historically Disadvantaged Male Initiative
- Grow Your Own Teacher Education Initiative
- Diversifying Higher Education Faculty in Illinois
- Nurse Educator Fellowships
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Recommendation

The staff recommends the adoption of the following resolution:

The Illinois Board of Higher Education hereby authorizes the Executive Director to implement the Fiscal Year 2025 budget as specified in this Board item.

The Board additionally authorizes the Executive Director to:

- 1. Enter into agreements necessary to facilitate implementation of the Fiscal Year 2025 budget;*
- 2. Continue and amend Fiscal Year 2024 agreements, as necessary, to execute the Fiscal Year 2025 budget;*
- 3. Issue requests for proposals and enter into agreements stemming from those proposals, as outlined in this Board item; and*
- 4. Award Fiscal Year 2025 grants and implement programs, as outlined in this Board item.*

ENDING STUDENT HOMELESSNESS AND HOUSING INSECURITY FISCAL YEAR 2025

The higher education strategic plan, A Thriving Illinois, recognizes that to close equity gaps we must support students' ability to persist at institutions of higher education by ensuring students' basic needs are met. Housing is one of the most basic needs, and this funding will support the implementation of this strategy.

Beginning in August 2022, the Higher Education Housing and Opportunities Act (110 ILCS 131/) requires all institutions of higher education (IHEs) to appoint a homelessness liaison, to give students experiencing homelessness priority in applying for on-campus housing, to make housing available to these students during breaks (where available), and to track and report data on students experiencing homelessness to IBHE.

In Fiscal Year 2023, IBHE received \$2 million from the Illinois Department of Human Services to aid the agency and the higher education institutions in addressing homelessness and housing insecurity. The Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) created the End Student Housing Insecurity (ESHI) grant which was awarded to 11 public and private four-year institutions. In Fiscal Year 2024, these funds were appropriated directly to IBHE. In November 2023, IBHE awarded ten ESHI Grants with amounts expanded to up to \$200,000 per institution.

In Fiscal Year 2025, IBHE was once again appropriated \$2 million. IBHE will continue to use these funds to provide ESHI grant funding to address the root causes of homelessness and basic needs insecurity among universities and support IBHE in its continued implementation of the Higher Education Housing and Opportunities Act, including HOUSE Liaison training, annual HOUSE Liaison reporting, and a conference for HOUSE Liaisons.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH WORKFORCE CENTER FISCAL YEAR 2025

On March 8, 2023, Governor JB Pritzker along with state and local officials celebrated the launch of the Behavioral Health Workforce Center (BHWc). The BHWc is funded by the Division of Mental Health at the Department of Human Services (DHS) and administered by IBHE. Using a hub and spoke model, the BHWc is physically structured with Southern Illinois University School of Medicine (SIU SOM) contracted as the primary hub and the University of Illinois Chicago (UIC) contracted as the secondary hub. An Executive Committee comprised of state agency leaders and the two hub institutions provide oversight to the daily operations of the Center. A statewide advisory council and seven behavioral health practitioner workgroups also provide input for BHWc programs and services.

Activities of the BHWc are organized into the following categories: 1) Policy recommendations that address structural and policy barriers to recruitment, training, and retention; 2) Statewide and program specific data collection to understand and make recommendations for behavioral health workforce shortages, education and training needs, and retention issues; 3) Professional development and training initiatives to increase retention of behavioral health providers and quality of care; 4) Diversity and equity initiatives to increase the number and diversity of behavioral health workers across the state; and 5) Increase the capacity of primary

care physicians, physician assistant, pharmacists, nurses, and other healthcare professionals to meet behavioral health and substance use needs in primary health care settings.

As a priority for Fiscal Year 2025, spokes of the Center's hub and spoke model will expand by involving the public universities and community colleges in projects and activities of the BWHC. Five new project teams will be launched in Fiscal Year 2025 focusing on the following areas related to behavioral health talent and workforce development:

- Career Awareness and Development;
- Behavioral Health Education and Career Pathways;
- Access and Affordability;
- Building a Diverse Behavioral Health Workforce; and
- Policy Changes that Impact the Profession.

Project team members will include behavioral health faculty, academic program leaders, and others representing Illinois public universities and community colleges.

These purposes and priorities are congruent with the goals and strategies of the higher education strategic plan, "A Thriving Illinois." These include:

- Growth Strategy 3 – Align the state's economic development and higher education strategies, ensuring both address historic inequities;
- Growth Strategy 6 – Expand higher education models of teaching and learning that provide opportunity for students to succeed in the work of the future; and
- Equity Strategy 4 – Attract working adults through outreach and supports specifically for them.

Through the Illinois Department of Human Services, the Behavioral Health Workforce Center was funded with an initial investment of \$4,436,653 in Fiscal Year 2023. The same amount was allocated to continue the work in Fiscal Year 2024 and now for Fiscal Year 2025. Appropriation authority sufficient to spend these funds is included in the IBHE Fiscal Year 2025 appropriation.

MENTAL HEALTH EARLY ACTION ON CAMPUS AND MENTAL HEALTH TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTER FISCAL YEAR 2025

The Mental Health Early Action on Campus Act (110 ILCS 58; MHEAC or the Act), was passed by the Illinois General Assembly and became effective on July 1, 2020. The Act was created to address gaps in mental health services on college campuses across Illinois through training, peer support, and community-campus partnerships.

The Act includes five major initiatives to be developed on all community college and public university campuses in the State as follows:

1. Identify students in need of services and connect them to services;
2. Increase access to services and support;
3. Increase access to clinical service on campus and in surrounding communities;
4. Develop peer support services and training for students; and
5. Provide technical assistance and training to reduce administrative barriers and undue burden on students.

IBHE is charged in the Act with establishing the MHEAC Technical Assistance Center (TAC) to serve all community colleges and the public universities. The following goals of the TAC are the priorities and actions outlined in the Act:

1. Develop standardized policies for medical leave related to mental health conditions for students at a public college or university;
2. Provide tailored support to public colleges or universities in reviewing policies related to students living with mental health conditions and their academic standing;
3. Establish initial standards for policies and procedures to ensure consistency in how each college or university advises students, faculty and staff on proper procedures for identifying and addressing student needs, increase knowledge and understanding of student legal protections, and provide training as needed;
4. Disseminate best practices for peer support programs;
5. Develop statewide standards and best practices for partnerships between campus services and local mental health agencies;
6. Collect, analyze, and disseminate mental health needs data and academic engagement;
7. Collect, analyze, and disseminate best practices related to Section 50 housing data;
8. Monitor and evaluate linkage agreements between colleges and community-based mental health agencies to ensure referral processes; and
9. Facilitate a learning community to support capacity building and learning across all colleges and universities.

The total Fiscal Year 2024 MHEAC budget for the TAC and for grants awarded to public universities was \$3,382,900. In both Fiscal Year 2023 and Fiscal Year 2024 MHEAC budgets, the allocations per university, the TAC, and to IBHE were specified in the budget. In contrast, a lump sum of \$7 million for MHEAC has been allocated to IBHE for Fiscal Year 2025 that includes funding for the TAC, the IBHE, and a request to develop and administer a grant process for awarding MHEAC funds to the public universities. Plans, budgets, and a grant proposal process are in development in collaboration with the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) for grants to the community colleges.

HIGH POVERTY UNIVERSITY GRANTS FISCAL YEAR 2025

The Fiscal Year 2024 budget includes \$3,000,000 for grants to public universities that have over 55 percent of their students receive Pell grants. In Fiscal Year 2024, IBHE distributed these funds using a model similar to the equity-based Pell model used in the IBHE public university budget recommendations. This same methodology will be used in Fiscal Year 2025. These funds can be used to provide academic, social emotional learning, basic needs, or other student support.

COMMON APPLICATION IMPLEMENTATION, ANALYSIS AND UNIVERSITY ALLOCATIONS FISCAL YEAR 2025

The Illinois higher education strategic plan – A Thriving Illinois – outlines strategies to close equity gaps, build a stronger financial future, and increase talent and innovation to drive economic growth. One of the strategies to achieve these goals is to retain Illinois high school graduates in the state for college. To retain and smooth students' transition from high school to college, all Illinois

public universities began using the Common Application (Common App) as the portal for admissions applications in Academic Year 2021-22. The Common App is a national portal that allows students to submit information one time and apply to multiple institutions of higher education with that one submission. Almost 1,000 colleges are Common App members.

At the time Illinois joined, it was only the second state in the nation to have all public universities part of the Common App. High school seniors in Illinois and nationally can submit information to the Common App and apply to any or all Illinois public universities, allowing prospective students to apply to as many state universities as they wish with a single application.

Overall, Illinois public universities experienced a nearly 35 percent increase in application volume since the first 2021 application season, representing over 52,000 additional applicants. In addition to an increase in application volume, there has been a rapid and substantial shift in the use of the Common App among individuals applying to Illinois public universities. As shown in Table 1, applications submitted through the Common App now account for almost 90 percent of the total application volume at Illinois public universities.

Table 1: Total Applications and Common App Application Volume for All Illinois Public Universities

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total Applications	138,281	144,117	147,050	189,781	199,535
Common App End of Season Volume	24,401	38,759	141,226	162,178	178,654
% of Total Application Volume from Common App	17.6%	26.9%	96.0%	85.5%	89.5%

**Source: IPEDS Admissions Survey 2019-2023 & Common App Data Reports*

To defray Common App costs for public universities and to collect and analyze the data, IBHE received an appropriation for \$1.45 million in Fiscal Year 2025, which is an increase of \$450,000 from Fiscal Year 2024. The increase in funding will allow public institutions to utilize the Common App for transfer applications from community college students in addition to first-time applications.

ILLINOIS TUTORING INITIATIVE FISCAL YEAR 2025

The Illinois Tutoring Initiative was one of four statewide strategies for educational recovery from COVID-19 contained in the P-20 Council's Learning Renewal Resource Guide. The Illinois Tutoring Initiative (ITI) involves collaborative partnerships between public universities, community colleges, and since the ITI began in July of 2021, ITI has proudly seen over 1,300 tutors serve over 6,000 students in more than 150 schools across 72 districts, with tutoring sessions continuing through summer 2024. Analysis of assessment data from participating students during Academic Year 2022-23 revealed that over 85 percent of tutored students met or exceeded expected growth in mathematics and 80 percent in reading from fall to spring.

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) has budgeted \$28.034 million over the course of three years through September 30, 2024. Appropriation authority sufficient for the first quarter of Fiscal Year 2025 is included in the IBHE appropriation.

**GROW YOUR OWN TEACHER PROGRAM
HISTORICALLY DISADVANTAGED MALE INITIATIVE
FISCAL YEAR 2025**

The Grow Your Own Teacher Education Initiative (GYO) is designed to recruit and prepare parent and community leaders and para-educators statewide to become effective teachers 1) in hard-to-staff schools serving a substantial percentage of low-income students, and 2) in hard-to-staff teaching positions in schools serving a substantial percentage of low-income students. A study by the Center for American Progress found that “students of color are more likely to progress academically when taught by teachers of color who share similar cultural experiences while serving as role model.” The program is operated through Grow Your Own Illinois.

The Historically Disadvantaged Males Initiative (HDMI) focuses on helping recruit, mentor and retain males of color in classrooms. As noted previously, there is a shortage of teachers of color, relative to the proportion of students of color in elementary and secondary education. The proportion of males of color is particularly low. This initiative is currently based in Chicago and Lake County.

A total appropriation of \$1,033,700 was allocated for the program for Fiscal Years 2023 and 2024 from the State Coronavirus Urgent Remediation Emergency (CURE) Fund. These funds originate from Section 9901 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA). The Fiscal Year 2025 budget contains \$300,000, with the program set to sunset by September 30, 2024.

**GROW YOUR OWN (GYO) TEACHER EDUCATION INITIATIVE
FISCAL YEAR 2025**

The Grow Your Own Teacher Education Initiative (GYO) is designed to recruit and prepare parent and community leaders and para-educators statewide to become effective teachers 1) in hard-to-staff schools serving a substantial percentage of low-income students, and 2) in hard-to-staff teaching positions in schools serving a substantial percentage of low-income students. A study by the Center for American Progress found that “students of color are more likely to progress academically when taught by teachers of color who share similar cultural experiences while serving as role model.” The program is operated through Grow Your Own Illinois.

GYO Illinois is responsible for all grant operational activity and expenditures along with the grant application and management process. The Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) maintains the responsibility for the contracting of the independent evaluator of the grant program, as outlined in statute. The Fiscal Year 2025 appropriation will remain at the Fiscal Year 2024 level of \$6,000,000. Of this, IBHE can set aside a portion of funds for the contracting of the independent evaluator and Grant Accountability and Transparency Act expenses. The remaining amount of the appropriation and any amounts not needed for the evaluation will be granted to Grow Your Own Illinois for funding of the grant activities.

**DIVERSIFYING HIGHER EDUCATION FACULTY IN ILLINOIS PROGRAM
FISCAL YEAR 2024**

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

The application process for Fiscal Year 2025 was opened to students in December 2023. A total of approximately 130 applications were submitted for this year. On May 20, 2024, the DFI Board approved recommendations for Fiscal Year 2025 Fellow awards with the \$2.050 million allocation. Of this, \$36,200 will be withheld for use toward professional development/orientation activities for the Fellows, or any other related expenses that may arise.

The DFI Board and IBHE staff recommend funding for the 115 selected DFI fellows as follows:

- \$16,000 for 26 New Fellow Master's degree candidates.
- \$17,500 for 8 Renewal Fellow Master's degree candidates.
- \$18,000 for 81 New and Renewal Doctoral Fellow candidates.

Table 2 provides an overview of participating institutions, and their Fellow breakdowns.

Table 2: Diversifying Higher Education Faculty in Illinois Distribution of Fiscal Year 2025 Awards

Institution	New	Renewal	Total	Masters	Doctoral
Adler University	2	3	5	0	5
DePaul University	3	2	5	3	2
Eastern Illinois University	3	1	4	4	0
Governors State University	4	3	7	3	4
Illinois Institute of Technology	0	1	1	0	1
Illinois State University	1	3	4	1	3
Loyola University	2	3	5	2	3
National Lewis University	1	2	3	1	2
Northeastern Illinois University	5	1	6	6	0
Northern Illinois University	5	4	9	1	8
Roosevelt University	6	5	11	7	4
Southern Illinois University Carbondale	2	3	5	0	5
University of Chicago	0	1	1	0	1
University of Illinois Springfield	0	1	1	1	0
University of Illinois Chicago	13	21	34	4	30
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign	8	6	14	1	13
Total	55	60	115	34	81

**NURSE EDUCATOR FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM
FISCAL YEAR 2025**

The Nurse Educator Fellowship program is designed to retain well-qualified nursing faculty at public and private institutions of higher education in Illinois that award degrees leading to initial licensure as a Registered Nurse. Demand for professionals in healthcare settings, and specifically nurses with advanced degrees and credentials, means that colleges and universities face stiff competition in retaining Nursing faculty in the current labor market. This is especially true considering the impact of the pandemic on the profession and the demographics of the profession related to age and retirements.

The Nurse Educator Fellowship addresses the faculty-retention challenge and advances Equity Strategy 3 of “A Thriving Illinois”, to increase and retain a diverse faculty and staff of color as well as support the learning and success of underserved student populations in higher education. As part of the process of reviewing applications for the fellowship, consideration is given for the proportion of nursing students who are African American, Latinx, low-income, first-generation, from rural communities, working adults, or students with disabilities and the institution’s success in reducing equity gaps in nursing student enrollment and graduation. The program also supports the Growth goal to align the state’s higher education programs with employer needs and the needs of individuals to advance their professional skills. Nurse educators current in their profession are crucial for maintaining higher education programs that prepare future nurses for a wide range of healthcare settings in the state.

Fellows are selected through a competitive process based upon review of nomination materials and a personal statement. Applicants must describe how they will use fellowships funds to support their own professional learning, scholarship, or other endeavors as nurse educators to improve the preparation of future nurses. The IBHE incorporates equity in the application process by providing additional consideration to applicants teaching in institutions that enroll higher percentages of students who have been traditionally underserved, as well as advancing equity in their programs through a variety of student support initiatives.

The fellowship is a one-year salary supplement that may be used for expenses related to professional development and continuing education at the discretion of the Fellow.

Fellows conclude the program with a presentation and discussion with the Advisory Board members of the Illinois Nursing Workforce Center. A final abstract is also due that describes their fellowship experience.

The Fiscal Year 2024 budget for this program was doubled to \$800,000. Funding at this level has been maintained for the Fiscal Year 2025 fellowship program appropriation to the IBHE. The names of the fellows and nominating institutions will once again be provided to the Board once the proposal and award processes are completed.

NURSING SCHOOL GRANT PROGRAM FISCAL YEAR 2025

The Nursing School Grant program is designed to address the nursing shortage in Illinois by increasing the number of nurses graduating from Illinois institutions of higher learning. Funds are used to expand and improve nursing programs leading to initial licensure as a Registered Nurse (RN) or programs for RNs leading to the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN). Nursing schools submit proposals to improve or expand existing nursing programs using strategies supported by current

research and best practices. Grant funds may be used for developing and expanding instructional programs and modalities, expanding academic support services, hiring and retaining nursing faculty and staff, improving classroom and lab spaces, acquiring new instructional equipment and materials, and other related uses to improve teaching and learning as well as student retention, graduation, and preparation for entry into the profession.

The Nursing School Grant program advances the higher education strategic plan, “A Thriving Illinois,” and aligns with these Growth strategies:

- Growth Strategy 3, by aligning the State’s economic development and higher education strategies, ensuring both address historic inequities;
- Growth Strategy 6 to expand higher education teaching and learning models that provide opportunity for students to succeed in the work of the future; and
- Growth Strategy 8: Strengthen the statewide, coordinated transfer system to ensure students have seamless paths to build on previous academic learning and earn postsecondary credentials.

Illinois institutions wanting to apply for this grant must offer undergraduate or graduate Nursing degree programs that are approved by the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation (IDFPR) and accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) or by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE). Applicants must provide disaggregated data about the enrollment, retention, completion, and job placement rates of their students during a multi-year period. They must also show how grant funds will be used to enhance their program’s efforts to close equity gaps and improve student success. Applications are reviewed and grants are awarded on a competitive basis.

Last year (Fiscal Year 2024), the appropriation was doubled to \$1,500,000 and the same funding has been appropriated to the IBHE for Fiscal Year 2025. The names of the nursing schools and their projects funded by the grant will be provided to the Board after the proposal and award processes are completed.

CREATING PATHWAYS AND ACCESS FOR STUDENT SUCCESS (CPASS) FISCAL YEAR 2025

The CPASS program provides intervention strategies to enhance academic and counseling supports to underrepresented students seeking to be professionals in medicine, osteopathy, dentistry, veterinary science, optometry, pharmacy, podiatry, and public health. CPASS operates within the Public Health Institute of Metropolitan Chicago.

The program provides academic reinforcement in mathematics and science; standardized test preparation; focused clinical, research, and public policy internships; and highly individualized career counseling for all program participants at grade levels extending from middle school through the post baccalaureate years.

The goals of the CPASS program include:

- Enhanced capacity for recruitment to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields and to increase underrepresented student participation in STEM programs throughout the Chicago metropolitan area; and
- Addressing, developing, and supporting comprehensive assessment of objectives, program partners, and service populations that will lead to the development of program initiatives that broaden the effectiveness and ability to reach a more expanded population in the Chicago metropolitan area and the State of Illinois.

The Fiscal Year 2025 budget includes \$1,433,600 for the CPASS program.

UNIVERSITY CENTER OF LAKE COUNTY FISCAL YEAR 2025

Established by IBHE in 1998, the University Center of Lake County (Center) provides access to individuals in the Lake County region to complete bachelor's and graduate degrees, as well as advanced professional development programs. Nearly \$25 million in county, state, and federal funds were used to construct and open permanent facilities in Waukegan and Grayslake in 2004 and 2005, respectively. The creation of the University Center was a strategic decision made by the IBHE after much research. In early studies and through more than 15 years of experience, the University Center delivery model has shown that it allows the most opportunity and the greatest access to high-quality higher education programs in a cost-effective way. Many state and foreign representatives have visited to learn more about this successful national model.

Today, the Center is a consortium of approximately 12 public and private institutions. As of December 2022, these include: Concordia University Chicago, DePaul University, Dominican University, National Louis University, North Park University, Northeastern Illinois University, Northern Illinois University, St. Augustine College, Southern Illinois University-Carbondale, Southern Illinois University- Edwardsville, University of Illinois Springfield, and University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. Collectively, these institutions offer more than 110 degree and certificate programs, as well as professional development courses in Business, Education and Social Services, Social Science, Computer Science, Information Technology, Cybersecurity, Engineering, Healthcare, Hospitality, Human Services, Legal Studies, and the Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Students apply to and graduate from an individual college or university offering fully-accredited degrees. Academic standards and quality are rigorously maintained by the faculty of each college or university. Classes are scheduled in a variety of delivery formats that appeal to adult learners: evenings and weekends, face-to-face, online, blended, and interactive video.

The University Center of Lake County advances the goals of “A Thriving Illinois.” Specifically:

- Equity Strategy 4 – Attract working adults through outreach and supports specifically for them; and
- Growth Strategy 6 – Expand higher education models of teaching and learning that provide opportunity for students to succeed in the work of the future.

IBHE received a Fiscal Year 2025 appropriation of \$1,055,700 for the University Center of Lake County.

ILLINOIS COOPERATIVE WORK STUDY GRANT FISCAL YEAR 2025

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

- 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, with a particular emphasis on students who have historically been underrepresented in higher education;
- Strengthen cooperation between higher education, business, industry, and government;

- Encourage social and community service;
- Promote equitable outcomes for all students;
- Provide a diverse, inclusive environment;
- 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.

Grants are awarded based on the evaluation criteria of ICWS' administrative guidelines. Grant applications were released on April 30, 2024, with a closing date of June 14, 2024.

The Fiscal Year 2025 appropriation is \$980,500. Details regarding grant awards will be provided to the Board once grantees have been finalized.

ILLINOIS MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE ACADEMY FUSION PROGRAM FISCAL YEAR 2025

IMSA Fusion is an after-school enrichment program for Illinois students in late elementary (grades four and five) and middle school (grades six through eight) that are talented, interested, and motivated in mathematics and science, with a special focus on students historically underrepresented and under-served in mathematics and science. Fusion also serves as a professional development program for participating Illinois teachers.

IMSA Fusion has four major goals:

- To maintain or increase students' interest, involvement and literacy in science and mathematics;
- To enhance the knowledge and skills of middle school science and mathematics teachers;
- To stimulate excellence in middle schools' science and mathematics programs; and
- To help increase access to programming for students who are historically underrepresented in mathematics and science, and for all areas of the state.

IBHE received an appropriation of \$95,900 to award for this program.

MY CREDITS TRANSFER PROJECT FISCAL YEAR 2025

The MyCreditsTransfer Project is a statewide initiative that makes information available to students via a free web-based tool (Transferology), administered by the University of Illinois – Urbana-Champaign. The MyCreditsTransfer Project seeks to aid all students who intend to transfer credits among Illinois higher education institutions. Students can create personal accounts through which they can track their progress toward specific degrees at institutions where they have not yet matriculated. The information made available to transfer students through Transferology helps enable them to make the most of their time and money as they work toward degree completion.

One of the intended outcomes of the MyCreditsTransfer Project is to provide students who are underrepresented in higher education access to information about how they can most efficiently transfer to baccalaureate-granting institutions. With increased implementation at the state's public universities and with improved promotion at the state's community colleges, the goal is to see larger numbers of underrepresented minority students transferring and a greater proportion of those students moving from community colleges to Illinois senior institutions.

IBHE received an appropriation of \$183,300 to award for this program. In addition to the IBHE grant, MyCreditsTransfer is supported by the University of Illinois, the iTransfer.org project, and the participating institutions.

QUAD CITIES GRADUATE STUDY CENTER FISCAL YEAR 2025

The Quad-Cities Graduate Study Center (Grad Center) is an academic consortium that was founded by members of the business, government, and education communities to increase access to high quality graduate-level programming and foster local economic growth. The Grad Center is designed for students whose work and family responsibilities make traditional on-campus study difficult. The Grad Center strives to develop convenient and diverse programs offerings for students.

The Grad Center is comprised of members representing Drake University, St. Ambrose University, University of Iowa, University of Illinois Nursing (Quad Cities), and Western Illinois University.

IBHE received a Fiscal Year 2025 appropriation of \$73,800 to award for the Grad Center.

SEXUAL MISCONDUCT ON CAMPUS CLIMATE SURVEY FISCAL YEAR 2025

The higher education strategic plan, A Thriving Illinois, recognizes institutional equity plans and practices are essential to closing access, completion, and attainment gaps. One of the strategies to achieve equity goals is the use of a Sexual Misconduct Campus Climate Survey to assess the prevalence and impact of sexual misconduct in Illinois' higher education system, including at two- and four-year college campuses as well as private business and vocational schools.

Throughout 2022 and 2023, IBHE led the Task Force on Sexual Misconduct on Campus Climate Surveys, which made recommendations adopted by IBHE, for a base survey to be conducted by all institutions beginning in 2024. The Task Force recommended that state funding be provided for a statewide administration of the survey to ensure that all students have equitable access to the survey. In Fiscal Year 2025, IBHE was appropriated \$200,000 to support administration, data collection, and analysis of these surveys.

**HOPE CHICAGO
FISCAL YEAR 2025**

IBHE received a new appropriation in Fiscal Year 2025 of \$8 million for a grant to HOPE Chicago, an organization that supports higher education for Chicago Public School students and their parents. Since this is the first year of the grant, IBHE is still developing the parameters for the grant award.

**RE-ENROLLING STUDENTS GRANT
FISCAL YEAR 2025**

In the Fiscal Year 2025 budget, IBHE received a \$2 million appropriation for a grant for a statewide organization that works to re-enroll students with some college but no credential into higher education, apprenticeships, and workforce training. Since this is a new grant, IBHE is developing the parameters for the award.

**UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS CHICAGO-UI HEALTH CAPITAL GRANT
FISCAL YEAR 2025**

The state budget for fiscal year 2025 included a \$20 million re-appropriation to the Capital Development Board for IBHE to provide a grant to University of Illinois Chicago-UI Health, a four-year public university located in Chicago, as a grant for costs associated with infrastructure improvements to their Critical Decision Unit. Funds are to be administered by the Illinois Board of Higher Education.