

FY 26 BUDGET RECOMMENDATION OVERVIEW
PRESENTED TO THE ILLINOIS BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION
JANUARY 22, 2025



Overview

Budget recommendations for Fiscal Year 2026 provide investments to achieve the goals of *A Thriving Illinois*:

- **Equity:** Close Equity Gaps for those who have been left behind
- **Sustainability:** Build Stronger Financial Futures for individuals and institutions
- **Growth:** Increase Talent and Innovation to Drive Economic Growth

IBHE recommendations call for an overall \$2.8 billion higher education operating budget, increase of \$109 million (4%) from FY 25; State University Retirement System funded at certified contributions; and *Rebuild Illinois* capital investments

Proposed funding will reinforce work underway to close equity gaps in enrollment, persistence, and completion, make college more affordable, and to support Illinois' economic growth



Invest in Public Higher Education through Equitable, Adequate, and Stable System

2% Operating Increase for Institutions

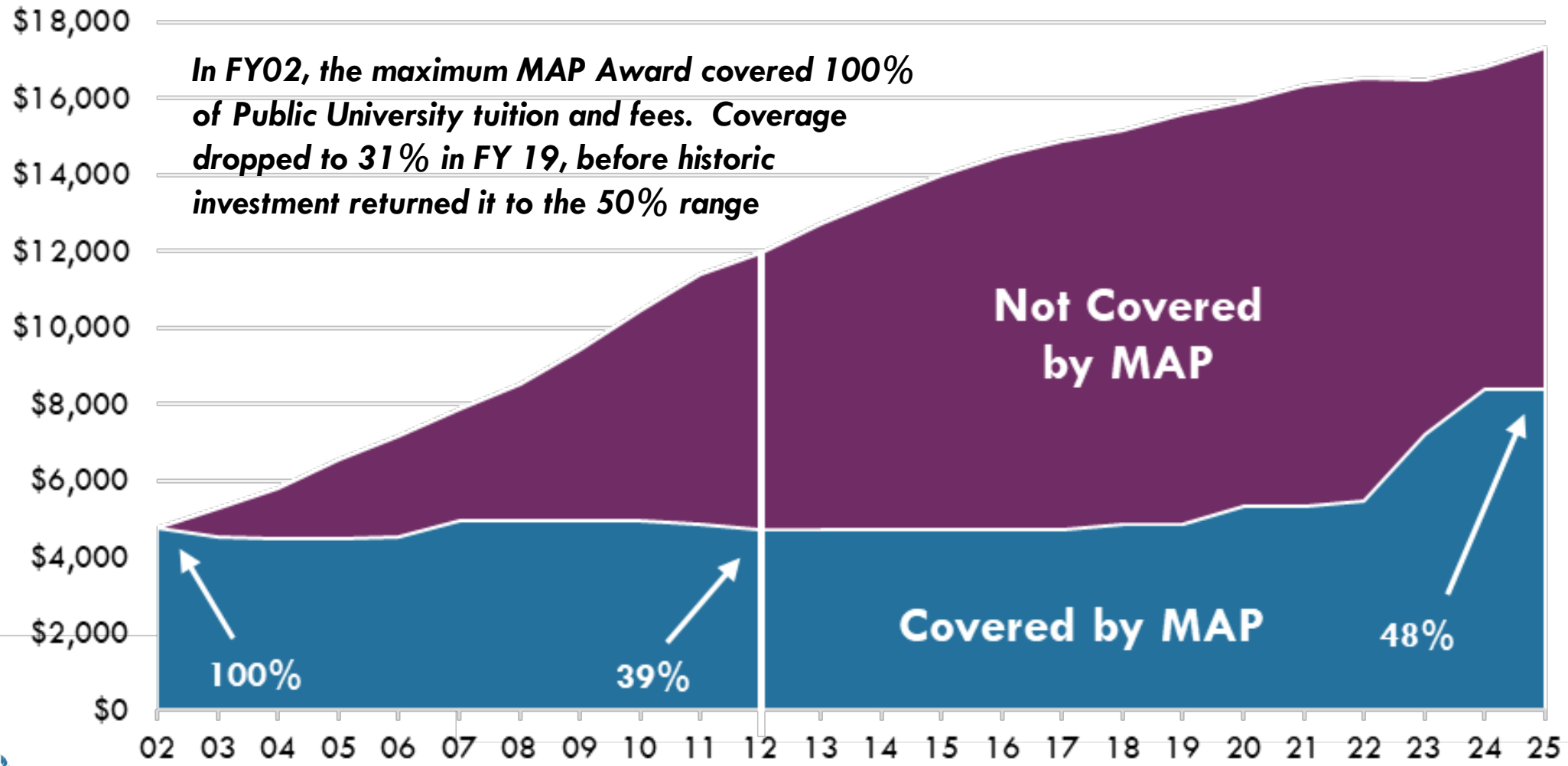
- **\$25.1 M** Increase for Public Universities based on Pell
- **\$6.1 M** Increase for Community Colleges
- **\$1.1 M** Increase for Adult Education and Career and Technical Education programs





Add \$50M to Continue Progress Toward \$1 Billion MAP

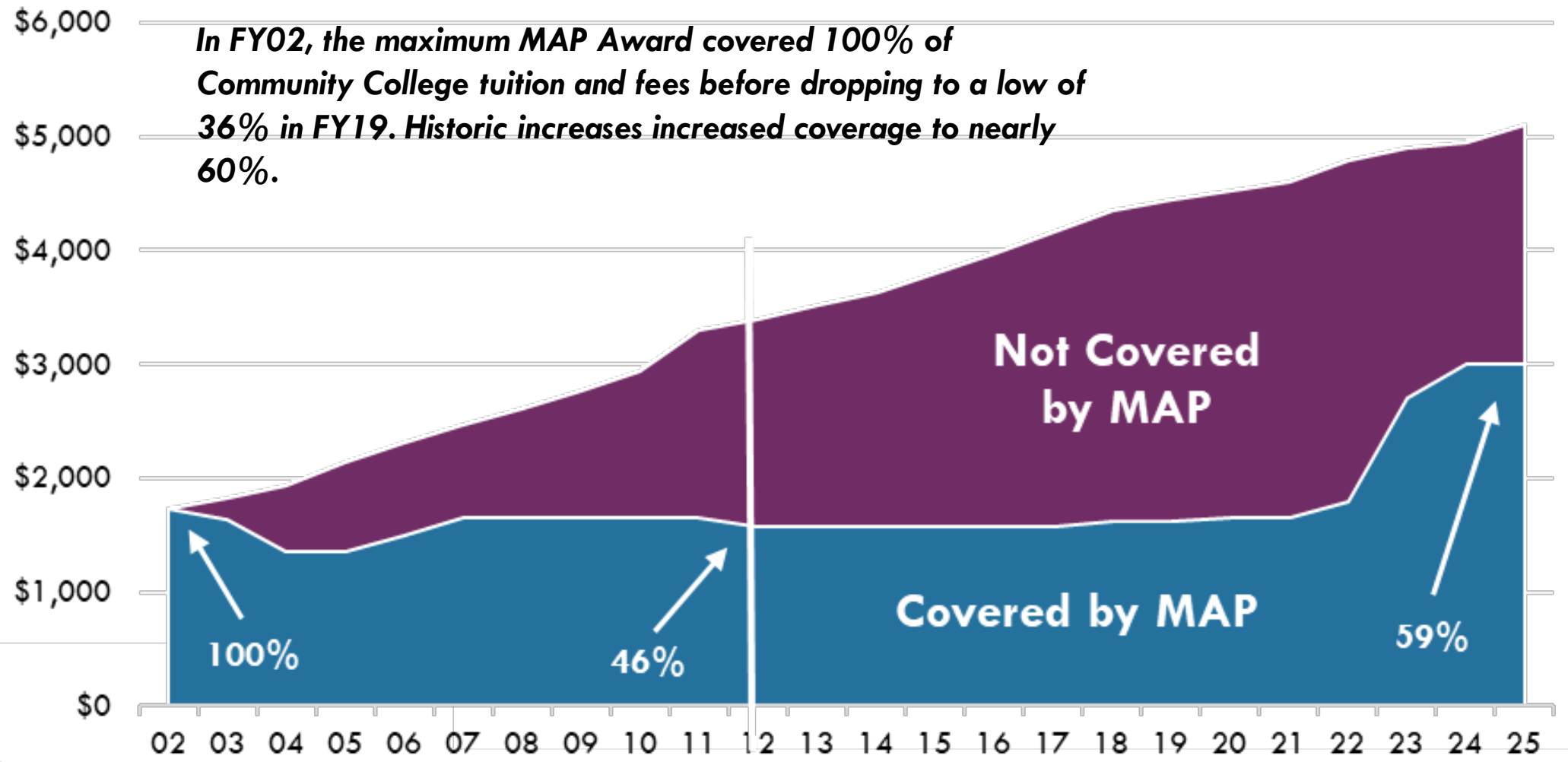
MAP Covers 48% of Weighted Public University Tuition and Fees





Add \$50M to Continue Progress Toward \$1 Billion MAP

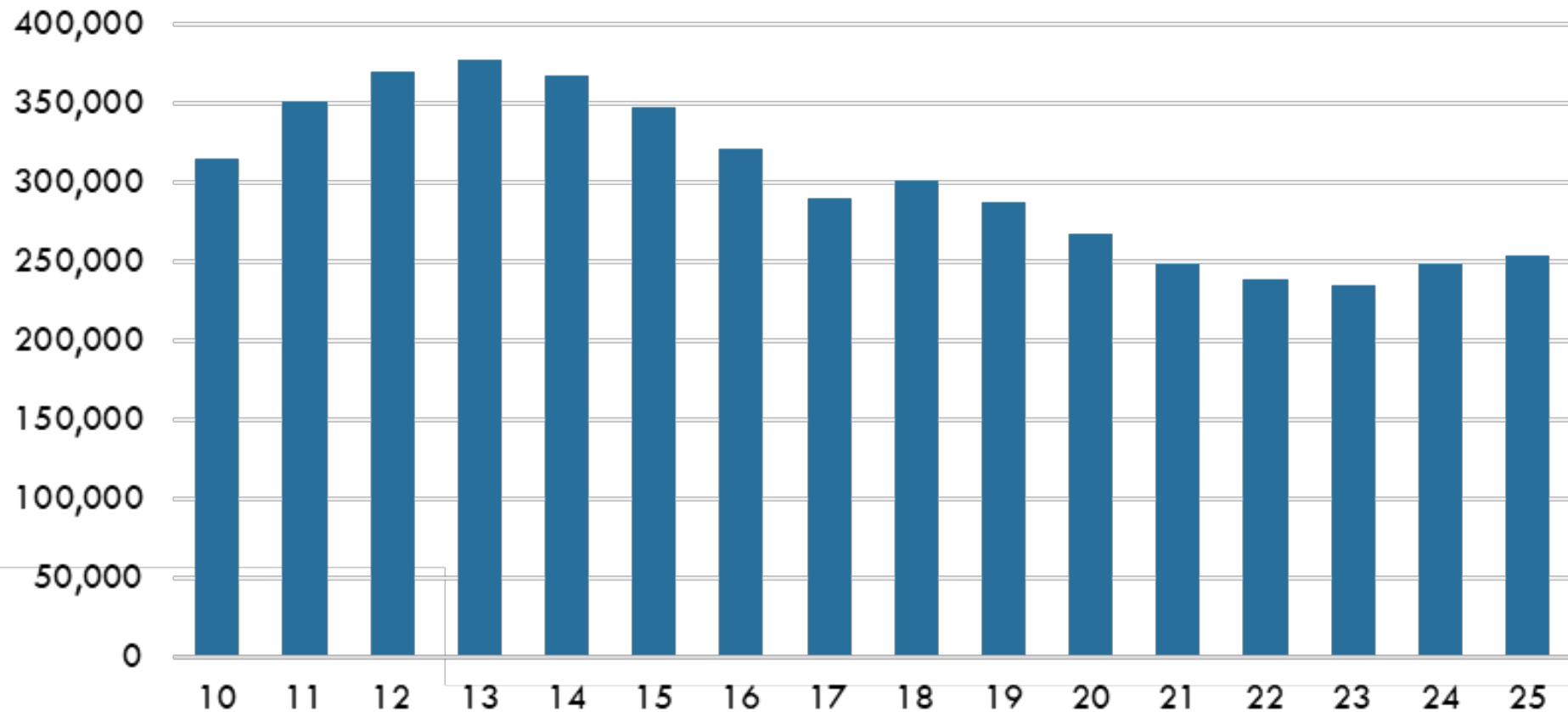
MAP Covers 59% of Weighted Community College Tuition and Fees





Number of MAP-Eligible Students Applying Increased, Reversing Trend

*Monetary Award Program Eligibility History:
Fiscal Years 2010-2025**

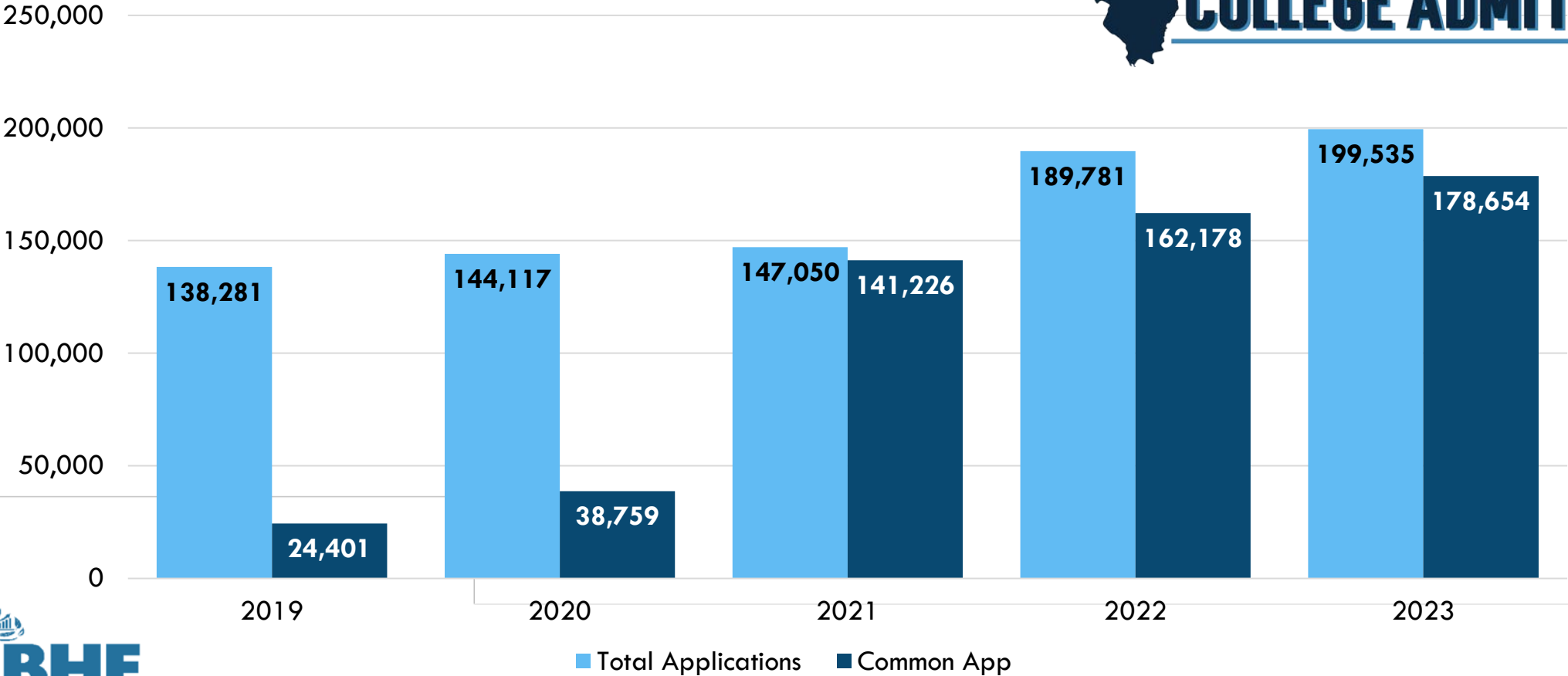


*FY 25 projected



Add \$1.7 M to Expand Common App to Community Colleges and Implement *One Click College Admit* Direct Admissions

Total Illinois Public University Application Volume,
Common App Volume





Support Student Learning Renewal, Social-Emotional, and Basic Needs through Grants, Collaboration, and Communities of Practice

\$3.5M NEW Center for Basic Needs at ICCB

Continue \$2M Housing and Basic Needs Insecurity and \$13M Mental Health on Campus



NEW: Center for Basic Needs at ICCB



[HOUSE Liaisons](#)
[Benefits Navigators](#)



Illinois Campus Cares Mental Health Services and
[Illinois Campus Cares Technical Assistance Center](#)



\$0.6 M to Implement Equity Plans to Close Gaps in Enrollment, Persistence, Completion, and Student Loan Repayment Rates

First equity plans submitted *May 31, 2024*

Individual feedback reports provided in
November, 2024

Implementation of programs and practices begin

Communities of Practice, professional
development, and implementation supports in
2025 and 2026





Invest in Programs that Attract and Support Working Adults: \$4 M Increase for ICCB PATH Program to \$19M



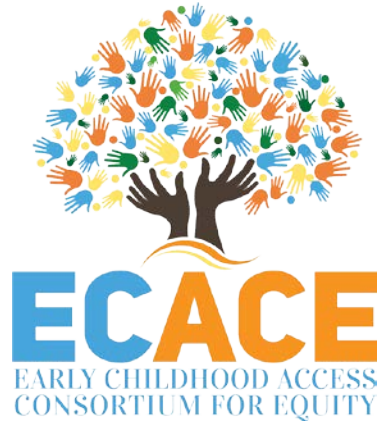
Pipeline for the Advancement of the Healthcare Workforce

Grants to Community Colleges to expand pathways to credentials, certificates, and degrees in healthcare industry

Over 25,000 students enrolled and 15,600 completers in FY 24



\$15 M Increase Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity Scholarship Funding to \$20 M



With federal funding, over \$76 M in scholarships awarded to 4,700 students

With initial state funding of \$5 million, over 660 students received scholarships in FY 25





Investments that Align State's Economic Development and Higher Education Strategies



The Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy (IMSA) is a public residential high school for sophomores – seniors focused on STEM. IMSA also provides teacher professional development for K-12 educators across the state.

\$1.0 M
Increase

Recommend 4% increase to invest in the STEM pipeline and teacher professional development



Invest \$4M in Agency Strategic Support of *A Thriving Illinois*





Fund State Universities Retirement System Certified Contribution

State Universities Retirement System \$ in Thousands	FY25 Enacted Appropriation	FY26 Preliminary Certification	Percentage Change from FY25
State Contribution	2,212,810	2,319,446	4.8%
Community College Health Insurance (CIP)	9,191	10,967	19.3%
Total General Revenue	\$ 2,222,001	\$ 2,330,413	4.9%
Actual Change from FY25 Appropriation		\$ 108,412	

SURS current Funded Ratio is 46.02%, as of June 30, 2024



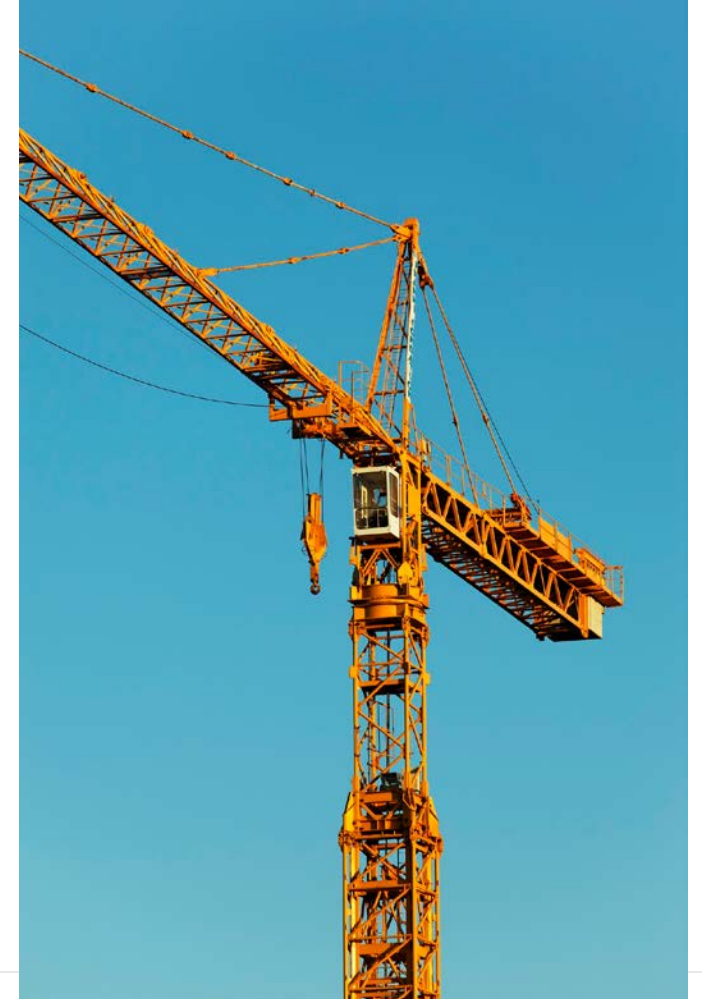
Continue Investments in Capital Infrastructure

Reappropriate Capital Projects Underway

- 18 new construction projects with an appropriation value of \$824 million are underway at public universities
- 81 capital renewal projects at an appropriation value of nearly \$421 million are underway at public universities
- 114 projects at a value of \$564.1 million underway at community colleges

Reappropriate Projects Appropriated But Not Released

- 11 public university new construction projects with appropriations totaling \$197 million
- 118 community college projects with appropriations of nearly \$578 million





Conclusion

Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Recommendations

- Continue and expand the Equity, Sustainability, and Growth work of *A Thriving Illinois*,
- Invest in Public Universities, Community Colleges, and MAP
- Build One Click College Admit direct admission program
- Invest in programs that support students – Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity Scholarship, Equity Plans and Practices, Center for Basic Needs, Ending Student Homelessness, Mental Health Early Action on Campus, PATH



