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TO: The Honorable JB Pritzker, Governor
Director Alexis Sturm, Governor's Office of Management & Budget
Director Maj. Gen. Peter Nezamis, Illinois Dept. of Veterans' Affairs
The Honorable Don Harmon, Senate President
The Honorable Dan McConchie, Senate Minority Leader
The Honorable Emanuel "Chris" Welch, Speaker of the House
The Honorable Jim Durkin, House Minority Leader

FROM: Ginger Ostro, Executive Director

RE: Annual Report on the Fiscal Impact of the Programs and Services
Related to the Higher Education Veterans Service Act
(Public Act 96-0133)

DATE: November 22, 2024

I am pleased to submit to you the annual report on the fiscal impact of the programs and services related to the Higher Education Veterans Service Act by the Illinois Board of Higher Education, in conjunction with the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs, the Illinois Community College Board, and the Illinois Student Assistance Commission

Please contact Jerry Lazzara at (217) 866-1443 if you have any questions about this report.

CC: Major General Peter Nezamis
Dan Wellman
Brian Durham
Mackenzie Montgomery
Eric Zarnikow

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE FISCAL IMPACT OF THE PROGRAMS AND SERVICES RELATED TO THE HIGHER EDUCATION VETERANS SERVICE ACT



November 2024
Illinois Board of Higher Education

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Introduction

In 2008, the Illinois Task Force on Service Member and Veterans Education urged the General Assembly, “to recognize the sacrifice of American servicemen and women, and, in a small way, repay them by chartering a concerted effort by State government, in cooperation with our public institutions of higher learning, to make its best efforts to take positive, quantifiable steps to providing a superior learning environment for student veterans and service members.” (110 ILCS 49/10) The Task Force’s report was the foundation for the Higher Education Veterans Service Act (Public Act 96-133) which was approved by Governor Quinn on August 7, 2009.

Pursuant to this Act, community colleges and public universities were required to appoint a current employee or hire a new employee to serve as a Coordinator of Veterans and Military Personnel Student Services on each campus. The coordinator serves as an ombudsperson and advocate in meeting the needs of veterans, active-duty personnel, and their families. Also, best efforts are to be taken to establish a centralized source where veterans and active-duty personnel have the opportunity to become knowledgeable about the benefit programs and services applicable to them.

This report presents an analysis of the actual expenditures for the programs and services provided to veterans and active-duty personnel by the public institutions of higher education during the prior fiscal year. The data for this report was obtained from survey responses submitted by the community colleges and public universities. The reported expenditures are not exclusively a result of the requirements set forth in Public Act 96-133, but rather a combination of the costs incurred by those requirements, and the additional services that institutions provide to their veteran populations. Additionally, the financial assistance provided by the institutions to veterans through the Illinois Veteran Grant (IVG) program is included in this report.

Fiscal Impact on Public Institutions

Illinois community colleges and public universities reported approximately \$7.66 million in expenditures to provide services to veterans and active-duty personnel in Fiscal Year 2024. The institutions reported 104.8 staff years. The number of staff years is equivalent to the number of full-time employees.

As shown in the table below, the fiscal impact of requiring coordinators on each campus is approximately \$3.76 million and 50.7 full-time staff. The majority of total expenditures are for services that are not directly related to the Act, as institutions reported \$3.9 million in expenditures, about 51% of the grand total. Institutions identified the source of funds for each dollar expended as either state funds or other funds (“other” includes federal funds and local revenues). Approximately \$4 million (53% of total) is from federal and local sources, while the State contributed about \$3.6 million (47% of total).

Table 1

Total Reported Veterans Expenditures for Public Universities and Community Colleges Combined				
Expenditures	Staff Years	Fiscal Year 2024 Expenditures		
		State Funds	Other Funds	Total Funds
Higher Education Veterans Service Act (Public Act 096-0133)	50.7	\$2,428,769	\$1,331,480	\$3,760,249
Services Provided to Veterans, but not Directly Related to the Act	54.2	\$1,177,683	\$2,719,152	\$3,896,835
Total	104.8	\$3,606,452	\$4,050,632	\$7,657,083

Survey totals by institution type are provided below for the 12 public university campuses and the 48 community colleges in Illinois. In Fiscal Year 2024, of the approximately \$7.66 million spent on services for veterans and active-duty personnel, roughly \$2.79 million (36%) was spent by public universities, while about \$4.87 million (64%) was spent by community colleges. While community colleges accounted for the majority of the total expenditures reported, both sectors had similar proportions between expenditures spent as a result of the Veterans Service Act and those spent on other veteran services. As shown in Table 2, public universities spent approximately \$1.23 million (44%) as a result of the Veterans Service Act and \$1.56 million (56%) was spent on all other veteran services. Table 3 shows that community colleges have spent about \$2.53 million (52%) as a result of the Veterans Service Act and about \$2.33 million (48%) was spent on other veteran services.

Table 2

Total Reported Veterans Expenditures for Public Universities				
Expenditures	Staff Years	Fiscal Year 2024 Expenditures		
		State Funds	Other Funds	Total Funds
Higher Education Veterans Service Act (Public Act 096-0133)	21.9	\$1,112,941	\$112,597	\$1,225,539
Services Provided to Veterans, but not Directly Related to the Act	25.6	\$669,000	\$893,158	\$1,562,158
Total	47.4	\$1,781,941	\$1,005,756	\$2,787,696

Table 3

Total Reported Veterans Expenditures for Community Colleges				
Expenditures	Staff Years	Fiscal Year 2024 Expenditures		
		State Funds	Other Funds	Total Funds
Higher Education Veterans Service Act (Public Act 096-0133)	28.8	\$1,315,828	\$1,218,882	\$2,534,710
Services Provided to Veterans, but not Directly Related to the Act	28.6	\$508,683	\$1,825,994	\$2,334,677
Total	57.4	\$1,824,511	\$3,044,876	\$4,869,387

Expenditure Breakdown by Service Type – Public Universities and Community Colleges

The expenditures and staff years are grouped into categories of services that are commonly provided by colleges and universities - academic, career, financial aid, GI Bill certification, health, social, and other services. For simplicity, smaller services have been grouped into these categories as such:

- **Academic:** Counseling, support, and tutoring to enhance scholarly learning
- **Career:** Counseling and assistance with career decisions and employment
- **Financial Aid:** Counseling and information on available assistance to attend college
- **GI Bill Certification:** Administration of the Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits
- **Health:** Counseling and assistance to enhance learning and mobility
- **Social:** Campus social events, mentoring, orientation, transition assistance, and veteran student lounge or designated gathering space
- **Other:** Administration, certification of veteran benefits, outreach to the community, support staff, work study assistants, and marketing

Shown below are the total staff years and expenditures by type of service for Fiscal Year 2024 for both public universities and community colleges. The category with the highest percentage of expenditures is “Social” at

about \$1.95 million (25% of the total). Career services had the lowest expenditure total by a significant margin with only \$406,908 (5%). Most of the full-time staff are dedicated to GI bill certification and social services, which each make up over 19% of the total.

Table 4

Total Expenditures by Type for Public Universities and Community Colleges				
Expenditure Type	Staff Years	State Funds	Other Funds	Total Funds
Academic	16.1	\$591,985	\$663,573	\$1,255,558
Career	5.1	\$201,274	\$205,634	\$406,908
Financial Aid	16.2	\$514,837	\$524,279	\$1,039,116
GI Bill Certification	20.7	\$793,549	\$691,871	\$1,485,419
Health	5.6	\$164,776	\$254,845	\$419,621
Social	25.9	\$990,323	\$961,151	\$1,951,474
Other	15.3	\$349,707	\$749,279	\$1,098,986
Total	104.8	\$3,606,452	\$4,050,632	\$7,657,083

Figure 1 displays the percentage of total full-time staff employed for each category in Fiscal Year 2024. Career services and health services each only employ approximately 5% of all full-time staff for services provided for veterans. Aside from those small categories, staff are evenly spread with a range of 15% to 20%, but social services once again sit at the top with 25%.

Figure 1
Staff Years by Type for Public Universities and Community Colleges

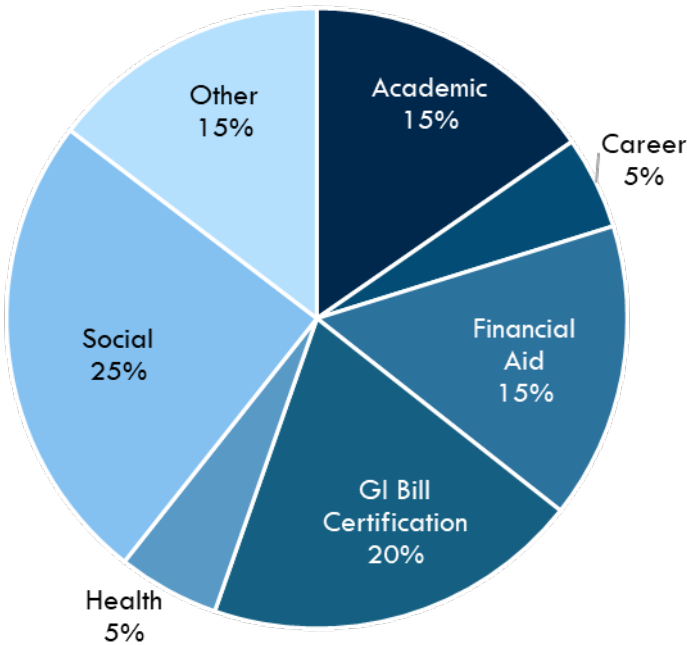


Figure 2 displays the percentage of total expenditures for each category in Fiscal Year 2024. Career services only account for 5% of all expenditures for services provided for veterans, and health services only account for about 6%. GI bill certification and social services are the largest sources of expenditures at 19% and 26% respectively.

Figure 2
Total Expenditures by Type for Public Universities and Community Colleges

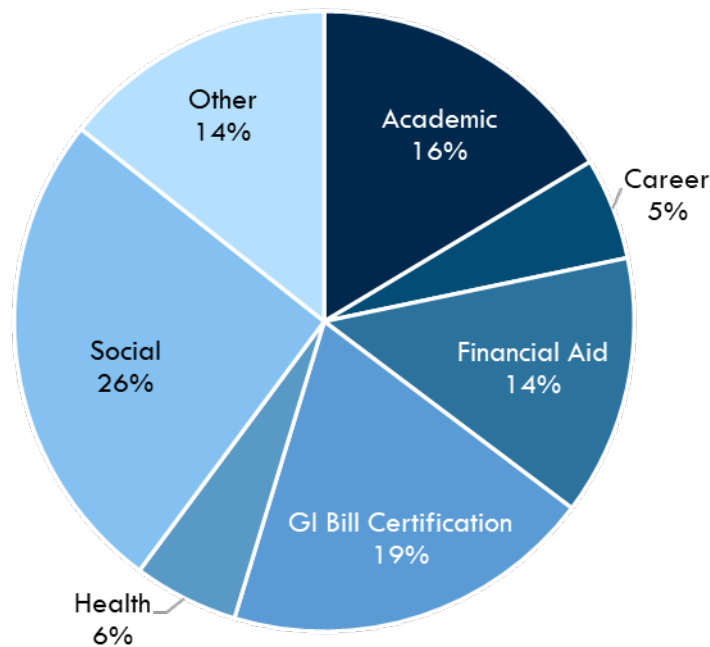
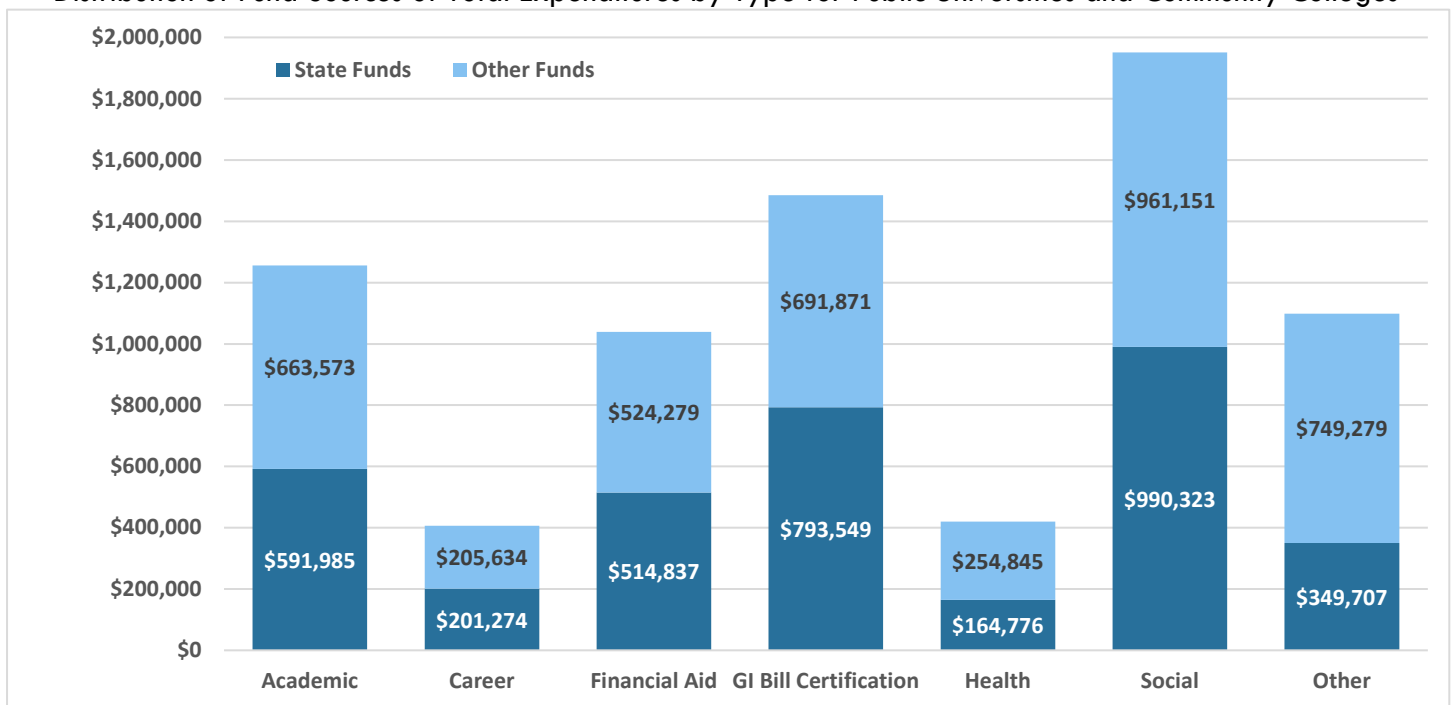


Figure 3 illustrates the distribution of expenditures by source for Fiscal Year 2024. Spending in every category was fairly even between State funds and other funds. The largest exception to this is with the “Other” category which had over twice as much from federal and local sources than State funds.

Figure 3
Distribution of Fund Sources of Total Expenditures by Type for Public Universities and Community Colleges



Expenditure Breakdown by Service Type – Public Universities vs Community Colleges

This section replicates the previous one but separates the data to compare public universities to community colleges. Tables 5 and 6 show the breakdown of total expenditures for Fiscal Year 2024, by category, for public universities and community colleges separately.

Table 5

Total Expenditures by Type for Public Universities				
Expenditure Type	Staff Years	State Funds	Other Funds	Total Funds
Academic	6.4	\$295,470	\$80,601	\$376,071
Career	3.0	\$117,905	\$69,202	\$187,107
Financial Aid	8.2	\$300,811	\$80,674	\$381,485
GI Bill Certification	7.6	\$371,038	\$42,864	\$413,902
Health	2.5	\$78,140	\$106,463	\$184,603
Social	13.0	\$512,936	\$387,204	\$900,140
Other	6.7	\$105,642	\$238,747	\$344,389
Total	47.4	\$1,781,941	\$1,005,756	\$2,787,696

Table 6

Total Expenditures by Type for Community Colleges				
Expenditure Type	Staff Years	State Funds	Other Funds	Total Funds
Academic	9.7	\$296,515	\$582,972	\$879,486
Career	2.1	\$83,369	\$136,432	\$219,801
Financial Aid	8.0	\$214,027	\$443,605	\$657,631
GI Bill Certification	13.0	\$422,511	\$649,007	\$1,071,518
Health	3.0	\$86,637	\$148,382	\$235,018
Social	12.9	\$477,388	\$573,947	\$1,051,335
Other	8.7	\$244,065	\$510,532	\$754,598
Total	57.4	\$1,824,511	\$3,044,876	\$4,869,387

Figure 4 displays the percentage of total full-time staff employed for each category in Fiscal Year 2024. Health services only employ 6.3% of all full-time staff for public universities and career services employ 3.7% for community colleges, making them the smallest respective categories for each. GI bill certification and social services each account for more than 16% of full-time staff for both community colleges and public universities. Historically community colleges have devoted more of their staff to academic services than public universities which focus much more on financial aid and social services, and that trend continues to this day.

Figure 4
Staff Years Comparison: Percentage by Service Type

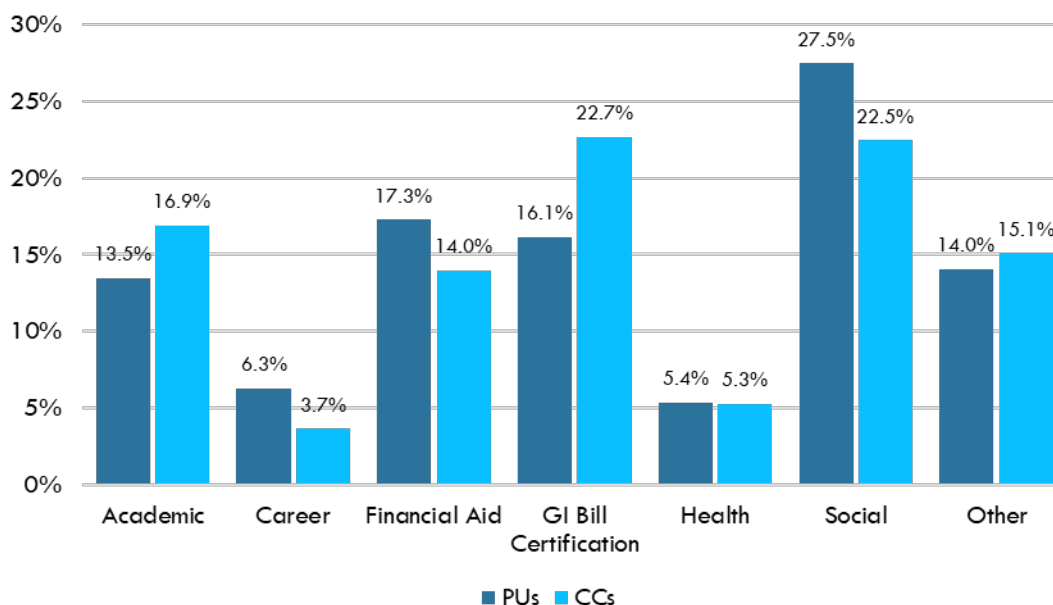


Figure 5 displays the percentage of total expenditures for each category in Fiscal Year 2024. The largest difference displayed occurs in social services where public universities spend almost 11 percentage points more than the community college total.

Figure 5
Total Expenditures Comparison: Percentage by Service Type

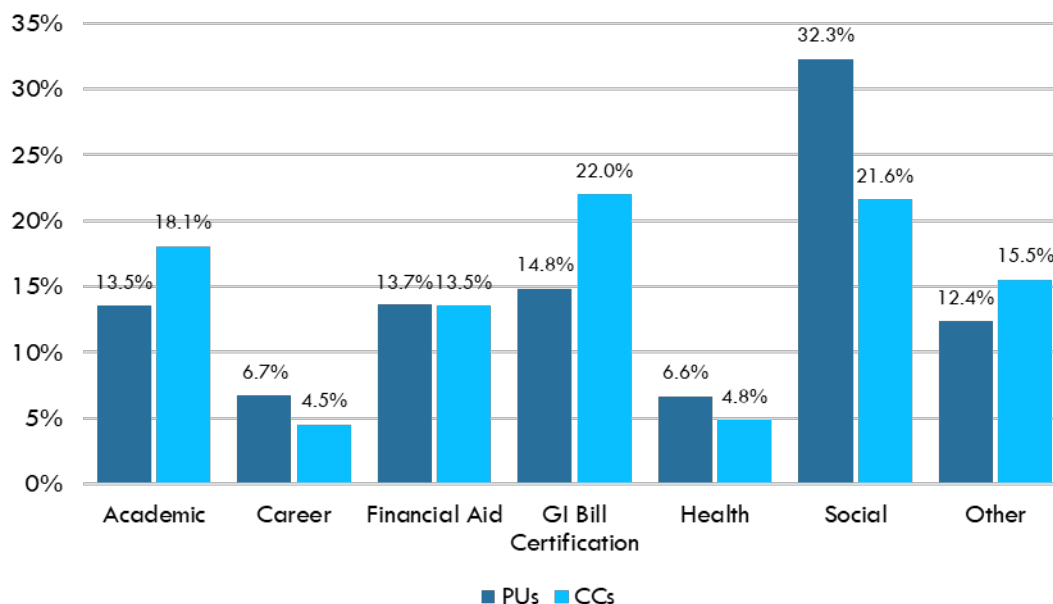
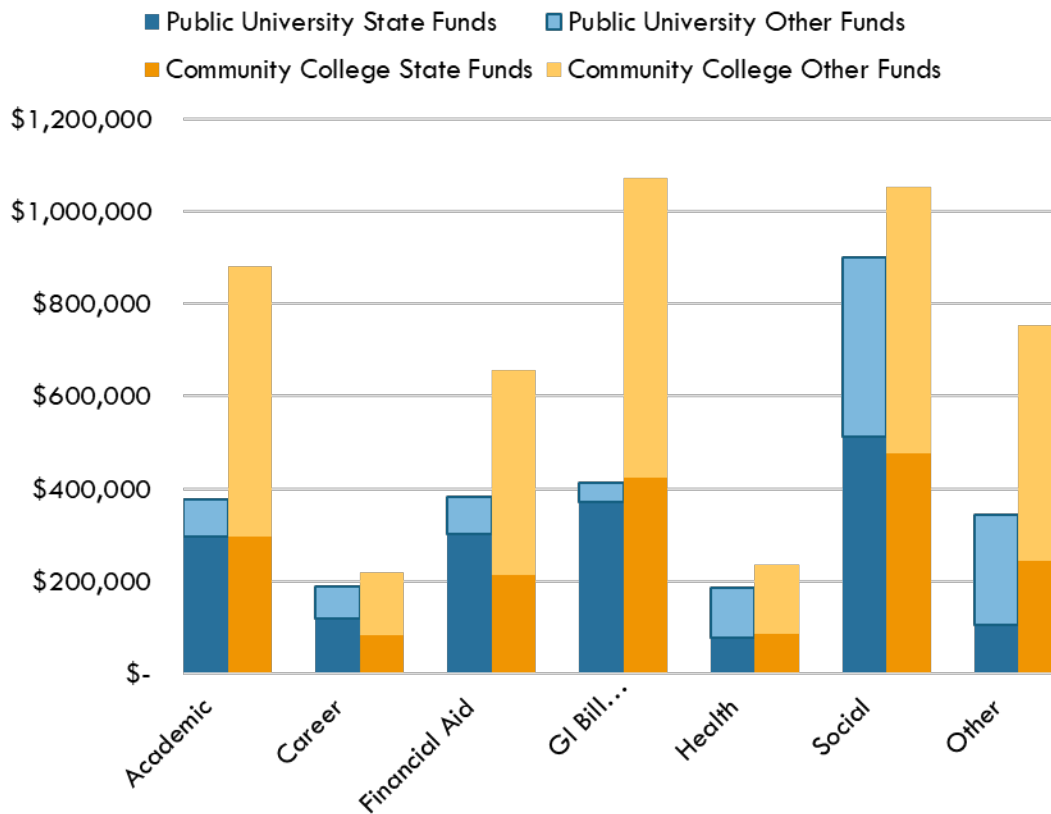


Figure 6 illustrates the distribution of expenditure funds by source for Fiscal Year 2024. Public universities rely much more on state funds in almost all categories, with financial aid and GI bill certification almost entirely funded by the State. The main exceptions are social and health services which are both close to a 50/50 split. Community colleges rely more on other funds than universities, with about 50% to 60% from other funds in nearly every category.

Figure 6
Distribution of Fund Sources of Total Expenditures by Type



Illinois Veteran Grant Program

The Illinois Veteran Grant program waives the tuition and fees of Illinois veterans attending public universities or community colleges for the equivalent of four years of full-time enrollment. (110 ILCS 947/40) In the past, the State reimbursed the institutions for most of the cost of the waivers through appropriations made to the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) and the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB). However, those appropriations were reduced in fiscal years 2011 and 2012, leaving universities and community colleges to cover these costs. In Fiscal Year 2013, appropriations to ISAC were eliminated and greatly reduced to ICCB. There has been no state funding for this program since Fiscal Year 2013 for universities, leaving them with a substantially unfunded mandate. There has been some funding for community colleges, which has increased in recent years. For fiscal years 2019 through 2024 the appropriation for ICCB was \$4.26 million allowing ICCB to reimburse community colleges for all their costs.

Since Fiscal Year 2010, the total value of claims has decreased, reducing the shortfalls incurred caused by lack of appropriation. In Fiscal Year 2024, there was \$9.9 million in waiver claims, which is a \$361,990 decrease from 2023 and a \$5.26 million decrease from 2020. In Fiscal Year 2024, 81 fewer veteran grants were awarded than in 2023 and 1,349 less than were awarded in 2020. A major factor in the steady decline in state-funded waiver claims is the increases in Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits claimed by veterans. Those benefits are similar, but not identical to the state program, and veterans may choose whichever program better meets their needs.

Table 7

Illinois Veterans Grants Program for Public Universities and Community Colleges (FY20-FY24)			
Fiscal Year	Appropriation	Claims*	Awards Distributed
2020	\$4,264,600	\$15,167,322	3,173
2021	\$4,264,600	\$13,349,176	2,573
2022	\$4,264,600	\$11,557,252	2,161
2023	\$4,264,600	\$10,267,074	1,905
2024	\$4,264,600	\$9,905,084	1,824

Table 8

Illinois Veterans Grants Program for Public Universities (FY20-FY24)			
Fiscal Year	Appropriation	Claims*	Awards Distributed
2020	\$0	\$12,038,050	1,542
2021	\$0	\$11,213,189	1,460
2022	\$0	\$9,781,944	1,275
2023	\$0	\$8,639,299	1,114
2024	\$0	\$8,390,135	1,044

Table 9

Illinois Veterans Grants Program for Community Colleges (FY20-FY24)			
Fiscal Year	Appropriation	Claims*	Awards Distributed
2020	\$4,264,600	\$3,129,272	1,631
2021	\$4,264,600	\$2,135,987	1,113
2022	\$4,264,600	\$1,775,307	886
2023	\$4,264,600	\$1,627,775	791
2024	\$4,264,600	\$1,514,949	780

*Includes undergraduate and graduate waivers.

Source: Illinois Student Assistance Commission

Conclusion

Community colleges and public universities in Illinois provided \$7.66 million worth of services to veterans and active-duty military personnel in Fiscal Year 2024, while employing approximately 104.8 full-time staff. Over 48% of both staff and expenditures are a result of the requirements of the Higher Education Veterans Services Act. The institutions continue to strive in meeting the objectives of Public Act 96-133 by having a Coordinator of Veterans and Military Personnel Student Services on each campus, making benefit programs and services available to the veteran population, providing data on the fiscal impact of the act, and providing useful information online.

APPENDICES

- Appendix A** Fiscal Year 2024 Expenditures and Staff Years by Type of Service Provided for Public Universities, Community Colleges, and Total
- Appendix B** Data Accuracy and Reporting Methodology
- Appendix C** Fiscal Impact Survey Submissions, Fiscal Year 2024
- Appendix D** Fiscal Impact Survey, Fiscal Year 2024
- Appendix E** Higher Education Veterans Act (110 ILCS 49)

APPENDIX A – FISCAL YEAR 2024 EXPENDITURES AND STAFF YEARS BY TYPE OF SERVICE PROVIDED FOR PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES, COMMUNITY COLLEGES, AND TOTAL

Table A-1
Fiscal Impact of the Programs and Services Related to the Higher Education Veterans Services Act
Fiscal Year 2024 Expenditures and Staff Years, by Type of Service Provided

		Public Universities			Community Colleges			Total		
		Staff Years*	Dollars (\$)		Staff Years*	Dollars (\$)		Staff Years*	Dollars (\$)	
			FY 2024 Expenditures			FY 2024 Expenditures			FY 2024 Expenditures	
			State	Other		State	Other		State	Other
Academic Services		2.2	\$159,329	\$3,301	3.7	\$203,863	\$157,524	5.9	\$363,192	\$160,825
	Academic Counseling	1.0	73,723	2,190	1.8	119,830	89,063	2.8	193,553	91,252
	Academic Support/Tutoring	1.2	85,606	1,112	1.9	84,034	68,461	3.1	169,639	69,573
Career Services		1.5	98,990	3,979	1.7	66,385	101,320	3.2	165,375	105,299
	Career Services	1.0	75,924	2,323	0.7	31,492	41,340	1.8	107,416	43,663
	Employment Assistance	0.5	23,066	1,656	1.0	34,893	59,980	1.4	57,959	61,636
Financial Aid Services		3.6	161,900	25,114	3.5	130,171	165,514	7.1	292,071	190,628
	Financial Aid Assistance Counseling	2.9	112,237	23,951	2.9	105,624	135,237	5.8	217,861	159,188
	Tuition Assistance Counseling	0.7	49,663	1,163	0.6	24,547	30,277	1.3	74,211	31,440
GI Bill Certification		4.7	236,685	24,895	6.6	323,799	216,632	11.3	560,484	241,527
Health Services		0.6	42,415	1,586	1.3	39,767	61,202	1.9	82,182	62,788
	Counseling	0.2	22,465	316	0.8	26,173	40,541	1.0	48,638	40,858
	Disability Services	0.2	7,072	1,112	0.4	13,241	12,584	0.6	20,313	13,696
	Health Services	0.2	12,878	158	0.1	354	8,076	0.3	13,231	8,234
Social Services		6.7	341,499	32,242	8.3	386,592	298,780	15.0	728,091	331,022
	Campus Social Events	2.2	78,295	12,139	1.2	61,641	47,872	3.5	139,936	60,011
	Mentoring	1.3	91,268	3,005	1.3	58,005	46,743	2.6	149,273	49,748
	Orientation	0.7	41,132	3,079	1.6	73,516	49,077	2.3	114,648	52,155
	Transition Assistance	1.0	54,735	4,977	1.7	114,141	38,421	2.7	168,876	43,398
	Veteran Student Lounge or Designate Gathering Space	1.4	76,069	9,041	2.4	79,289	116,668	3.9	155,358	125,709
Other Services		2.7	72,123	21,481	3.6	165,251	217,910	6.2	237,374	239,391
	Veterans Coordinator - Support Staff	2.7	72,123	21,481	1.0	49,969	35,131	3.7	122,092	56,612
	Other	0.0	0	0	2.5	115,282	182,779	2.5	115,282	182,779
Total		21.9	\$1,112,941	\$112,597	28.8	\$1,315,828	\$1,218,882	50.7	\$2,428,769	\$1,331,480

*One staff year is equivalent to one full-time employee.

Table A-2
Fiscal Impact of the Programs and Services NOT Directly Related to the Higher Education Veterans Services Act
Fiscal Year 2024 Expenditures and Staff Years, by Type of Service Provided

		Public Universities			Community Colleges			Total		
		Staff Years*	Dollars (\$)		Staff Years*	Dollars (\$)		Staff Years*	Dollars (\$)	
			FY 2024 Expenditures			FY 2024 Expenditures			FY 2024 Expenditures	
			State	Other		State	Other		State	Other
Academic Services		4.2	\$136,142	\$77,300	6.0	\$92,651	\$425,448	10.2	\$228,793	\$502,747
	Academic Counseling	2.6	81,182	40,108	3.3	57,568	246,413	5.9	138,750	286,521
	Academic Support/Tutoring	1.7	54,960	37,192	2.7	35,083	179,035	4.4	90,043	216,227
Career Services		1.5	18,915	65,223	0.4	16,984	35,112	1.9	35,899	100,335
	Career Services	1.1	11,729	57,410	0.1	10,190	9,192	1.2	21,919	66,602
	Employment Assistance	0.4	7,186	7,813	0.3	6,794	25,920	0.6	13,980	33,733
Financial Aid Services		4.6	138,910	55,561	4.5	83,855	278,090	9.1	222,766	333,651
	Financial Aid Assistance Counseling	3.2	105,913	29,608	3.7	74,484	221,224	6.9	180,397	250,832
	Tuition Assistance Counseling	1.4	32,997	25,953	0.8	9,371	56,867	2.2	42,368	82,819
GI Bill Certification		3.0	134,353	17,969	6.4	98,712	432,375	9.3	233,065	450,344
Health Services		2.0	35,725	104,877	1.7	46,870	87,180	3.7	82,595	192,057
	Counseling	1.6	23,488	96,353	0.3	5,460	27,556	2.0	28,948	123,909
	Disability Services	0.3	4,309	5,747	1.1	30,085	50,156	1.4	34,394	55,903
	Health Services	0.1	7,928	2,777	0.3	11,325	9,468	0.3	19,252	12,245
Social Services		6.4	171,436	354,962	4.6	90,796	275,166	10.9	262,232	630,129
	Campus Social Events	0.5	14,475	13,849	1.8	42,943	114,159	2.3	57,419	128,007
	Mentoring	0.7	10,200	22,322	0.7	15,698	38,123	1.4	25,898	60,446
	Orientation	1.3	37,636	21,346	0.5	19,192	37,053	1.9	56,828	58,399
	Transition Assistance	2.6	46,712	295,763	1.0	9,417	55,986	3.7	56,129	351,749
	Veteran Student Lounge or Designate Gathering Space	1.2	62,413	1,683	0.4	3,545	29,845	1.7	65,958	31,529
Other Services		4.0	33,519	217,266	5.1	78,815	292,623	9.1	112,333	509,889
	Veterans Coordinator - Support Staff	0.8	28,266	14,266	3.1	28,881	163,831	4.0	57,147	178,097
	Other	3.1	5,253	203,000	2.0	49,934	128,792	5.1	55,187	331,792
Total		25.6	\$669,000	\$893,158	28.6	\$508,683	\$1,825,994	54.2	\$1,177,683	\$2,719,152

*One staff year is equivalent to one full-time employee.

Table A-3
Total Fiscal Impact of the Programs and Services Related to Higher Education Veterans Services
Fiscal Year 2024 Expenditures and Staff Years, by Type of Service Provided

		Public Universities			Community Colleges			Total		
		Staff Years*	Dollars (\$)		Staff Years*	Dollars (\$)		Staff Years*	Dollars (\$)	
			FY 2024 Expenditures			FY 2024 Expenditures			FY 2024 Expenditures	
			State	Other		State	Other		State	Other
Academic Services		6.4	\$295,470	\$80,601	9.7	\$296,515	\$582,972	16.1	\$591,985	\$663,573
	Academic Counseling	3.6	154,905	42,297	5.1	177,398	335,476	8.7	332,303	377,773
	Academic Support/Tutoring	2.8	140,565	38,303	4.6	119,117	247,496	7.4	259,682	285,799
Career Services		3.0	117,905	69,202	2.1	83,369	136,432	5.1	201,274	205,634
	Career Services	2.2	87,653	59,733	0.9	41,682	50,532	3.0	129,335	110,265
	Employment Assistance	0.8	30,252	9,469	1.2	41,687	85,900	2.1	71,939	95,369
Financial Aid Services		8.2	300,811	80,674	8.0	214,027	443,605	16.2	514,837	524,279
	Financial Aid Assistance Counseling	6.2	218,150	53,559	6.6	180,108	356,461	12.7	398,258	410,020
	Tuition Assistance Counseling	2.0	82,661	27,115	1.4	33,918	87,144	3.5	116,579	114,259
GI Bill Certification		7.6	371,038	42,864	13.0	422,511	649,007	20.7	793,549	691,871
Health Services		2.5	78,140	106,463	3.0	86,637	148,382	5.6	164,776	254,845
	Counseling	1.8	45,953	96,670	1.1	31,633	68,097	3.0	77,586	164,767
	Disability Services	0.4	11,381	6,858	1.5	43,326	62,741	2.0	54,707	69,599
	Health Services	0.3	20,806	2,935	0.4	11,678	17,544	0.6	32,484	20,479
Social Services		13.0	512,936	387,204	12.9	477,388	573,947	25.9	990,323	961,151
	Campus Social Events	2.7	92,770	25,988	3.0	104,584	162,031	5.8	197,355	188,019
	Mentoring	2.0	101,468	25,328	2.1	73,704	84,866	4.1	175,172	110,194
	Orientation	2.1	78,768	24,425	2.1	92,708	86,130	4.2	171,476	110,554
	Transition Assistance	3.6	101,447	300,740	2.8	123,559	94,407	6.4	225,006	395,146
	Veteran Student Lounge or Designate Gathering Space	2.6	138,482	10,724	2.9	82,833	146,513	5.5	221,315	157,238
Other Services		6.7	105,642	238,747	8.7	244,065	510,532	15.3	349,707	749,279
	Veterans Coordinator - Support Staff	3.5	100,388	35,747	4.2	78,850	198,962	7.7	179,239	234,709
	Other	3.1	5,253	203,000	4.5	165,215	311,571	7.6	170,468	514,571
Total		47.4	\$1,781,941	\$1,005,756	57.4	\$1,824,511	\$3,044,876	104.8	\$3,606,452	\$4,050,632

*One staff year is equivalent to one full-time employee.

APPENDIX B – DATA ACCURACY AND REPORTING METHODOLOGY

The institutions were again asked to report their data in two parts (a copy of the survey is provided in the Appendix). Part one consists of staff years and expenditures attributable to the fiscal impact of the Higher Education Veterans Service Act (Public Act 96-133). Part two consists of staff years and expenditures for services specifically provided to veterans, but not directly related to the Act.

IBHE continues to work with institutions to improve consistency in reporting. Many schools vary widely in structure and in the services they provide. This explains the variety of services that are itemized by our public institutions on their respective Fiscal Impact Surveys in Appendix C. Last year, IBHE teamed up with the Community College Board and the Department of Veteran's Affairs to revise the data collection method, and an instructional webinar was held to help improve reporting efficiency and accuracy. In doing so, we believe we have made significant strides in the uniformity of the data collection for this report.

APPENDIX D – FISCAL IMPACT SURVEY DATA REQUEST SENT TO ALL INSTITUTIONS

<u>Veterans Data Survey</u> <u>Final Results</u>	Part 1 Veterans Service Act			Part 2 Other Veterans Services		
	FY24			FY24		
	Staff Years	Dollars		Staff Years	Dollars	
		State	Other		State	Other
Total	0	\$ -	\$ -	0	\$ -	\$ -
Academic Counseling	0	\$ -	\$ -	0	\$ -	\$ -
Academic Support	0	\$ -	\$ -	0	\$ -	\$ -
Campus Social Events	0	\$ -	\$ -	0	\$ -	\$ -
Career Services	0	\$ -	\$ -	0	\$ -	\$ -
Counseling	0	\$ -	\$ -	0	\$ -	\$ -
Disability Services	0	\$ -	\$ -	0	\$ -	\$ -
Employment Assistance	0	\$ -	\$ -	0	\$ -	\$ -
Financial Aid Assistance Counseling	0	\$ -	\$ -	0	\$ -	\$ -
Health Services	0	\$ -	\$ -	0	\$ -	\$ -
Mentoring	0	\$ -	\$ -	0	\$ -	\$ -
Orientation	0	\$ -	\$ -	0	\$ -	\$ -
Tuition Assistance Counseling	0	\$ -	\$ -	0	\$ -	\$ -
Transition Assistance	0	\$ -	\$ -	0	\$ -	\$ -
Office Support for Veterans Coordinator	0	\$ -	\$ -	0	\$ -	\$ -
Veterans Student Lounge/Gathering						
Space	0	\$ -	\$ -	0	\$ -	\$ -
GI Bill Certification	0	\$ -	\$ -	0	\$ -	\$ -
Other - (Please Label)	0	\$ -	\$ -	0	\$ -	\$ -

HIGHER EDUCATION
(110 ILCS 49/) Higher Education Veterans Service Act.

(110 ILCS 49/1)

Sec. 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the Higher Education Veterans Service Act.

(Source: P.A. 96-133, eff. 8-7-09.)

(110 ILCS 49/5)

Sec. 5. Definitions. For purposes of this Act:

"Task Force" means the Task Force on Service Member and Veterans Education.

"Public colleges and universities" means public community colleges subject to the Public Community College Act, the University of Illinois, Southern Illinois University, Chicago State University, Eastern Illinois University, Governors State University, Illinois State University, Northeastern Illinois University, Northern Illinois University, and Western Illinois University.

(Source: P.A. 96-133, eff. 8-7-09.)

(110 ILCS 49/10)

Sec. 10. Findings.

(a) Pursuant to Public Act 95-736, the General Assembly created the Task Force on Service Member and Veterans Education to examine the manner in which public colleges and universities in the State of Illinois provided education to servicemen and servicewomen as well as veterans of the armed forces of the United States.

The Task Force conducted hearings and filed its findings with the General Assembly on September 16, 2008. Its report urges the General Assembly to recognize the sacrifice of American servicemen and women, and, in a small way, repay them by chartering a concerted effort by State government, in cooperation with our public institutions of higher learning, to make its best efforts to take positive, quantifiable steps to providing a superior learning environment for student veterans and service members. The Task Force reviewed the unique needs of veterans and military personnel, combined with the large number of active duty personnel and military veterans seeking higher education since the onset of the Global War on Terrorism. The Task Force found that public universities and community colleges in this State have varying levels of assistance available for active duty service personnel and veterans.

(b) The Task Force has reported that veterans and active duty personnel have difficulty in finding and receiving various State and federal education-related benefits and services that they may be eligible to receive, such as educational loans, scholarships, grants, local employment opportunities, access to medical care, a social network for support of student veterans, and groups to help with the transition to becoming a civilian after service in an active duty unit, because such programs are administered by different arms of the government.

(c) The Task Force found that the various public colleges and universities in this State have a wide array of programs and services available to veterans and active duty service personnel, ranging from online educational opportunities, admission and academic counseling, medical services, and family housing information.

(d) The Task Force also found that certain other higher education institutions across the United States have adopted programs and services that seek to better promote and coordinate the assistance that is available for veterans and active duty personnel.

(Source: P.A. 96-133, eff. 8-7-09.)

(110 ILCS 49/15)

Sec. 15. Survey; coordinator; best practices report; best efforts.

(a) All public colleges and universities shall, within 60 days after the effective date of this Act, conduct a survey of the services and programs that are provided for veterans, active duty military personnel, and their families, at each of their respective campuses. This survey shall enumerate and fully describe the service or program that is available, the number of veterans or active duty personnel using the service or program, an estimated range for potential use within a 5-year and 10-year period, information on the location of the service or program, and how its administrators may be contacted. The survey shall indicate the manner or manners in which a student veteran may avail himself or herself of the program's services. This survey must be made available to all veterans matriculating at the college or university in the form of an orientation-related guidebook.

Each public college and university shall make the survey available on the homepage of all campus Internet links as soon as practical after the completion of the survey. As soon as possible after the completion of the survey, each public college and university shall provide a copy of its survey to the following:

- (1) the Board of Higher Education;
- (2) the Department of Veterans' Affairs;
- (3) the President and Minority Leader of the Senate and the Speaker and Minority Leader of the House of Representatives; and
- (4) the Governor.

(b) Each public college and university shall, at its discretion, (i) appoint, within 6 months after the effective date of this Act, an existing employee or (ii) hire a new employee to serve as a Coordinator of Veterans and Military Personnel Student Services on each campus of the college or university that has an onsite, daily, full-time student headcount above 1,000 students.

The Coordinator of Veterans and Military Personnel Student Services shall be an ombudsperson serving the specific needs of student veterans and military personnel and their families and shall serve as an advocate before the administration of the college or university for the needs of student veterans. The college or university shall enable the Coordinator of Veterans and Military Personnel Student Services to communicate directly with the senior executive administration of the college or university periodically. The college or university shall retain unfettered discretion to determine the organizational management structure of its institution.

In addition to any responsibilities the college or university may assign, the Coordinator of Veterans and Military Personnel Student Services shall make its best efforts to create a centralized source for student veterans and military personnel to learn how to receive all benefit programs and services for which they are eligible.

Each college and university campus that is required to have a Coordinator of Veterans and Military Personnel Student Services shall regularly and conspicuously advertise the office location, phone number, and Internet access to the Coordinator of Veterans and Military Personnel Student Services, along with a brief summary of the manner in which he or she can assist student veterans. The advertisement shall include, but is not necessarily limited to, the following:

- (1) advertisements on each campus' Internet home page; and
- (2) any promotional mailings for student application.

The Coordinator of Veterans and Military Personnel Student Services shall facilitate other campus offices with the promotion of programs and services that are available.

(c) Upon receipt of all of the surveys under subsection (a) of this Section, the Board of Higher Education and the Department of Veterans' Affairs shall conduct a joint review of the surveys and post, on any Internet home

page they may operate, a link to each survey as posted on the Internet website for the college or university. Upon receipt of all of the surveys, the Office of the Governor, through its military affairs advisors, shall similarly conduct a review of the surveys and post the surveys on its Internet website. Following its review of the surveys, the Office of the Governor shall submit an evaluation report to each college and university offering suggestions and insight on the conduct of student veteran-related policies and programs.

(d) The Board of Higher Education and the Department of Veterans' Affairs may issue a best practices report to highlight those programs and services that are most beneficial to veterans and active duty military personnel. The report shall contain a fiscal needs assessment in conjunction with any program recommendations.

(e) Each college and university campus that is required to have a Coordinator of Veterans and Military Personnel Student Services under subsection (b) of this Section shall make its best efforts to create academic and social programs and services for veterans and active duty military personnel that will provide reasonable opportunities for academic performance and success.

Each public college and university shall make its best efforts to determine how its online educational curricula can be expanded or altered to serve the needs of student veterans and currently-deployed military, including a determination of whether and to what extent the public colleges and universities can share existing technologies to improve the online curricula of peer institutions, provided such efforts are both practically and economically feasible.

(Source: P.A. 96-133, eff. 8-7-09.)

(110 ILCS 49/20)

Sec. 20. Fiscal impact and reporting. Beginning on September 1 of the year following the effective date of this Act and each subsequent September 1, each college and university that is required to have a Coordinator of Veterans and Military Personnel Student Services under subsection (b) of Section 20 of this Act shall report to the Board of Higher Education on the fiscal impact of the programs and services related to the requirements of this Act.

The Board of Higher Education shall compile the information and, within 60 days after receipt of such information, issue a report reflecting the information for each institution required to report under this Section. The report must be filed with the Governor, the Governor's Office of Management and Budget, the Director of Veterans' Affairs, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President of the Senate, the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, and the Minority Leader of the Senate.

(Source: P.A. 96-133, eff. 8-7-09.)

(110 ILCS 49/99)

Sec. 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon becoming law.

(Source: P.A. 96-133, eff. 8-7-09.)