

ILLINOIS EDUCATION AND CAREER SUCCESS NETWORK CONFERENCE – MARCH 2023

Illinois Board of Higher Education Supports for Learning Renewal and Student Well-Being

The Illinois higher education strategic plan – “[A Thriving Illinois](#)” – lays out goals and strategies to ensure equitable paths to opportunity for all, especially those facing the greatest barriers. This plan, coupled with the P-20 Council’s [Learning Renewal Resource Guide](#), provide evidence-based strategies for increasing academic and wrap-around supports to assist students in successfully transitioning to and completing higher education.



Support for Student Learning Renewal and Well-Being

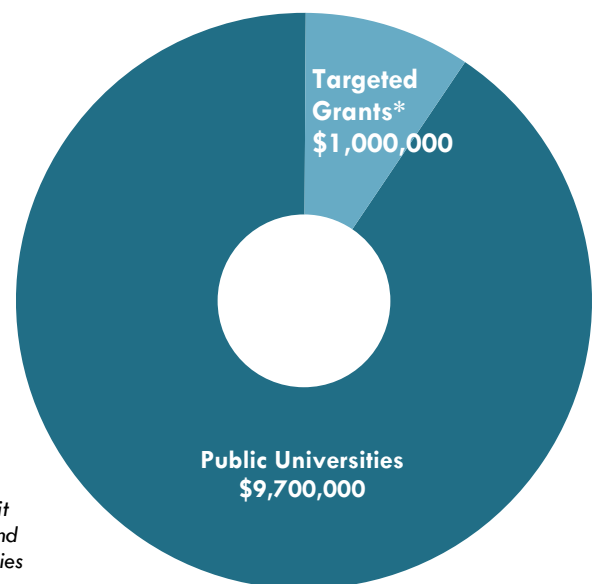
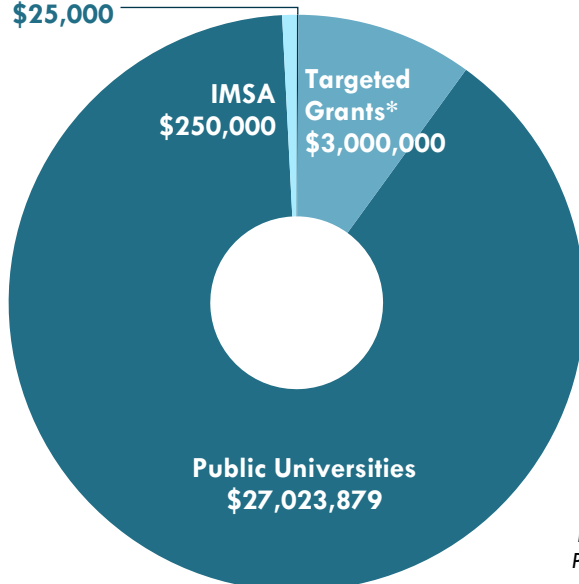
Illinois Governor’s Emergency Education Relief ([GEER](#)) federal funds are allocated to Illinois higher education institutions for services to enroll and retain students of color, first-generation, and high-need students that might otherwise not enroll or return due to the pandemic, including shoring up digital equity gaps for higher education institutions and students. Funds have been used to provide:

- Tutoring and other academic supports;
- Enhanced access to mental health services via additional personnel and telehealth options;
- Technology (hotspots, laptops through loaner and other programs);
- Enhanced access to wrap-around supports such as increased hours for campus food pantry and short-term assistance stipends for rent and other basic needs; and
- Debt relief/financial aid to help students enroll or stay enrolled.

GEER I – \$30,298,879

GEER II – \$10,700,000

University Center of Lake County
\$25,000



**to Non-Profit
Independent and
Public Universities*

Support for Students Experiencing Housing Insecurity

Each Illinois institution of higher education has designated a liaison to support students experiencing homelessness and [housing insecurity](#), as well as students in care, on their campuses. Liaisons receive training through the IBHE. Eligible public and non-profit, independent institutions also have access to funds through a competitive grant program – Ending Student Housing Insecurity (ESHI). The ESHI program supports institutions in implementing the Housing and Opportunities Act with an emphasis on community collaborations that address the root causes of homelessness such that students can focus on their transition to, and completion of, higher education programs.



The IBHE is also leading work with university benefits coordinators to enhance capacity across the higher education system to help students timely access programs and services to meet their needs.

Support for Elementary and Secondary Students Through High-Impact Tutoring

The [Illinois Tutoring Initiative](#) is outlined in the state’s higher education strategic plan, “A Thriving Illinois,” as part of Equity Strategy 1 to support the ongoing learning renewal of students and systemic implementation of evidence-informed student support practices. It is also one of four statewide strategies for learning renewal developed by the P-20 Council to respond to the pandemic. The Illinois Tutoring Initiative is a partnership among public universities, community colleges, and school districts of need in six regions across the state to provide high-impact tutoring to students in grades 3-8 in the subjects of reading and math. Additionally, the initiative provides online math tutoring to high school students. Teacher education candidates, higher education students, and other community partners are recruited, trained, and supported to provide tutoring in dosages of three hours per week to individual students and small groups of no more than three students. Priority for Illinois Tutoring Initiative services is given to school districts that receive lower levels of funding based on the state’s evidence-based funding formula, are located in areas that were disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 based on Illinois Department of Public Health data, and serve a higher percentage of low-income families. The [Illinois State Board of Education](#) and IBHE are leading the Illinois Tutoring Initiative in partnership with the Illinois Community College Board.



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