

February 19, 2026

Displaced Energy Worker Dependent Scholarship Program Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

What is the Displaced Energy Worker Dependent Transition Scholarship Program?

The Displaced Energy Worker Dependent Transition Scholarship Program provides scholarships toward higher education (Illinois public university or community college) for the children (including adopted and stepchildren) of eligible displaced energy workers.

Where can I find more information about this scholarship?

Visit the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) website for more information:

www.isac.org/students/during-college/types-of-financial-aid/scholarships/DEWDTSP.html

Who qualifies as a “displaced energy worker”

A displaced energy worker is someone who lost employment due to the reduced operation or closure of a coal plant, gas plant, or coal mine on or after September 15, 2016.

What if the displaced worker has found another job?

The current employment status of the displaced worker is not considered in the eligibility for this scholarship. In other words, the dependents of displaced energy workers remain eligible for the scholarship regardless of if the displaced worker has found a new job.

What documents are required as proof of loss of employment at a coal mine or plant?

You are required to upload proof of the displaced energy worker’s job loss due to a qualifying power plant or coal mine closure or reduction. Acceptable forms of documentation must be .pdf, .jpg, or .jpeg, and they include one of the following:

- individual letter from employer or employer-generated list of individuals who were laid off or terminated
- certification of separation (from the employer)
- employer or union representative certification, letter or statement of separation
- Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES) unemployment insurance information or other state's unemployment insurance records.

No other documentation will be accepted and the effective date of the separation from employment must be included.

Does the applicant need to provide evidence of financial need?

One of the “eligibility” requirements of the grant is that without the scholarship the applicant would be deterred by financial considerations from completing their higher education. The applicant does not need to provide any proof of financial need. ISAC considers application to the scholarship as the indication of need of the scholarship.

What costs does this scholarship cover?

The scholarship pays tuition and fee costs at public universities or community colleges for a period equal to one calendar year, including a summer term, for undergraduate or graduate study.

When is the application due?

There are typically three deadlines to apply in a given calendar year for different semesters/quarters/terms and they include:

- Deadline 1 (around October 1): 1st Semester Only **or** Full Year Consideration
- Deadline 2 (around March 1): 2nd Semester (2nd/3rd Quarter) Only **or** 2nd Semester (2nd/3rd Quarter) and Summer Term Consideration
- Deadline 3 (around June 15): Summer Term Only Consideration

Check the ISAC website for exact dates for the current academic year.

How do I fill out an application?

You must have an account in the ISAC student portal. You can create that here:

https://studentportal.isac.org/web/guest/student/?p_p_id=Student_WAR_Studentportlet&Student_WAR_Studentportlet_facesViewIdRender=%2Fviews%2Faccount.xhtml

You can find the link to the application for this scholarship at the bottom of this page:

https://studentportal.isac.org/web/guest/student?p_p_id=Student_WAR_Studentportlet&p_p_lifecycle=1&p_p_state=normal&p_p_mode=view&p_p_col_id=column-1&p_p_col_count=1&Student_WAR_Studentportlet_facesViewIdRender=%2Fviews%2FisacPrograms.xhtml

How many times can I receive this scholarship?

Eligible applicants may reapply in future years and receive the scholarship more than once.

My questions are not answered on this FAQ, where do I find an answer?

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