



Women Employed

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

April 21, 2010

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**Women Employed Issues Position Paper on Illinois Student Financial Aid Funding**

*Using bonds to fund training through community colleges 'an efficient solution'*

CHICAGO, April 21, 2010--Women Employed released a position paper, entitled "Alternative funding for the Monetary Award Program," which details problems with the current funding model for Illinois' college financial aid programs and makes specific recommendations with regard to MAP.

The release of the paper comes at a critical time. The State of Illinois is cash-strapped, and MAP is unable to meet current demand. The Illinois Student Assistance Commission suspended award announcements on April 19<sup>th</sup> and projects total MAP-eligible students to number 409,000. Approximately 189,000 will have applied before the suspension date and could claim a MAP grant. ISAC estimates a record 220,000 eligible applications received after the suspense date will go unfunded. Of these, 142,000 are community college students.

"When students cannot get financial aid for college and workforce training, Illinois' economic health is jeopardized," said Anne Ladky, Executive Director of Women Employed. "We need new solutions to ensure that college-level training is more widely available."

Women Employed calls for legislation to help more Illinoisans get training for good jobs, improve MAP student completion rates, and expand workforce training opportunities for middle-skill occupations. The paper specifically supports the Illinois Student Assistance Commission's proposal to issue revenue bonds to ensure Illinoisans can enter training programs when they need them and open access to higher education for extremely low-income Illinoisans. "We believe a bonding program will enable more

*It's up to us.*

Illinoisans to get training and increase the number of people who are well prepared for jobs of the future,” Ladky said.

Download the paper [here](#).

### **About Women Employed**

Women Employed’s mission is to improve women’s economic status and remove barriers to economic equity. Women Employed promotes fair workplace practices, helps increase access to training and education, and provides women with innovative tools and information to move into careers paying family-supporting wages. For information, visit [www.womenemployed.org](http://www.womenemployed.org).

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