



Peoria Promise Foundation
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2026 PROGRAM FACT SHEET

Celebrating 18 years of student success

(Statistics are through December 2025 fall semester)

PEORIA HEIGHTS HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES ARE NOW ELIGIBLE TO APPLY FOR PEORIA PROMISE EFFECTIVE FALL 2025.

PROGRAM FACTS

\$8.280 million in program funds have been raised through December 2025.

Over 6,000 students have been awarded tuition funds since 2008

48% are the first in family to attend college

61% would not have attended college without Peoria Promise

83% of Peoria Promise recipients are employed while in school

18% are working in a career field of study while in school

STUDENT STATISTICS

87% Peoria Public School students – 11 % Private School students 2% Home School

76% low income (based on determined EFC score from College FAFSA application)

Gender makeup – 57% female, 42% male

59% diversity in our students (Asian, African American, Latino, other)

90.6% of our enrolled students complete their coursework (graduate)

On average 30% of our students transfer to a 4-year college after graduating from ICC while 70% are looking to enter the workforce.

70% of the available jobs in the market only required a 2-year certificate.

Only 40% of the population in the region has the post-secondary training needed - 70% of available jobs in the market require a minimum of 2 years' post-secondary education. Peoria Promise is an integral part of this solution.

CAREER GOALS:

437 students applied and are eligible for benefits from Peoria Promise for the 2024/2025 school year. 357 enrolled at ICC. Reported career goals of our students are: (statistics through December 2024) We anticipate after all aid is applied that we will assist 275-300 students.

30.8% Medical – 17.1% Business/marketing/communication - 5% Community Service

6.8% Engineering - 9% Technology - 4.8% Education - 6.1% Trades -11.6% other/undecided

FUNDING:

EFFECTIVE FALL 2025

PEORIA HEIGHTS HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES ARE NOW ELIGIBLE FOR THE PEORIA PROMISE PROGRAM.

Expanded to City of West Peoria students (effective 2023) 100%

Donor Funded Tuition Reimbursement program.

An **OPPORTUNITY** for students to receive out-of-pocket tuition reimbursement to attend Illinois Central College.

Local employers should consider Peoria Promise an **EXTENSION of Employee benefits** for their employee's children and grandchildren.

Peoria Promise is a proud **HEART OF ILLINOIS UNITED WAY AGENCY.**

Student surveys are completed each semester with all students to ensure accuracy in our program statistics. We meet in-person with students each semester.

Peoria Promise will only reimburse for successful completion of coursework with a "C" or better grade per class.

Students are now encouraged to complete College Readiness Class at ICC Peoria Promise reimburses tuition expense between 50% to 100%, based on demonstrated need as reported on the FAFSA application and after all other financial assistance has been applied. The program will reimburse up to 12 credit hours per semester.

All high school graduates (who reside in the city of Peoria and now City of West Peoria) for a minimum of 4 years) who attend either public or private schools are eligible.

Students who have received a GED certificate or a valid home School certificate are now eligible for Peoria Promise as of 2018 application.

Peoria Promise application is open annually from February 1 – May 15th.

“The best investment a business can make is one that enhances the economic future of its community.” Jim Ardis, founder and former Mayor, City of Peoria.

Peoria Promise supports economic development by increasing the number of graduates who complete a college or vocational program, thereby delivering a more skilled workforce. Application and investment information can be found on our website at www.peoriapromise.org.

Expansion to Peoria Heights High School – approved

In 2025, Peoria Promise is working to secure funding to expand our program to include Peoria Heights High School students – thereby including Peoria Heights residents. PHHS averages 50 seniors a year – with an average of 30% of students enrolling at ICC this would average 15 students from PHHS with an additional 1015 who are enrolled at Notre Dame, Richwoods or Peoria Christian. Growing our enrollment by approximately 25 students.

Expanding to Peoria Heights will now increase access to new investors for the program. The average household income in Peoria Heights is \$56,000/year. Peoria High School enrollment is down due to loss of population and smaller families – with the overlapping of communities now, we feel it is time to pursue this goal. We estimate this liability to be \$20-30K a year in tuition.