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**U of I could receive 2.76 percent more in general revenue funds**  
*Pending FY 2009 state support increase of \$19.9 million*

URBANA—The University of Illinois would receive an increase of \$19.9 million, or 2.76 percent, in its base operating appropriation from the state for fiscal year 2009 in the new budget adopted by the legislature and pending final approval by the governor.

The appropriation of \$740.4 million in general revenue funds (GRF) would provide base operating support for the University and its three campuses in Urbana-Champaign, Chicago and Springfield.

The University's overall budget is \$4.1 billion for fiscal 2009, which begins July 1. Lawmakers agreed on a state spending plan for 2009 late Saturday, but it remains for the governor to review and decide whether to sign it or offer changes.

In addition to the University's operating appropriation, the new state budget would include \$3.750 million in GRF support for various campus-based initiatives. At the Chicago campus these include \$1 million for Project CHANCE (Complete Help and Assistance Necessary for a College Education); \$800,000 for the Hispanic Center for Excellence; \$350,000 for the College of Dentistry; and \$1.250 million to launch a public policy institute. At the Urbana campus it includes \$350,000 for the Dixon Springs Agricultural Center, a crop sciences research facility.

The General Assembly also passed legislation to transfer operations of the four state scientific surveys to the Urbana campus and provided the \$15.8 million in GRF support for the surveys—the Illinois State Water Survey, the Illinois State Geological Survey, the Illinois Natural History Survey and the Illinois Waste Management and Research Center. The transfer of the scientific surveys to the U. of I. will establish at the Urbana campus the Institute for Natural Sciences and Sustainability.

The legislature provided \$6.250 million in grant funding through the Illinois Department of Corrections for CeaseFire, a program of the Chicago Project for Violence Prevention housed at the University of Illinois at Chicago's School of Public Health.

Other statewide grant programs from which the U. of I. would receive funding, under the pending new budget, include \$2.5 million from the Illinois Department of Public Health for sickle cell research; \$14.3 million from the Illinois Department of Agriculture for Illinois Extension; \$5.36 million from the state agriculture department for Cook County Extension; \$5.7 million from the agriculture department for the Illinois Council on Food and Agricultural Research (CFAR); \$125,000 from the Illinois Department of Public Health for the Illinois Health Policy Center at UIC; \$7.8 million from the Illinois Department of Human Services for the Division of Specialized Care for Children (DSCC); and \$1 million for a pharmacy program at the College of Medicine in Rockford.

The legislature also provided \$9.5 million in the state matching grant program for Illinois higher education. The grant funds would be used by universities to match research funds from other sources—most often the federal government—and the U. of I.'s share was \$4.2 million in fiscal 2007.

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**The University of Illinois is a world leader in research and discovery, the largest educational institution in the state with nearly 70,000 students, 24,000 faculty and staff, and campuses in Urbana-Champaign, Chicago and Springfield. The U. of I. awards nearly 18,000 undergraduate, graduate and professional degrees annually.**