



Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity

JB Pritzker, Governor

Northeast Region Weekly Update January 9, 2023

Happy New Year from all of us at DCEO!

DCEO Grants & Programs

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) – Public Infrastructure and Housing Rehabilitation due January 19

The Office of Community Development supports economic development, community development, and infrastructure improvements in Illinois communities with substantial low-to-moderate-income populations that do not receive a direct allocation from HUD.

For information regarding CDBG Economic Development click [here](#)

For information regarding CDBG Public Infrastructure due January 19 click [here](#)

For information regarding CDBG Housing Rehabilitation due January 19 click [here](#)

Route 66 Grant Program – Round 2 – due January 31

DCEO is pleased to release a [Notice of Funding Opportunity \(NOFO\) for round 2 of the Route 66 Grant Program](#). This NOFO will award grants to certified convention and visitors bureaus for the development of tourism, education, preservation, and promotion of the 100th anniversary of Route 66 in 2026. Since 1926, Route 66 defined a remarkable era in our nation's history and it lives today in Illinois' many Route 66 roadside attractions, museums and restaurants. Route 66 is one of the most famous roads in America. Generations of travelers have romanticized this highway as a symbol of unlimited mobility and freedom of the road. Its iconic status is enhanced by the unprecedented volume of music, books, films and other art forms that depict it as the essence of America's highway culture.

This funding opportunity provides the certified convention and visitors bureaus along the route to partner and develop projects which will enhance the Route 66 experience in Illinois. Preference will be given to projects that:

- Develop new or enhance existing attractions that elevate the Route 66 experience in Illinois by adding new Route 66 tourism attractions and visitor services along the Route
- Support improved wayfinding for visitors traveling Route 66
- Strengthen future tourism trends that includes electrified transportation (i.e., electric vehicles)
- Provide statewide marketing efforts by the convention and visitors bureaus working together to promote the entire Illinois portion

Please click [here](#) for more information on the opportunity. **Grant applications under this NOFO are due by 5pm on January 31, 2023.**

Energy Transition Community Grant

The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity is pleased to announce the release of a [Notice of Funding Opportunity \(NOFO\) for the Energy Transition Community Grant Program](#). The Energy Transition Community Grant Program will provide grants to communities in an area where a closure or reduced operation of a fossil fuel power plant, coal mine, or nuclear plant, has occurred or has been announced. The Energy Transition Community Grant Program was created by the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act (CEJA, P.A. 102-0662), signed into law by Governor Pritzker on September 15, 2021. Information on the program, and application materials can be found at the [DCEO Grant Opportunities page](#).

This opportunity will entail a two-phase application process:

- In Phase 1, local governments that meet program eligibility requirements will provide an application to the Department that provides basic information about the applicant and their eligibility. After all Phase 1 applications have been received, DCEO will identify whether each Phase 1 applicant is eligible and determine the amount of funds that each entity is eligible for. **The deadline for the Phase 1 application is January 20, 2023. Applicants that are eligible due to a plant or mine closure that occurred in 2016 must provide their Phase 1 application by December 31, 2022.**
- In Phase 2, Phase 1 applicants that have been provided an approved funding amount will prepare a more detailed application, with a project narrative and budget that includes specifics on their intended use of the grant award. **The deadline for Phase 2 applications will be April 12, 2023.**

The following localities have been identified as eligible to apply for the Energy Transition Community Grant Program based on the latest available data and information on planned closures, closures, major reductions, and criteria outlined in CEJA. If a locality believes they may be eligible under CEJA and are not included below, they are encouraged to submit phase 1 application documents.

Name of Plant/Mine	Host City or County	Closure Year (actual or anticipated)
Creek Paum Mine	Jackson County	2016
Pattiki II	White County	2016
Wood River Power Plant	East Alton	2016
Galatia Mine	Saline County	2017
Gateway Mine	Randolph County	2017
New Future Portal Mine	Saline County	2017
Coffeen	Montgomery County	2019
Duck Creek	Fulton County	2019
Havana	Mason County	2019
Hennepin	Village of Hennepin	2019

Wildcat Hills Mine Complex	Saline County	2019
SIPC – Lake of Egypt	Williamson County	2020 (significant reduction, not closure)
City Water, Light & Power	Springfield	2021 (significant reduction, not closure)
E.D. Edwards Power Plant	Peoria County	2022
Joppa Steam Plant	Massac County	2022
Waukegan	Waukegan	2022
Will County	Romeoville	2022
Joliet Generating	Will County	2023
Baldwin Generating Center	Randolph County	2025
Kincaid Generation	Christian County	2027
Newton Power Plant	Jasper County	2027
Powerton Station	Tazewell County	2028

For questions on the program and the application process, email CEO.CEJCommTransition@illinois.gov.

Federal Funding to Support Small Businesses

The U.S. Department of the Treasury announced that Illinois will receive up to \$354.6 million to administer four programs as part of the State Small Business Credit Initiative (SSBCI). The expanded program offering through SSBCI will enable Illinois to support small businesses across the state - helping them attract more capital investment and expand or launch business operations, while supporting key sectors. All of the new programs will launch in the coming months.

- Advantage Illinois (AI) Loan Participation Program (Existing Program)**
 Advantage Illinois' existing Loan Participation Program provides low-interest loans to small businesses by partnering with local lenders located across the state. In 2022 as of December, 71 percent of AI loans have gone to businesses owned by people of color, women, people with disabilities or veterans.
- Advantage Illinois (AI) Loan Guarantee Program (New Program)**
 Advantage Illinois' new Loan Guarantee Program will support business applicants who are having difficulty gaining access to capital by using funds to guarantee a percentage of loans provided by partner lenders. By guaranteeing a percentage of the loan, it makes loans more attractive to lenders and has the potential to increase the funds received by the businesses.
- INVENT Venture Capital Program (VCP) (New Program)**
 Innovation Venture Fund (INVENT) will operate as a direct equity program with a focus on investing in businesses in key industries such as agriculture, ag tech, information technology, life sciences, manufacturing, quantum, and more.

- **Climate Bank Finance Loan Participation Program (New Program)**

This new program will be overseen by DCEO and administered by the Illinois Finance Authority (IFA), which will partner with local lenders to issue the loans. Climate Bank funds will be available to small businesses in the clean energy sector.

The programs will launch in the near future; interested businesses should fill out [this form](#) to receive additional information and updates when the programs are launched.

Grant Match Program to Spur Innovation in Cutting Edge Technologies

Governor Pritzker and the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) announced \$5 million in state-funded matching grants for businesses who have received federal funding through the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) or Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs.

The federal [SBIR & STTR](#) programs provide grants for research and development (R&D) to small businesses to encourage private sector innovation in emerging technologies. R&D represents a critical business expense that can be costly and presents a potential risk for small businesses that don't have large sums of capital. By providing grants that support R&D, the programs encourage innovation in emerging technologies that could benefit the federal government as well as the commercial marketplace.

The state-funded SBIR/STTR Matching Grant Program is designed to further increase capital for SBIR/STTR recipients in Illinois - stimulating high-tech innovation and commercialization for Illinois small businesses that are conducting cutting-edge research. Illinois currently has more than 100 SBIR/STTR federal recipients who may be eligible for a state matching grant of up to \$50,000 per project.

DCEO is currently accepting applications from businesses who have received a Phase I federal SBIR/STTR grant award. Applicants are eligible to receive up to \$50,000 in matching grants, with the option to re-apply and receive up to five awards for each federal Phase I award received (one per fiscal year). **Awards will be granted on a first-come-first-serve and rolling basis.** Interested companies can learn more [here](#).

Meat & Poultry Supply Chain Capital Grant Program

Governor JB Pritzker and the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) announced a new \$6 million capital grant program designed to strengthen the meat and poultry supply chain by helping independently owned meat processing companies in Illinois build capacity and create and retain jobs. Through the Meat & Poultry Supply Chain Capital Grant Program, companies are eligible for grants of \$250,000 to \$1.5 million, with a company match of at least four times the amount awarded. The Meat & Poultry Supply Chain Capital Grant Program aims to support communities by helping independently owned companies build capacity, create jobs and ultimately, strengthen our meat processing supply chain in Illinois, thereby making food products more affordable and accessible. Eligibility is restricted to plants that are not operated by the four largest meat processing companies that own most of the nation's meat processing market share. Through the program, companies can receive funding for the construction of a new facility, expanding or renovating existing facilities, and modernizing processing and manufacturing equipment. As part of DCEO's commitment to equity, the application process prioritizes applicants located in underserved and rural areas.

Grants will be issued on a rolling basis; interested parties can find more information on the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) [here](#).

Cannabis Social Equity Loan Program

Governor JB Pritzker and the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) announced that \$8.75 million in Direct Forgivable Loans fully financed by the State will be made available to all conditionally-approved social equity loan applicants in order to provide immediate access to capital. Pending the completion of a simplified documentation process, forgivable loan amounts between \$50,000-\$500,000 will be released immediately. A total of \$8.75 million will be available through the new Direct Forgivable Loan Program. The following loan amounts are available per participant based on the business type:

- **Craft Growers:** \$500,000
- **Infusers:** \$250,000
- **Transporters:** \$50,000

For more information contact CEO.CannabisLoan@Illinois.gov.

Other State Agency Grants & Programs

Illinois EMA Not-for-Profit Security Grant Program – **due January 16**

The State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2023 Illinois Not-for-Profit Security Grant Program will provide a total of \$20 million to eligible 501c (3) organizations located in the State of Illinois who are deemed at high-risk of a terrorist attack by a terrorist organization, network, or cell.

IEMA will issue these competitive grants, up to \$150,000, to eligible applicants that are approved by IEMA. Eligible not-for-profit organizations with one site may apply for up to \$150,000 for that site. Eligible not-for-profit organizations with multiple sites may apply for up to \$150,000 per site, for up to three sites, for a maximum of \$450,000 per sub-applicant. The period of performance is 36 months.

NSGP-IL funds must be used for target-hardening activities, which can be accomplished through trainings such as active shooter, or through the purchase or installation of security equipment on real property (including buildings and improvements) owned or leased by the not-for-profit organization, as well contracted security personnel. Security enhancements must be for the locations that the not-for-profit occupies at the time of the application, and the projects must be fully completed during the three-year performance period.

To learn more about this funding opportunity, eligible applicants should visit the IEMA website <https://iema.illinois.gov/> & <https://iema.illinois.gov/ittf/nsgp-il.html> and download the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO).

If you have any questions or require any assistance, please email iema.grants@illinois.gov or call IEMA's Chief Accountability Officer **Myong-Ae Kim** at 217-785-9890. Complete applications from eligible not-for-profit organizations must be submitted no later than 5:00 p.m. CDT on **January 16, 2023**.

Landmarks Illinois seeks nominations for the 2023 Most Endangered Historic Places in Illinois – **due January 17**

Landmarks Illinois is now accepting nominations for the 2023 Most Endangered Historic Places in Illinois. The annual Most Endangered list is our longest-running advocacy program that calls attention to historic and culturally

significant sites across the state that are threatened with deterioration, demolition or inappropriate development. Nominations for the 2023 Most Endangered list can be made [online here](#) and are due January 17, 2023.

Anyone, including residents, local community groups and city officials, can submit a nomination for a site in Illinois to be included on the 2023 Most Endangered list. Nominated sites should be in critical need of preservation. They do not need to be locally or nationally designated landmarks but should be valued by local residents and/or celebrate local history or culture.

All nominations submitted to the 2023 Most Endangered list will be reviewed by the Landmarks Illinois staff and board of directors. Landmarks Illinois particularly welcomes nominations for places that tell the stories of communities that have historically not received equal recognition from the preservation field. Nominators will be notified in early spring whether or not their place was selected. The 2023 Most Endangered list will be announced in May 2023. Please [review the FAQs](#) for detailed information on the annual Most Endangered list, including how sites are selected and what is required of those who nominate a site. Explore previous Most Endangered lists and learn more about the program [at their website](#).

ICJIA Transitional Housing – due January 18

The Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority (ICJIA) announced a \$2.8 million Transitional Housing Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) today. This federally funded Victim of Crime Act (VOCA) NOFO secures transitional housing services for individuals whose housing needs arise from or are a cause of their victimization.

The statewide NOFO offers grants to public agencies and non-profit organizations that support programs that provide survivors safety, independence, and stable housing. Eligible clients include adult victims of domestic violence, human trafficking, anti-LGBTQ+ violence, forced labor, and other crimes. Grants will be made between \$100,000 to \$400,000. Funds must be spent between March 1, 2023, and February 29, 2024. Agencies may be request and receive additional funding to support programming for up to another 24 months, after the initial funding period.

The application deadline for this program is **January 18, 2023**.

IDES and New York University Re-Entry Training Grant

Illinois Department of Employment Security and New York University would like to invite you to participate in a Virtual Job Fair Highlighting your Company and Job Opportunities to participants in the NYU Re-Entry training grant. If you would like to participate, please confirm registration with Freddie.L.Buckingham@illinois.gov Presentation materials must be turned in by January 17th.

Webinar topic: Second Chance Virtual Job Fair - NYU/IDOC

Date and time: **Thursday, January 19, 2023 12:00 pm** | (UTC-06:00) Central Time (US & Canada)

Join link: <https://illinois.webex.com/illinois/j.php?MTID=mb66295aa5dd804a7dff3e11613d3de8>

Webinar number: 2451 587 4635

Join by video system: Dial [24515874635@illinois.webex.com](tel:24515874635)

You can also dial 173.243.2.68 and enter your meeting number.

Join by phone+1-312-535-8110 United States Toll (Chicago)

+1-415-655-0002 US Toll

Access code: 245 158 74635

Illinois EPA Announces Second Electric Vehicle Rebate Program – due January 31

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA) Director John J. Kim announced the next funding round for Illinois' Electric Vehicle (EV) Rebate Program will be open **Tuesday, November 1, 2022 – Tuesday, January 31, 2023**. Individuals that have purchased an all-electric vehicle since July 1, 2022 can access and complete an application for a rebate under Illinois' EV Rebate Program at:

<https://www2.illinois.gov/epa/topics/ceja/Pages/Electric-Vehicle-Rebates.aspx>. EV purchasers must apply for a rebate within 90 days of the vehicle purchase date.

To be eligible for a rebate, the vehicle must be exclusively powered and refueled by electricity, plugged in to charge, and licensed to drive on public roadways. Electric mopeds, electric off-highway vehicles, hybrid electric or extended-range electric vehicles that are also equipped with conventional fueled propulsion or auxiliary engines are not eligible under the program.

A webpage has been established for Illinois' EV Rebate Program at:

<https://www2.illinois.gov/epa/topics/ceja/Pages/Electric-Vehicle-Rebates.aspx>

This includes a link to the current rebate application, instructions on completing the application, a Frequently Asked Questions document, and other relevant information.

Questions about the EV Rebate Program may be submitted to EPA.EV@Illinois.gov. Individuals interested in receiving updates on Illinois EPA's EV programs may register for the EV Listserv located at the bottom of the EV Rebate Program webpage: <https://www2.illinois.gov/epa/topics/ceja/Pages/Electric-Vehicle-Rebates.aspx>.

Illinois Housing Development Authority Mortgage Assistance Program – due January 31

The Illinois Housing Development Authority (IHDA) announced it is reopening a mortgage assistance program designed to assist homeowners financially impacted by the pandemic on Tuesday, November 1, 2022. The Illinois Homeowner Assistance Fund (ILHAF) provides up to \$30,000 in mortgage assistance to eligible homeowners — paid directly to the servicer, taxing body or other approved entity — while homeowners work to regain their financial footing. Whether homeowners have a mortgage, a reverse mortgage, or are mortgage-free, the program can fund past due housing payments and up to three months of prospective mortgage payments.

The program is free and funds do not need to be repaid. Application, program information and updates can be found at illinoishousinghelp.org. Applications will be accepted until 11:59 p.m. on Tuesday, **January 31, 2023**.

To qualify for ILHAF assistance, Illinois homeowners must have experienced a financial hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic after Jan. 21, 2020 (including a hardship that began before Jan. 21, 2020, but continued after that date). They also must currently own and occupy their home in Illinois as their primary residence, be at least 30 days late on their monthly housing payments and have a household income at or below 150% of the area median income.

Potential applicants must demonstrate they have either communicated with their mortgage provider about their inability to pay, or sought counseling with a HUD-approved counseling organization. Interested homeowners are strongly encouraged to attend an information session hosted by IHDA or one of our housing partners. The session schedule is posted online at illinoishousinghelp.org, for those without access to a computer or the internet, please contact the ILHAF hotline at 1-866-IL-HELP (866-454-3571).

Homeowners who received assistance in the previous round of ILHAF can apply for additional assistance this round. Please note, however, the maximum assistance that can be provided in total to applicants across both rounds is \$30,000. For more information and updates on the program, please visit illinoishousinghelp.org.

Statewide PACE Program - Clean Energy Renovations and New Construction

Governor JB Pritzker and the Illinois Finance Authority announced the launch of a statewide PACE (Property Assessed Clean Energy) program to spur investment in electric vehicle charging stations, energy efficiency, and water conservation, and to stimulate the growth of renewable energy and resilient building design throughout Illinois. The Illinois Finance Authority PACE program, now available to all Illinois counties and municipalities, is designed to reduce costs, improve service delivery, and create uniformity in Illinois' Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE) financing market.

Under Illinois law, counties, cities, villages, and incorporated towns may create PACE areas at the request of for-profit and non-profit owners of commercial, industrial, and multi-family (of 5 or more units) properties. C-PACE financing can be used by owners and developers of commercial properties to finance or refinance eligible clean energy improvements in connection with the renovation of existing buildings and new construction, in each case up to 25% of the value of the property. Counties and municipalities interested in learning more about the Illinois Finance Authority PACE Program are encouraged to visit its website [here](#). Contact Brad Fletcher (bfletcher@il-fa.com) to opt into the Illinois Finance Authority PACE Program for free!

IDOT Building Blocks of Success

The Illinois Department of Transportation is hosting [free](#) virtual workshops in January as part of its continuing Building Blocks of Success series for Disadvantaged Business Enterprise firms interested in strengthening their skills, growing their business and bidding on state projects. New and existing DBEs, as well as firms interested in becoming certified in the program are invited.

January workshop dates and topics are:

- Jan. 10, 10 a.m. to noon: Basic Math for Estimating & Bidding Part 1
- Jan. 12, 10 a.m. to noon: Basic Math for Estimating & Bidding Part 2 Jan. 17, 10 a.m. to noon: Basic Math for Estimating & Bidding Part 3
- Jan. 19, 10 a.m. to noon: Basic Plan Review
- Jan. 24, 10 a.m. to noon: Marketing and Networking
- Jan. 31, 10 a.m. to noon: IDOT EPAS System - SOIs

Future topics covered will include Excel estimating and bidding spreadsheet, bidding on the IDOT website, contracts, steps needed to be certified as a DBE firm and more.

Building Blocks of Success will continue through April. Workshop information, including dates and times, is available through Eventbrite at bit.ly/DBEworkshops. Advance registration is required. Questions can be directed to IDOT's DBE Resource Center at (312) 939-1100.

Administered by IDOT, the DBE program provides minorities, women and other eligible small businesses opportunities to participate in highway, transit and airport contracts that are federally and state funded. For more information on becoming a certified DBE and learning more about IDOT resources that are available, visit www.idot.illinois.gov/dbe.

Helpful Resources

GettingAroundIllinois.com - statewide road conditions this winter

With cold weather settling in, the Illinois Department of Transportation is reminding the public to visit and bookmark GettingAroundIllinois.com for updated information on road conditions. GettingAroundIllinois.com is available on your computer and optimized for smartphones. The site includes the ability to identify and zoom in on a location, travel route or destination on a state map. For more information, visit idot.illinois.gov.

Join DCEO's Team!

DCEO is expanding around the state. To apply for these jobs, please go to the Work4Illinois website at <https://illinois.jobs2web.com/> and use the search function to find the positions for our department.

Posting closing 1/17/23

Industrial & Community Development Representative II (Cook) 2 positions

DCEO Website – www.illinois.gov/dceo

The Illinois DCEO website includes a page dedicated to current state and federal grant opportunities as well as Grantee resources. Click [HERE](#) to find valuable information!

DID YOU KNOW? Illinois has a new [EV website](#)! Check it out!

Following DCEO & Connecting with Team RED

If you have upcoming meetings or events and would like DCEO to participate, please reach out to us. Follow us on our social media channels for real time updates.

Facebook – facebook.com/IllinoisDCEO

Twitter – twitter.com/IllinoisDCEO

Linked In – linkedin.com/company/IllinoisDCEO

Federal Grant Opportunities

- [Grid Innovation Program](#) – concept papers due 1/13