



Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity

JB Pritzker, Governor

Northeast Region Weekly Update September 5, 2023

2023 DCEO Business Development Roadshow

Team RED Encore Virtual Presentation Business Development Updates

September 21, 2023 starting at 10:00 am

To register for this webinar event, [click here](#)

Office of Minority Economic Empowerment (OMEE)

[Online with OMEE – Overview of Financial Resources for Small Businesses](#) (click header to register)

Wednesday | September 6, 2023 | 10:00 – 11:00 AM

Is access to financial capital important for your business?

The Office of Minority Economic Empowerment (OMEE) Business Development Managers invite you to an online conversation that's open to all minorities ((racial/ethnic), women, persons with disabilities, veterans, and LGBTQIA+) and any other marginalized groups-owned businesses. Team OMEE will provide you with the latest updates on financial resources like federal and state programs, information about other opportunities, and answer any questions you may have about your business. We'll take questions in English and Spanish.

2023 Manufacturing Month

The Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity is planning for Manufacturing Month this October! We will join industry leaders and partners in the national celebration of Manufacturing Day (October 6) as well as celebrating month-long promoting one of Illinois' largest industry sectors and highlighting manufacturing as a viable career option for future generations. Are you planning an event or aware of any local manufacturing month events that will be held within your area? Please let us know and [Register your event](#) on [Creatorswanted.com](#)

Business Resiliency Grant Program

The Business Resiliency grant opportunity, funded through the U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development's Community Development Block Grant-Coronavirus (CDBG-CV), is now available for County Leads to begin preparing applications. More than \$24 million has been allocated to reimburse eligible businesses for expenses to prevent, prepare for or respond to COVID-19, specifically for activities undertaken to keep them in business during the pandemic. Some examples include tent rental for customers to dine outside, plexiglass partitions between staff and customers, and cashless payment systems. Businesses are eligible for up to \$20,000

and must apply as part of an application from a Lead Local Government within the County. Individual applications from businesses cannot be accepted.

The Notice of Funding Opportunity, Program Guidebook and Application materials may be found at <https://dceo.illinois.gov/aboutdceo/grantopportunities/3165-2578.html> and specifically the NOFO can be viewed [here](#). Applications may be submitted beginning August 15, 2023 and must be submitted no later than **December 31, 2023**. **Funds are available on a first-come, first-qualified basis until all funds are expended.**

Climate and Equitable Jobs Act (CEJA)

Questions about the CEJA Workforce Programs? Learn more [here](#), email ceo.ceja@illinois.gov or check out our [FAQ page](#).

Federal Grant Support Program

The Department's Federal Grant Support Program will make up to \$15 million available to Illinois based businesses and organizations seeking competitive federal grants. Competitive federal grants typically require a match, which is the non-federal share of the project costs that a grantee must contribute to achieve the purposes of the award. In some instances where there is no formal matching requirement, the percentage of the match provided by the grantee is used as a metric for evaluating the competitiveness of an application. The Department may provide a grant up to \$2,000,000 that entails up to a 1:1 match of the applicant's cash contribution towards the project. This matching grant program is intended to encourage more Illinois-based applicants to apply for federal grant opportunities, provide critical assistance to meet the minimum match eligibility requirements, increase the competitiveness of applications, and provide the State of Illinois with an opportunity to make a firm commitment and demonstration of support for projects that are well aligned with the State's economic development goals and priorities. Eligible applicants will apply for this program while they are preparing an application for a federal grant. Successful applicants will then receive a letter of commitment that they will be awarded a Federal Grant Support grant from the Department, contingent on receiving a federal award.

Additional information and the NOFO can be found [here](#). **Application Deadline: Rolling.**

Connect Illinois Round 3 Open & Accepting Applications

Through multiple rounds of competitive matching grants, Connect Illinois seeks to achieve what no other state or federal approach to date has accomplished: ubiquitous broadband access for homes, businesses, and community anchor institutions. broadband access of at least 25/3 Mbps but less than 100/20 Mbps

To view the NOFO and apply, click [here](#). **Application Deadline: Rolling.**

Other State Agency Grants & Programs

HUD Hope VI Main Street Grant Program Funding for Affordable Housing on Main Streets Informational Webinar

Thursday, September 7, 2023

2:00 PM in Central Time (US and Canada)

The creation of affordable downtown rental units fills an urgent need for small and rural communities. New residential Main Street development strengthens small businesses, bolsters the local economy, and renews

vibrancy. The HOPE VI Main Street Grant Program through the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) provides grants to communities with populations smaller than 50,000 to assist in the renovation of a historic traditional central business district, or “Main Street”. The Main Street grant enables revitalization through replacing unused obsolete commercial space with affordable housing units. Join this webinar on the program to learn about the application process, address questions related to the current NOFO, and learn how you can take action to promote housing in your Main Street district. We encourage you to attend as a team with your staff, local government officials, HUD leaders, and other housing partners. Learn more and register at <https://bit.ly/45GQQNY>

Illinois EPA Announces Six Fall 2023 Household Hazardous Waste Collection Events

Illinois EPA Director John J. Kim is announcing six upcoming Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) one-day collection locations for the Fall of 2023. These collection events are co-sponsored by units of local government and provide residents the free opportunity to safely dispose of unused or leftover hazardous products commonly found in homes.

One-day collections are open to all Illinois residents and operate from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on the day of the event. Pre-registration is required for all Fall 2023 collection events. Residents participating are encouraged to bring chemical cleaners, oil-based paints, thinners, antifreeze, motor oil, gasoline, kerosene, weed killers, insecticides, and pesticides, old or outdated medication, and similar hazardous household products. Fluorescent and other high-intensity discharge lamps may also be brought to the collections. **ITEMS NOT ACCEPTED include latex paint, explosives, propane tanks, fire extinguishers, smoke detectors, agricultural chemicals, and business wastes.**

For safe transport of HHW, residents are asked to:

- Pack HHW items in a disposable box to avoid spilling during transport.
- Keep like chemicals together and separate unlike chemicals.
- Secure lids and make sure containers are not leaking.
- Place box(es) of HHW in the empty trunk or storage compartment of your vehicle, away from passengers during transport.
- **Remain in vehicle at collection site.** On-site personnel will remove the HHW from your vehicle.

A complete list of wastes that are and are not accepted is available online at <https://epa.illinois.gov/topics/waste-management/waste-disposal/household-hazardous-waste/acceptable-wastes.html>. The Fall 2023 one-day collections are scheduled on Saturdays as follows:

DATE	LOCATION	ADDRESS	Co-Sponsor/Public Contacts
September 9	DeKalb DeKalb County Registration Link	DeKalb Taylor Municipal Airport 2200 Pleasant Street DeKalb, IL 60115	DeKalb County Health Dept. Recycle@dekalbcounty.org 815-748-2408
October 14	Orland Park Cook County Registration Links	Village of Orland Park 14700 South Ravinia Avenue Orland Park, IL 60462	Orland Township Highway Dept. highway@orlandroaddistrict.org 708-403-5148
*NOTE: All one-day collection events for fall 2023 require pre-registration.			

In addition to the one-day collections, the following long-term collection facilities are available for disposal of HHW throughout the year:

- **Naperville**, 156 Fort Hill Drive (immediately North of Naperville Public Works), DuPage County, www.naperville.il.us/hhw.aspx
Hours: Saturdays 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM, Sundays 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM, Phone: 630-420-6095
- **Chicago**, Goose Island, 1150 North Branch, Cook County www.cityofchicago.org/hccrf
Hours: Tuesdays 7:00 AM – Noon, Thursdays 2:00 PM – 7:00 PM, and
First Saturday of every month 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM, Phone: 312-744-3060
- **Lake County**, The Solid Waste Agency of Lake County (SWALCO) currently operates a long-term household chemical waste collection program. Information and a collection schedule can be found on their website (www.swalco.org) or by calling 847-336-9340.

For questions concerning the Illinois EPA's one-day or long-term collections, please contact the Illinois EPA Materials Management Unit at 217-524-3300. HHW collection schedules are also available on the Illinois EPA website at <https://epa.illinois.gov/topics/waste-management/waste-disposal/household-hazardous-waste/collections.html>. Illinois EPA HHW collections continue to be contactless for the safety of participants and workers. Collection events are funded through the Illinois EPA's Solid Waste Fund.

Illinois EPA Electric Vehicle Rebate Program Funding

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA) is announcing that the next funding round for Illinois' Electric Vehicle (EV) Rebate Program **will open Wednesday, November 1, 2023 and run through Wednesday, January 31, 2024**. Individuals that purchase a new or used all-electric vehicle from an Illinois licensed dealer, meet all other eligibility requirements, and apply during the rebate cycle will be eligible for a rebate as long as funds are available. Forms and instructions on submitting a rebate application will be made available on the [Electric Vehicle Rebate Program webpage](#) on **October 18, 2023**.

The Illinois' [Electric Vehicle Rebate Program webpage](#) includes a Frequently Asked Questions document, and other relevant information. Please note, **a new EV Rebate Application form will be posted to the webpage on October 18, 2023, along with instructions for completing the application.**

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 [Electric Vehicle Rebate Program webpage](#).

IDPH Mental Health Services in Schools Grant

Governor JB Pritzker and the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) announced the State of Illinois is accepting grant applications from schools and agencies that support child and adolescent health for a share of \$10 million in federal funding intended to strengthen mental health services for students across Illinois. The funding from the CDC's COVID-19 Public Health Workforce Supplemental Funding program is being offered to help schools and local agencies improve student care in areas such as workforce enhancements, developing frameworks to prevent adverse childhood experiences, interventions to assist children suffering from trauma, and training for medical and school staff to expand adolescent mental health resources. The funding is authorized by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) and the application process is being administered by IDPH's Office of Women's Health & Family Services. Following are the two program areas in which funds will be allocated:

IDPH will be accepting applications from school districts and agencies that support adolescent mental health through September 8. Grant applications will be handled through IDPH's [Electronic Grants Administration & Management System \(EGRAMS\)](#) system.

IEPA Green Infrastructure Grant

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency Director John J. Kim announced a grant opportunity with \$10 million in funding for projects that will improve water quality in Illinois. The Green Infrastructure Grant Opportunities (GIGO) Program has been made possible by Governor Pritzker's bipartisan Rebuild Illinois capital plan. The Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) is posted at <https://il.amplifund.com/Public/Opportunities/Details/8eb59a23-1ba2-4930-acf3-2622dbb7e364>. Applications for the GIGO Program are **due by noon on October 18, 2023**. Conference information and registration will be available at: <https://epa.illinois.gov/topics/grants-loans/water-financial-assistance/gigo.html>. Applicants must apply for GIGO through the [GATA Grantee Portal](#).

IDOT Safe Routes to School Program

With students soon to be trading swim bags for backpacks, the Illinois Department of Transportation announced that applications for the Safe Routes to School program are now being accepted. The program helps to support projects that make walking, biking and rolling to school a safe option for students as part of a commitment by IDOT and Gov. JB Pritzker to expand active transportation throughout the state.

The deadline to apply is October 2, with awards to be announced in the spring. For more information on the program, including selection criteria and details on how to register for webinars to assist in the application process, visit the [Safe Routes to School homepage](#) at <https://idot.click/SRTS> or email DOT.SafeRoutes@illinois.gov.

IHDA "Opening Doors" Homebuyer Assistance Program

Governor JB Pritzker announced the reopening of a homeownership program designed to help working-class families and underrepresented communities of color throughout the state of Illinois. Offered through the Illinois Housing Development Authority (IHDA), the **Opening Doors** or **Abriendo Puertas** program is designed to aid households who have historically faced steeper barriers in their path toward homeownership with \$6,000 in forgivable assistance for down payment and/or closing costs. This latest round of assistance is funded through \$20 million in Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds authorized by the American Rescue Plan Act and appropriated to IHDA from the Illinois General Assembly. IHDA expects to assist more than 3,000 homebuyers.

Interested homebuyers can find additional information and a list of participating lenders at www.ihdamortgage.org.

IDES Workshare Illinois

WorkShare IL is a voluntary program that provides employers facing a decline in business with an alternative to layoffs. The program allows an employer to reduce the number of hours worked in any unit of their business in order to avoid permanent layoffs. Each employee in an affected unit continues to work but experiences a reduction in hours that ranges from 20% to 60%. Employees receive a corresponding percentage of unemployment benefits during the period of temporary reduction to offset the reduction in earnings.

WorkShare IL Benefits Employers and Employees
Employer Benefits:

- Employers maintain a trained workforce during temporary periods of business downturn.
- Employers avoid turnover costs associated with hiring and training new employees.
- Minimizes significant increases to employers' Unemployment Insurance costs.
- Employers can have multiple plans, allowing the flexibility to tailor plans for the needs of business units with different challenges.

Employee Benefits:

- Employees keep their job and avoid a temporary or permanent layoff.
- Employees receive weekly unemployment benefits to offset the partial loss in earnings.
- Employees continue to receive all fringe benefits under the same terms and conditions.
- Employees are not required to conduct ongoing job searches.

Resources

- If you are an employer and want to apply, please go to the [WorkShare e-Services](#) website or contact the [WorkShare Program](#)
- Illinois statute authorizing WorkShare/Short-time compensation program, [820 ILCS 405/502](#)
- Background information from the [U.S. Department of Labor](#)

Illinois EPA Electric School Buses

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA) Director John J. Kim announced a \$27,023,485 Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) to fund the replacement of existing diesel school buses with new all-electric school buses located and operated in any of the three priority areas outlined in the Beneficiary Mitigation Plan (BMP). Illinois EPA will also fund a portion of new electric charging equipment if charging infrastructure is needed. This opportunity continues the Pritzker Administration's commitment to focus Illinois' remaining Volkswagen (VW) Settlement funding on electric transportation and infrastructure.

All required forms and information can be found on the Driving A Cleaner Illinois webpage:

<https://epa.illinois.gov/topics/air-quality/driving-a-cleaner-illinois.html>. Applications for the Driving a Cleaner Illinois – Volkswagen All-Electric School Buses NOFO **will be accepted through 5:00 PM (CST) on September 5, 2023**. All applicants must pre-qualify through the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act [Grantee Portal](#).

Illinois Arts Council Agency Rebuild Illinois Cultural Capital Planning Grant

The Illinois Arts Council Agency (IACA) is pleased to announce the release of [Fiscal Year 2024 Rebuild Illinois Cultural Capital Planning Grants](#). The application is open in the IACA's online [Salesforce](#) system and has a deadline of **Wednesday, October 25, 2023 at 11:59pm**.

Important to note is that the Cultural Capital Planning Grants applications will be submitted in IACA's online Salesforce platform: <https://arts-illinois.my.site.com/>

Returning applicants should login to their existing account to apply. New applicants should create a new user account. More information on the online system, including a [user manual](#), can be found on the [IACA website](#).

Applicants must also:

- Have pre-qualification status through the [State of Illinois Grantee Portal](#). Please follow the link to the [IACA's Grant Accountability and Transparency Act](#) (GATA) page for details.
- Verify compliance with all [eligibility requirements](#).

- Applicants will need to confirm (or register for) a Unique Entity ID (UEI) in their [SAM.gov](https://sam.gov) account. The UEI number must be entered in the Salesforce system as part of the Applicant Information.

An Online Webinar will be available for applicants on **Friday, September 8, 2023, at 11:00am Central Time (click date to register)**. **Pre-registration is required**. Following the webinar, a recording will be posted on the [IACA website](#) within 3 days. Also, IACA staff are available via a drop-in video meeting to answer any questions on the Cultural Capital Planning Grants program or the online grant system. You do not need to pre-register, **simply click the link at the time of the meeting to join the meeting via WebEx: Friday, September 29, 2023, at 11:00am**

For details, please visit the [Rebuild Illinois Cultural Capital Planning Grants](#) landing page.

Helpful Resources

Additional Drought Disaster Designations In Illinois

USDA Secretary Vilsack issued additional counties with disaster designation for drought that occurred during the 2023 Illinois growing season.

UPDATED

Primary counties: McDonough*, McHenry, Mercer

Contiguous counties: Boone, Cook, DeKalb, Fulton*, Hancock*, Henderson, Henry, Kane, Knox*, Lake, Rock Island, Schuyler* and Warren*

Primary and contiguous counties are eligible for the same assistance.

The following counties previously received drought disaster designation for the 2023 growing season: Adams, Calhoun, Cass, Fulton, Hancock, Jackson, Knox, Logan, Mason, McDonough, McLean, Menard, Monroe, Peoria, Perry, Pike, Randolph, Schuyler, St. Clair, Tazewell, Warren, Washington, Woodford and Union

A Secretarial natural disaster designation allows the USDA Farm Service Agency to provide emergency loans to producers recovering from natural disasters. This assistance includes FSA emergency loans. Farmers in eligible counties have eight months from the date of the Secretarial disaster declaration to apply for emergency loans. Those eligible should contact their local [USDA Service Center](#) to ask questions or file a Notice of Loss.

*County also declared under a previous drought designation

Grant Accountability and Transparency (GATA)

- GATA Grantee Portal: <https://grants.illinois.gov/portal/>
- GATA Grantee Portal New User Guide: <https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/GATA/Documents/Resource%20Library/GATA%20New%20User%20Guide.pdf>
- GATU Resource Site: <https://gata.illinois.gov/>
- Catalog of State Financial Assistance (CSFA): <https://gata.illinois.gov/grants/csfa.html>
- DCEO Current Grant Opportunities: <https://dceo.illinois.gov/aboutdceo/grantopportunities/grants.html>

Audit Report Review Process Manual:

<https://gata.illinois.gov/content/dam/soi/en/web/gata/documents/audit/audit-manual-august-2018-revision.pdf>

Join DCEO's Team

DCEO Team RED 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 9/06/23

Administrative Assistant II - Office of Employment and Training – Cook County

Administrative Assistant II - Office of Employment and Training – Sangamon County

Posting closing 9/08/23

Edge Program Specialist (Ind. & Comm. Dev. Rep 1) – Office of Business Development – Sangamon County

Posting closing 9/14/23

Deputy Chief Internal Auditor (SPSA, Opt. 8C) – Office of Internal Audits – Cook County

Communications Manager (PSA, OPT 1) - Office of Communication & Information – Cook County