



## Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity

JB Pritzker, Governor

### Northeast Region Weekly Update September 6, 2022

#### Illinois Works Pre-Apprenticeship Program

Governor JB Pritzker and the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) have opened the application for the second round of Illinois Works Pre-Apprenticeship Program funding. The \$15 million in funding will increase training opportunities, expand the talent pipeline, and boost diversity in the construction industry and building trades.

Approximately \$8 million in funding will target increased geographic diversity and participation from diverse groups not represented in current programming through a competitive Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), and approximately \$7 million will be available through a contract extension to current grantees who have excelled at key benchmarks.

The Illinois Works Pre-Apprenticeship Program launched in 2021 with the goal of increasing diversity and access to apprenticeship programs. Comprehensive pre-apprenticeship programs can help participants gain admission to apprenticeship programs, which provide a greater opportunity to obtain employment in the construction trades. During the first program year, Illinois Works awarded nearly \$10 million in funding to 22 organizations, servicing approximately 1,000 participants across the state. While programming for the first year is still in progress through the end of 2022, preliminary enrollment figures show encouraging representation among key target demographics:

The deadline to apply for the Illinois Works Pre-Apprenticeship Program NOFO is the **27th of September of 2022** at 5:00 pm. Additionally, DCEO will be hosting a series of informational webinars. Additional information and registration links can be found here: [WIOA Illinois Works Pre-Apprenticeship NOFO 2022 \(illinoisworknet.com\)](https://illinoisworknet.com)

#### Developing Partnerships

**Date: September 8, 2022**

**Time: 10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m.**

#### Tourism Attraction and Festivals Grant – 2<sup>nd</sup> Round

Governor JB Pritzker and the Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity (DCEO) announced \$15 million in funding to support tourism sector across Illinois, through the second round of the Tourism Attraction and Festivals Grant program offered by the State.

Through the \$15 million investment, which is currently open for applicants, \$5 million will be reserved for festivals, which serve as economic drivers while bringing communities together, and \$10 million will support a broad range of other tourism-related project such as attractions, museums, live performance venues and more. This grant is funded using American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) dollars.

This round of funding prioritizes downstate communities, communities that have experienced declines in hotel tax revenues and provides \$5 million specifically for festivals. Additionally, in order to maximize funding, applicants are required to submit matching funds with the goal of attracting additional visitors to localities and events, thereby supporting local hotels, restaurants, and businesses. Through the revised approach for the second round of funding, the State is ensuring localities and tourism entities hardest-hit by the pandemic receive additional support.

Through a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), localities, tourism and festival businesses, and entities can apply for grants of up to \$500,000 that may be used to establish and enhance tourism attractions or festivals. **Applications will be accepted until Friday, September 23, 2022.** To view the NOFO and apply for the grant, please visit [this page](#).

Team RED hosted a webinar on August 11 regarding this NOFO. Here is a [link](#) to the recording.

## **Office of Minority Economic Empowerment (OMEE)**

**Online with OMEE- Overview of financial resources for small businesses**

**Wednesday | September 7, 2022 | 10:00-11:00 a.m. | [Register](#)**

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 racial/ethnic minorities, women, persons with disabilities, veterans, LGBTQIA+ owned businesses and all other marginalized groups. Team OMEE will provide you with the latest updates on financial resources, federal and state programs, share information about other opportunities, and answer any questions you may have about your business. We'll take questions in English and Spanish.

## **Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)**

Governor JB Pritzker and the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) are encouraging families in need to apply for \$300 million in available funding for energy bill assistance through the Help Illinois Families program. All families who meet the criteria and provide required documentation are eligible to receive bill assistance for natural gas, propane, and electricity through the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).

Beginning **September 1, 2022**, families can apply by visiting [helpillinoisfamilies.com](http://helpillinoisfamilies.com) or by visiting their local agency (a list of partners throughout the State can be found [here](#)). Families can also call 1-833-711-0374 for assistance in 30 languages.

LIHEAP provides one-time payments directly to energy service providers on behalf of recipients. While the amount of support varies based on the needs of individual families, last year's LIHEAP recipients received an average of \$1,330 per household. All families who meet the qualifications and provide proper documentation will receive support until funding is exhausted. Families who earn up to two-times the federal poverty level are eligible to receive support through LIHEAP. A chart with eligible income thresholds can be found on the [webpage](#) Key Information for Families to Apply:

- Visit [helpillinoisfamilies.com](http://helpillinoisfamilies.com) to fill out and submit a request for services form online OR visit your local agency (a list of partners throughout the State can be found [here](#))
  - After you submit the form, someone from your local agency will be in touch.
- Call 1-833-711-0374 for assistance at any point during this process.
- Additional information about eligibility and criteria can be found on the website.

### Additional Program Information:

The State of Illinois offers various programs to support eligible low-income families with utility assistance. These programs are open to ALL eligible low-income Illinois families who meet the criteria, including undocumented families. Programs for eligible families include:

- **One-time Direct Vendor Payment:** All LIHEAP recipients receive a one-time payment.
- **Crisis/Reconnection Assistance:** Funding is available for families in heating-related emergency situations.
- **Furnace Assistance:** Based on funding availability, Furnace Assistance may be provided to households that do not have an operating furnace for their residence.
- **Home Weatherization Program:** The Illinois Home Weatherization Assistance Program (IHWAP) helps low income residents and households conserve fuel and reduce energy costs by making their homes and apartments more energy efficient.
- **Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program:** The Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) provides eligible households with a benefit of up to \$400 for water and wastewater services based on poverty level. Households facing the threat of imminent disconnection, or those that have already been disconnected, may be eligible for a benefit of up to \$1,500. The application for LIHWAP is open through September 30, 2023, pending funding availability.

### Illinois EPA Announces Second Electric Vehicle Rebate Program Funding Round and Reminds Residents of Upcoming Closure of First Funding Round

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**. The current EV Rebate funding cycle, which opened on July 1, 2022, will close Friday, **September 30, 2022**. Individuals that have purchased an all-electric vehicle since July 1, 2022 can still 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>. Applications for the first funding round must be postmarked on or before September 30, 2022. EV purchasers must apply for a rebate within 90 days of the vehicle purchase date.

Questions about the EV Rebate Program may be submitted to [EPA.EV@Illinois.gov](mailto:EPA.EV@Illinois.gov).

### Fire Truck and Ambulance Revolving Loan Program

The Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal (OSFM) and Illinois Finance Authority (IFA) have opened the [application](#) period for the Fire Truck and Ambulance Revolving Loan Program. The Fire Truck Revolving Loan Program (FTRL) and Ambulance Revolving Loan Program (ARLP) are designed to assist departments or cities in purchasing emergency vehicles that they may not be able to afford.

Under the ARLP program, units of local government (city, town, village, township, fire department, fire protection district) and not-for-profit ambulance service providers can apply for no interest or low interest loans for purchase of ambulances of up to \$200,000. These loans must be paid back in 10 years. Approximately \$2.7 million is available for loans this application period. Applications must be electronically submitted or postmarked no later than **October 31, 2022**.

Applications and Eligibility criteria are available here:

<https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/sfm/lam/FireDepartment/Grants-and-Loans/Pages/default.aspx>

## State Fire Marshal's Small Equipment Grant Program

The Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) announced the application period is open for the Small Equipment Grant Program. The OSFM will award \$1.5 million to eligible fire departments and ambulance services for the purchase of small firefighting and ambulance equipment. All interested departments should send an [application](#) to OSFM electronically or postmarked no later than **November 30, 2022**.

The Small Equipment Grant Program was established to provide grants of up to \$26,000.

All applicants are required to have participated in the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) for a minimum of two years prior to applying. The OSFM will require departments to be current from August 2020 through August 2022 for this grant period. Additional information including the application can be found here: <https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/sfm/lam/FireDepartment/Grants-and-Loans/Pages/default.aspx?fbclid=IwAR2IKJADTq30x027VLZUazoBZVtynRWD91meoygszVGPng61et5NSFhblXc>

Completed applications should be submitted to: Office of the State Fire Marshal, Small Equipment Grant Program  
1035 Stevenson Drive, Springfield, IL 62703

## IDNR Open Space Land Acquisition and Development Grant

Applications will be accepted through **September 30** for the next round of state-funded Open Space Land Acquisition and Development, or OSLAD, grants.

The fiscal year 2023 state budget signed into law by Gov. JB Pritzker dedicates \$56 million for the program – the largest allocation ever for OSLAD grants to help communities acquire and/or develop land for public parks and outdoor spaces. The grants are offered through the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR).

Distressed communities that apply for an OSLAD grant may qualify for up to 100% funding assistance for their project. Funding assistance of up to 50% is available for all other qualifying communities that apply. To find out if a community is on the state's fiscal year 2023 OSLAD distressed communities list, visit <https://bit.ly/IDNRdistcomms>.

Grant awards up to \$1,125,000 are available for land acquisition projects, while development or renovation projects are limited to a \$600,000 grant maximum.

OSLAD is a matching program that provides an advance payment (for development projects only) that is 50% of the grant award amount shortly after the grant agreement is executed. The local agency must demonstrate and possess the ability to finance the remaining costs of an approved project prior to receipt of remaining grant funds. The OSLAD program is funded through a percentage of the state's Real Estate Transfer Tax.

Applications must be submitted to IDNR through the Amplifund Grant Management System at <https://bit.ly/2023OSLAD> by 5 p.m. **September 30, 2022**.

The Notice of Funding Opportunity can be found at <https://gata.illinois.gov>. For more information about the OSLAD program, visit <https://bit.ly/IDNRoslav> or call the IDNR grants office at 217-782-7481

## Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) announced that the application period for the Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP) begins August 1. An all-time high of \$125 million is available to ensure communities with the greatest needs can participate. Note, at least 25% of funding will be set aside for disadvantaged and economically distressed communities.

Projects eligible for funding through ITEP include biking and walking paths, trails, streetscape beautification work, and other improvements designed to encourage safe travel across the various modes of transportation at the local level.

Applicants can include local governments and regional planning commissions. Nonprofit and private entities that apply must have a public sponsor. The maximum award is \$3 million. For more information, including instructions on how to view and participate in webinars on the application process, visit the [Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program](#) page. Interested applicants can complete the online application **beginning August 1**. Applications, which include an online map and scoring system to determine local match requirements and identify high-need communities, **must be received by September 30, 2022**. *Awards will be announced next year.*

## DOT Announces Funding for Roadway Safety

The application process is now open for communities of all sizes to apply for Federal Fiscal Year 2022 funding to help ensure safe streets and roads and to address the national roadway safety crisis.

[The SS4A Notice of Funding Opportunity is available via this link](#). Applications are due on or before **September 15, 2022**. DOT will convene a series of stakeholder webinars to help potential applicants learn about the program and what information will be needed to prepare an application. The dates and times of the webinars can be found at the link [Additional information and resources about the SS4A Grant Program are available via this link](#).

For more information contact Nathan Bossick, Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority at [CJA.Transit@Illinois.gov](mailto:CJA.Transit@Illinois.gov) or visit [ICJIA | Justice Assistance Grant - Addressing Transportation Barriers in Illinois Communities Program \(NOFO# 2094-2139\)](#)

## Early Childhood Construction Grant

Governor JB Pritzker has announced \$60 million in capital grant opportunities for Illinois Early Childhood Education providers through the Rebuild Illinois Capital Program. The funding will support the construction, expansion, and renovation of facilities that support early student learning.

Applications for the Early Childhood Construction Grant will be accepted through **October 10, 2022**. For more information, including selection criteria, visit [Grants - Grants \(illinois.gov\)](#)

## Reimagine Public Safety Act - Anti-Violence Funding Grant

Governor JB Pritzker announced opportunities for organizations to apply for an additional \$100 million in grants to fund gun violence prevention programs in municipalities across Illinois. This funding, part of the Reimagine Public Safety Act (RPSA), will support nonprofit community-based organizations and local governments in 16 municipal areas outside of the City of Chicago as they work to prevent and interrupt gun violence in their communities. This \$100 million builds on \$113 million in funding made available in May as well as \$10 million in funding surged to Chicago and other areas of the state in advance of the summer.

This new investment in Greater Illinois comes after the Office of Firearm Violence Prevention (OFVP) at the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) convened [Local Advisory Councils \(LACs\) \(LACs\)](#) in each of the [16 RPSA eligible municipalities](#) to make recommendations to the OFVP on how to allocate violence prevention resources in their communities. From these recommendations, OFVP designed a comprehensive [Greater Illinois Funding Strategy](#) to meet the violence prevention needs of each municipal area, taking into account local recommendations, service provider capacity, and area need.

The grants announced today will be awarded by the [OFVP](#) and will go to programs in Illinois municipalities with less than 1,000,000 residents that are disproportionately impacted by violence, based on a data-focused approach to prioritizing the highest need areas of the State. RPSA programs are specifically designed to address populations that are high risk of perpetrating or becoming victim to firearm violence.

The OFVP is releasing the \$100 million in three new direct service Notice of Funding Opportunities (NOFOs), available in [RPSA eligible municipalities in Greater Illinois](#).

Interested organizations are encouraged to use the free IDHS resources, including navigator and technical assistance programs, webinars, and GATA app to assist with the application process. These resources are available at [www.DHS.illinois.gov/Grants](http://www.DHS.illinois.gov/Grants).

Additional information about these grant opportunities can be found at [www.dhs.illinois.gov/rpsa](http://www.dhs.illinois.gov/rpsa).

## **Illinois Housing Development Authority Permanent Supportive Housing Development Program**

The Illinois Housing Development Authority (IHDA) is pleased to share that up to \$60 million in state and federal resources is available to finance the creation or preservation of permanent supportive housing across the state. Under Round IX of IHDA's Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) Development Program, approved applications will support the construction and rehabilitation of affordable housing developments for persons at risk of homelessness, residents with physical challenges or mental health needs, and other vulnerable populations. The request for applications and supplemental information can be found online at <https://www.ihda.org/developers/supportive-housing/>.

The Permanent Supportive Housing Development Program was created to support Illinois' efforts increase the community-based housing options available to vulnerable populations and those leaving institutional settings. Developments funded by the program serve individuals and families who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, persons with disabilities, veterans, and other residents who face barriers to stable housing.

Financing for Round IX of the Permanent Supportive Housing Development Program will come from the Illinois Affordable Housing Trust Fund, HOME Investment Partnerships Program, National Housing Trust Fund, Build Illinois Bond Program (BIBP) funds, Illinois Affordable Housing Tax Credit, and Financing Adjustment Factor Program.

Non-profit, for-profit and joint-venture affordable housing developers are eligible to apply for funds and may request up to \$9 million per project. Applications are due **Friday, December 16, 2022**. Additional program details can be found at <https://www.ihda.org/developers/supportive-housing/>.