



Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity

JB Pritzker, Governor

Northeast Region Weekly Update June 3, 2022

Welcome to June! As we prepare to enter the new fiscal year, several new programs will be announced in the coming months. Be sure and review our weekly newsletters for current and upcoming funding opportunities, technical assistance webinars and important information. Of course, if you ever have any questions or need assistance, please reach out to your regional Team RED member. We are always here to help!

Expanding Access to Capital in Illinois: How Illinois Financial Institutions Can Drive Small Business Growth Through the Illinois Advantage Illinois Loan Program

Please join the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity for a conversation around how local financial institutions can partner with the State of Illinois to drive small business growth and access to capital for minority owned businesses. Advantage Illinois provides low interest loans to small businesses in Illinois for start-up costs, working capital, equipment and inventory. Learn how your bank can participate in this program using your own underwriting standards and loan processes. Through the American Rescue Plan, the State Small Business Credit initiative (SSBCI), recently received an increase in funding to help bolster access to capital in Minority Communities, the only way we can be successful is through a robust banking network.

Date/Time: June 9, 2022 11:00 am

Presented by: Mark Schultz and John Hill, Advantage Illinois Team

Hosted by: Tiana McCall, DCEO Northern Stateline Region Manager

Register [here](#)

Team RED Virtual Office Hours for 2022

The next Team RED Virtual Office Hours will be **Thursday, June 9**. This month's presentation will be on the [OMEE Business Resource Library](#) and [First Stop Business Information Center](#). Presenters will be Diana Alfaro from the Office of Minority Economic Empowerment and Annette Fulgenzi from the Office of Entrepreneurship, Innovation & Technology. Use this [link](#) to register.

Office of Minority Economic Empowerment (OMEE)

Sell Online with E-Commerce Tools

Tuesday | June 7, 2022 | 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. | [Register](#)

Learn how to sell your products online. You'll be walked through how to list your products for free with Google Business Profile and Merchant Center. And you will be shown one way to sell on your website, using an E-Commerce store built with Shopify. Plus, learn about more helpful tools to stand out online, such as Local Opportunity Finder and Grow My Store.

This webinar is sponsored by the Illinois Small Business Development Center at Champaign County EDC and presented in collaboration with [Illinois Office of Minority Economic Empowerment](#), [Champaign County EDC](#), and [Grow with Google](#).

FEJA Multi-Cultural Jobs Program Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)

The Office of Employment & Training and the Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity announced that the **FEJA Multi-Cultural Jobs Program Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)** has been released on Illinois workNet. Please use the below link to gain access to the NOFO, Application Materials, Technical Assistance Sessions, and Helpful Resources.

Program Background:

Governor Pritzker has placed a high priority on stimulating job growth in the clean energy economy by making investments in energy efficiency and renewable energy. The Multi-Cultural Jobs Program authorized by the Future Energy Jobs Act under 220 ILCS 5/16-108.12(a)(3) supports this priority by providing access to career-related energy sector occupations for individuals living in disadvantaged communities or in those identified as environmental justice communities.

An initial \$4 million investment for the Multi-Cultural Jobs Program was approved by the Illinois Commerce Commission in 2017. As part of the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act (CEJA) signed into law on September 15, 2021, this program was transferred to the Illinois Department of Commerce (DCEO) in 2022 [see Public Act 102-662]. With a continued \$4 million investment, a funding opportunity is being released by DCEO to continue the creation and enhancement of economic, or career-related opportunities within the clean-energy sector through training and work readiness programs. Community based diversity focused organizations with demonstrated attention to equity and inclusion are eligible to apply.

Website Link:

<https://www.illinoisworknet.com/fejamulticulturaljobsnofo2022>

Submission Dates and Times:

All applications must be sent electronically to the Department of Commerce by **5:00 pm on June 15, 2022**, to be considered for funding. Application materials must be submitted to the Department via the [electronic form](#). Please note that the conditions for submitting applications, including the deadline, may not be waived or extended regardless of any circumstances resulting in delayed delivery of the proposal. Any application received after the deadline may be considered for review at the Department of Commerce's discretion. In such cases, the Department of Commerce will determine if funds are available to make additional grant awards. Failure to meet the application deadline may result in the Department returning the application without review or may preclude the Department from making the award.

Any questions regarding this funding opportunity may be directed to Kenis.Williams@illinois.gov

American Rescue Plan Funds (ARPA) for Non-entitlement Units (NEU) of Local Government

If you need assistance regarding compliance issues, please continue to contact us via email or visit the main site listed below.

NEU Support Team ILARPA@crowe.com or CEO.CURE@illinois.gov
<http://illinois.gov/dceo/neu>

For assistance with the U.S Treasury Reporting Portal, please contact covidreliefITsupport@treasury.gov.

Infrastructure Bill Preparation Program

The Illinois PTAC and Illinois SBA District Office have joined forces to develop a groundbreaking program to prepare companies for Infrastructure Bill contracts. The Infrastructure Bill was signed into law by the Biden Administration and will provide unprecedented financing for our nation's infrastructure. Illinois will receive a substantial portion of this bill's contracting dollars.

1. **SDVOSB Certification – (6/8/22 | 10:00 – 11:00 AM) – [Registration](#)**
2. **Building Capability Statements for the Government Market – (6/15/22 | 10:00 – 11:00 AM) – [Registration](#)**
3. **Government Proposal Writing – (6/22/22 | 10:00 – 11:00 AM) – [Registration](#)**
4. **Government Marketing Plan – (6/29/22 | 10:00 – 11:00 AM) – [Registration](#)**
5. **Teaming Agreements (Govology)**
6. **Joint Venturing (Govology)**
7. **Mentor/Protégé Program (Govology)**

Please make sure to register as a client with your local PTAC to have access to the Govology courses for FREE.

Community Development Block Grants – Economic Development

The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program was established by the federal Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (Act). Administered nationally by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the Act combined eight existing categorical programs into a single block grant program. In 1981, Congress amended the Act to allow states to directly administer the block grant for small cities. At the designation of the Governor, the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (Department) assumed operation of the State of Illinois CDBG – Small Cities Program in the same year. Through this program, funds are available to assist Illinois communities to meet their greatest economic and community development needs, with an emphasis on helping persons of low-to-moderate income. To ensure that the State-administered program meets the intent of the federal Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, Congress has required that state-administered programs meet at least one of the following three national objectives:

- Benefiting low-to-moderate income (LMI) persons; or
- Aiding in the prevention or elimination of slums and blight; or
- Meeting other community development needs that pose a serious and immediate threat to the health and welfare of the community.

To complement these federally-mandated objectives, the State has established the following specific objectives for the CDBG Program:

- Strengthen community economic development through the creation of jobs, stimulation of private investment and strengthening the tax base;
- Improve public infrastructure and eliminate conditions which are detrimental to health, safety and public welfare; and
- Conserve and expand the State's housing stock in order to provide a decent home and a suitable living environment for persons of low-to-moderate income and the developmentally disabled. The purpose of grants relative to the Economic Development (ED) Notice of Funding Opportunity are to assist communities attract or expand private businesses. The program provides financial assistance in the form of a grant to private businesses that create or retain jobs primarily for low to moderate-income workers.

Public infrastructure grants may also be made to support a private business that creates or retains jobs primarily for low- to moderate-income workers. This assistance can benefit both private "for-profit" and "not-for-profit" organizations.

Grants are awarded on an as-needed basis throughout the year to units of general local government meeting eligibility and program component requirements until all funds allocated to this program have been distributed. All awards in this category are predicated upon project feasibility and a demonstrated need for funds. This will include a review of all sources and uses of funds, an analysis of the recipient's ability to comply with the terms of the program, and a determination that CDBG participation is appropriate. The grant ceiling has been established at \$1,000,000 per award. The grant funds awarded shall not exceed \$10,000 per job for any job that is retained and \$25,000 per job for any job that is created.

For your application to be considered, your entity must be pre-qualified. For more information on pre-qualification, please visit <https://www2.illinois.gov/dceo/AboutDCEO/GrantOpportunities/Pages/GranteeResources.aspx>.

Additional information including the Notice of Funding Opportunity and application documents can be found [Here](#)

EPA Opportunity for School Districts to Adopt Electric School Buses

With funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, EPA's new Clean School Bus Program provides \$5 billion over the next five years (FY 2022-2026) to replace existing school buses with zero-emission and low-emission models. EPA is offering \$500 million through the [2022 Clean School Bus Rebates](#) for zero-emission and low-emission school bus rebates as the first funding opportunity. EPA will continue to update their page with additional Clean School Bus Program funding information and educational resources.

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law of 2021 authorizes EPA to offer rebates to replace [existing school buses](#) with clean and zero-emission (ZE) models. The 2022 Clean School Bus (CSB) Rebates process includes SAM.gov account registration, application submission, review and selection by EPA, purchase order submission and request for payment, payment receipt, new bus delivery and old bus replacement, and close out.

Eligible Applicants

The following entities are eligible to apply for EPA school bus rebates:

1. State and local governmental entities that provide bus service
 - Public school districts, including charter schools, with an [NCES District ID](#) are eligible to apply directly for funding.
 - Most State governmental entities would not be eligible to apply, but some, like South Carolina, own bus fleets and would be eligible.
2. Eligible contractors - Eligible contractors are for-profit, not-for-profit, or nonprofit entities that have the capacity to (1) sell clean or ZE school buses or related charging or fueling infrastructure to school bus owners or (2) arrange financing for such a sale.
 - School bus dealers and original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) that meet these criteria are eligible contractors.
3. Nonprofit school transportation associations
4. Indian tribes, tribal organizations, or tribally controlled schools responsible for the purchase of school buses or providing school bus service for a Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) funded school

Private school bus fleets cannot apply directly for funding. However, eligible applicants listed above can enter into a contractual arrangement with a private fleet that owns and operates buses to replace buses that serve a public school district.

A goal of the Clean School Bus program is to provide opportunities for as many eligible applicants as possible to participate. We understand that there may be questions about a school district's eligibility to participate in the 2022 CSB Rebates. If interested applicants have questions about their eligibility after reviewing the webpage and the Program Guide they should contact cleanschoolbus@epa.gov with their specific question.

For more information and application link, visit www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus

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 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, passed by Congress and signed by President Biden in 2021, established the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) discretionary grant program. SS4A provides dedicated funding to support regional, local and tribal plans, projects and strategies that will reduce and prevent serious injuries and deaths on highways, roads and streets.

The primary goal of SS4A grants is to improve roadway safety by supporting communities in developing comprehensive safety action plans based on a Safety System Approach, and implementing projects and strategies that significantly reduce or eliminate transportation-related fatalities and serious injuries involving pedestrians, bicyclists, public transportation, personal conveyance and micromobility users, commercial vehicle operators and motorists. Funding can also be used to support stakeholder engagement in order to ensure that all community members have a voice in developing plans, projects and strategies.

[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 in June 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 are:

- **Monday, June 13, 2022 at 12:00 p.m.– How to Apply for SS4A Grants: General Overview**
 - This webinar will offer a general overview of the SS4A program, the grant application process and the available grant types.
 - [Register for the June 13, 2022, webinar via this link.](#)
- **Wednesday, June 15, 2022 at 12:00 p.m. – How to Apply for SS4A: Action Plan Grants**
 - This webinar will offer a general overview of the SS4A program and the grant application process and provide a particular focus on applying for Action Plan Grants.
 - [Register for the June 15, 2022, webinar via this link.](#)
- **Thursday, June 23, 2022 at 12:00 p.m. – How to Apply for SS4A: Implementation Grants**
 - This webinar will offer a general overview of the SS4A program and the grant application process and provide a particular focus on applying for Implementation Grants.
 - [Register for the June 23, 2022, webinar via this link.](#)

[Additional information and resources about the SS4A Grant Program are available via this link.](#)

Justice Assistance Grant - Addressing Transportation Barriers in Illinois Communities Program

The Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority is requesting proposals for grants for the FFY19 Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Addressing Transportation Barriers in Illinois Communities program. **Application deadline: June 17, 2022**

To be eligible for funding under this solicitation, the program must be located in and serve residents of rural Illinois counties. Applicants must demonstrate a transportation need in their jurisdictions and provide transportation to individuals who are justice involved.

Eligible organizations are local units of government in rural Illinois counties.

Agencies must be registered in the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA) Grantee Portal, <https://grants.illinois.gov/portal/>, to become eligible to apply for an award. Applicants must be in good standing with all GATA pre-qualification requirements and received approval of the Internal Control Questionnaire (ICQ) SFY23 before the execution of the grant agreement.

Completed application materials must be emailed to CJA.Transit@Illinois.gov by **5:00 p.m., June 17, 2022**, to be considered for funding. Proposals will not be accepted by mail, fax, or in-person. Incomplete applications will not be reviewed. Late submissions will not be reviewed.

ICJIA will make a minimum of \$100,000 in FFY19 JAG grants available through this funding opportunity. Funding is available for the period of October 1, 2022, through September 30, 2023. Agencies interested in applying are asked to submit an online Notice of Intent by **5:00 P.M., June 3, 2022**.

Questions regarding this NOFO may be submitted to CJA.Transit@Illinois.gov until **5:00 P.M., June 9, 2022**.

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

Coming Soon!

A \$2.5 million grant opportunity for local early childhood collaborations to use toward the goal of regaining and increasing enrollment in early childhood programs and services is coming in June.

As Birth to Five Illinois works to center accessibility and racial equity, we are mindful that smaller early childhood collaborations and those in more remote areas have historically had a more difficult time accessing funds to support their work. It is the intention of Birth to Five Illinois to make the application process straightforward, approachable, and equitable. Within the context of Birth to Five Illinois current funding systems, government agencies require Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA) certification to be eligible to accept federal funding. Birth to Five Illinois realizes that this requirement may be a barrier to some potential applicants. By sharing this information now, Birth to Five Illinois aims to

provide time for interested early childhood collaborations to begin the GATA certification process and hopefully become eligible for the Birth to Five Illinois grants.

The grant application will be available in June 2022. To stay informed about this and other Birth to Five Illinois news, sign up for their newsletter in [English](#) or [Spanish](#). Please direct all questions to grants@birthtofiveil.com.

Join DCEO's Team

DCEO is also expanding our staff in the Springfield and Chicago offices. We are accepting applications on the following positions right now. 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.

- INDUSTRIAL AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT REPRESENTATIVE 1 – Office of Business Development – Sangamon County (posting closes 6/8/22)
- PROGRAM GRANT MANAGEMENT MANAGER (PUBLIC SERVICE ADMINISTRATOR, OPT 1)– Office of Grants Management – Sangamon County (posting closes 6/9/22)
- PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION INTERN (Target Title: PSA, Opt 1 Req#16005) – Office of Employment & Training – Sangamon County (posting closes 6/14/22)
- WORKFORCE SYSTEM INTEGRATION MANAGER (Public Service Administrator, Opt 1 (Target Title for Public Administration Intern Req#16000) – Office of Employment & Training – Sangamon County (posting closes 6/14/22)

Following DCEO & Connecting with Team RED

If you have upcoming meetings or events and would like DCEO to participate, please reach out to me. One of our goals is to ensure information about our programs and activities is getting out to the communities and we're happy to participate. We are working on our schedules for 2022 and have a lot of exciting programs on the horizon, so please let us know if you are interested in partnering with us to provide program information to your organization and region. I also encourage you to follow us on our social media channels for real time updates.