DID YOU KNOW? Governor JB Pritzker and the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) this week highlighted Illinois’ top rankings in CNBC’s 2023 Top States for Business publication – an annual report that ranks states based on 10 broad categories of competitiveness. This year, Illinois ranked in the top 10 in the nation for four categories of competitiveness, and six categories in the top 20. Illinois is ranked 17th best state for business, rising ahead two spots from the 2022 ranking and up from 30th in the 2019 ranking.

Highlights include:
• #2 in the nation for infrastructure (up from #3 in ’22)
• #2 in the nation for education (up from #6 in ’22)
• #6 in the nation for access to capital (up from #8 in ‘22)
• #9 in the nation for cost of living (up from #20 in ’22)

DCEO Grants & Programs

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)
CEJA PUBLIC OUTREACH AND PARTNER BUILDING MEETINGS
The Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity is hosting a series of Regional CEJA Workforce Networking Fairs in July to help foster connections among people interested in growing the clean energy
workforce. All potential applicants and partners, especially clean energy employers, are encouraged to attend. Each Networking Fair will feature an information session to highlight the interconnectedness of CEJA workforce programs followed by a Networking session for potential applicants to interact with each other as well as potential employer partners. These networking fairs will take place in or near the CEJA workforce hub locations. These events are open to all. All events will be from 1pm – 3pm. You can register for an event here. The schedule is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 20, 2023</td>
<td>Champaign, Danville &amp; Decatur</td>
<td>I-Hotel Conference Center, Champaign</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 26, 2023</td>
<td>Carbondale</td>
<td>Carbondale Civic Center, Carbondale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 27, 2023</td>
<td>Aurora &amp; Joliet</td>
<td>Joliet Junior College, Joliet</td>
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For additional information, click here

**CEJA ENERGY TRANSITION NAVIGATOR PROGRAM NOFO RELEASED**

DCEO is pleased to announce the release of a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the Illinois Energy Transition Navigators Program. This program will provide grants to community-based providers to serve as Energy Transition Navigator Teams to recruit eligible individuals to participate in the Clean Jobs Workforce Network Program and the Illinois Climate Works Pre-apprenticeship Program. For more information please visit: https://www.illinoisworknet.com/cejaenergy Applications are due on August 15, 2023.

**CEJA CLEAN JOBS WORKFORCE NETWORK PROGRAM**

The Clean Jobs Workforce Network Program creates 13 regional Clean Jobs Workforce Hubs (“Workforce Hubs”) throughout the State to provide clean energy and related workforce and training opportunities to participants. The program will serve people living in equity eligible communities, as well as people who experience barriers to employment. Community-based organizations that provide employment, skill development or related services, and that have demonstrated relationships with residents and organizations serving the community are invited to apply.

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

**Illinois Broadband Lab Summer Series**

Illinois Broadband Lab Summer Webinar Series: Community Roles in Broadband and Digital Equity

Hosted by Illinois Office of Broadband | University of Illinois System | University of Illinois Extension | Benton Institute for Broadband & Society | Illinois Broadband Lab

July & August 2023 | Thursdays 12PM-1PM CT

The Illinois Broadband Lab and University of Illinois Extension will host a series of webinars throughout summer 2023 to help communities and providers across the state to learn best practices and available grant opportunities for how to increase broadband access, adoption, and application. The webinars will bring together guest experts, helpful resources, and new tools and initiatives for those just getting into the Connect Illinois conversation, as well as detailed assistance for those looking to learn more about grant opportunities and next steps on their broadband projects and goals.
The schedule integrates two tracks, which combine helpful insight and information on broadband and digital equity issues and opportunities (Track A) with detailed guidance on how to apply for and manage an Illinois Office of Broadband grant (Track B):

This week’s Thursday webinar was the first in the series, and covered the official Notice of Funding Opportunity for the Digital Equity Capacity Kickstarter Grant program. Please see below for the recording, slides, and grant website / NOFO. Also, information about the remaining series can be found below with a registration link to pass on to those who may benefit from this education.

Recording: https://youtu.be/C_pcGyQ7_9s
Slides: https://uofi.box.com/s/4xyfnmbs1qhhixhkee2471ms7929e0a4
NOFO: https://dceo.illinois.gov/aboutdceo/grantopportunities/3170-2571.html

Track A – Broadband and Digital Equity Education and Opportunities
- July 6 – Digital Equity & the Capacity Kickstarter (DECK) Grant Program (Notice of Funding Opportunity)
- July 27 – The Community Role in Broadband Development
- Aug 10 – Broadband Technologies Overview
- Aug 24 – Broadband Funding, Partnerships & Project Development
- Aug 31 – Adoption, Affordability & Digital Inclusion

Track B – Guidance for Grant Applications and Grant Management
- July 13 – The Notice of Funding Opportunity & Application Requirements
- July 20 – Procurement and the Grant Accountability & Transparency Act (GATA)
- Aug 3 – Prevailing Wage & the Illinois Works Apprenticeship Program
- Aug 17 – Business Enterprise Program & Environmental Review

Track A is intended for the general public, designed for those looking to learn how to increase broadband access, adoption, and application to their communities. Track B is intended for those looking to take their specific broadband projects to the next level, and for providers and other entities looking to apply for Connect Illinois or other Illinois Office of Broadband grant opportunities.

Grant Help Desk Resources
DCEO Office of Accountability

- Office Hours for Grantees – Office of Accountability is hosting a weekly office hour every Tuesday from 2-3pm for any questions grantees or potential grantees may have.
- GATA Pre-qualification Training – August 2nd, 2023 | 9:00 a.m. (first Wednesday of every month 9am-10am)
- July Revolving Topic: How DCEO Can Provide Grant Technical Assistance – July 19th, 2023 | 9:00 a.m. (third Wednesday of every month 9am-10am)

Email Us:
- CEO.granthelp@illinois.gov
- Or use our Inquiry Form: https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/df9d38efa4e241218ced486c54f3c109

Visit Our Website:
Office of Minority Economic Empowerment (OMEE)

Latin@/e/x Economic Summit (in person event)
Thursday | July 27, 2023 | 8:30am – 1:30pm | Malcolm X College, 1900 W. Jackson Chicago, IL 60612
This event will focus on continuing to uplift the contributions and resources of the Latin@/e/x business community and their impact to the Illinois economy. Event targets Latin@/e/x business owners and professionals as well as community leaders. In addition, the event welcomes those who support the Latin@/e/x business ecosystem. It is free to attend and parking is available on site as well as near public transportation CTA Blue Line stop, Illinois Medical District or CTA Bus #157, #126, or #50.

Benefits in attending include, but not limited to, the following:
- Connect to tangible resources such as business support and funding opportunities.
- Opportunity to increase your social capital (network) by having in-person access to many individuals in economic development and business support.
- Information on economic resources available

Blue Collar Jobs Act Construction Tax Credits for Illinois Businesses
Governor JB Pritzker and the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) announced the launch of the Blue Collar Jobs Act (BCJA) Tax Credit application for eligible companies. BCJA is a bipartisan legislative package designed to promote economic expansion and growth in Illinois by incentivizing construction projects. The legislation makes $20 million in tax credits available per year for eligible companies.

The BCJA amended legislation for Illinois’ premier incentive programs to provide tax credits attributable to the wages paid to construction workers on eligible projects. Eligible companies include those who are located in an Enterprise Zone (EZ) or a River Edge Redevelopment Zone (RERZ), companies designated a High Impact Business (HIB), or companies with an agreement under the Economic Development for a Growing Economy (EDGE) Program. Companies that completed construction projects in 2021 (the effective date of the legislation) or later are eligible to apply for credits.

Eligible companies can receive tax credits equal to 75 percent of the income tax attributable to construction workers on eligible projects located in an underserved area, or 50 percent for projects located in other areas. The BCJA is designed to further incentivize major capital investments in communities across Illinois and create good-paying construction jobs.

Providing tax incentives specifically for construction projects supports job creation and additional investments in communities. DCEO currently leverages this innovative tax credit structure for construction jobs as part of the Reimagining Energy and Vehicles (REV) and Manufacturing Illinois Chips for Real Opportunity Act (MICRO) tax credit programs.

Companies looking for information are encouraged to email ceo.bcja@illinois.gov or visit the BCJA website.

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.

**SSBCI 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.
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. At the same time, Connect Illinois seeks progress in digital equity and inclusion while leveraging investment in new broadband infrastructure to spur advances in use and innovation for such areas as agriculture, economic development, education, and telehealth.

Applications should be classified under one of three categories: (a) Broadband Access for Illinois homes, businesses, and community anchor institutions in unserved or underserved areas; (b) Broadband Innovation for economic development and related applications; or (c) Urban Broadband for expanded access and/or innovation in qualified Illinois cities or metropolitan areas of 75,000 residents or more.

All Connect Illinois projects must include infrastructure expansion scalable to speeds of at least 100 Mbps download and 100 Mbps upload upon deployment.

For Broadband Access projects, proposals covering unserved and/or underserved areas are eligible for Connect Illinois grant funding via this NOFO. An unserved area is an area of Illinois in which households, businesses, or community anchor institutions lack access to wireline broadband service of at least 25/3 Mbps. An underserved area is an area of Illinois in which households, businesses, or community anchor institutions have wireline 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.

Community Development Block Grant – Economic Development

Only units of general local government (i.e., cities, villages, townships and counties) may apply for funding. Eligible municipalities shall not receive funding from HUD as an entitlement city. Counties and towns that are not participating in the HUD Urban County Entitlement Program are also eligible to apply for block grant funds. For your application to be considered, your entity must be pre-qualified. For more information on pre-qualification, please visit [https://dceo.illinois.gov/aboutdceo/grantopportunities/granteeresources.html](https://dceo.illinois.gov/aboutdceo/grantopportunities/granteeresources.html).

To view the NOFO click [here](#). Applications accepted on a rolling basis. Apply [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.

Other State Agency Grants & Programs

IHDA Competitive Homeownership Assistance Program
Governor JB Pritzker announced the opening of a new homebuyer program designed to help increase home purchase accessibility for low- and moderate-income individuals, families and seniors interested in purchasing a home in Illinois. Administered by the Illinois Housing Development Authority (IHDA), Illinois HFA1 provides $10,000 for down payment and/or closing cost assistance to make buying a home more affordable. By offering a competitive interest rate and limiting the total fees charged to the borrower, IHDA programs are designed to be as affordable as possible. This can allow for substantial savings over the life of the loan. Funding for Illinois HFA1 is expected to assist more than 1,500 new homebuyers.

Under Illinois HFA1, IHDA will provide a 30-year 1st mortgage with a fixed interest rate and $10,000 in down payment and/or closing cost assistance. The down payment assistance is provided as an interest-free 2nd mortgage with payments deferred for 30-years, meaning funds do not need to be repaid until the borrower sells the home, refinances, or pays off their mortgage. Illinois HFA1 is not exclusive to first-time buyers, may be used by buyers in any county in the state, and in some circumstances can be used in conjunction with other down payment assistance programs to increase homebuyer leverage.

Illinois HFA1 was developed through a multi-year coordination effort between the Mortgage Bankers Association, National Council of State Housing Agencies, other industry stakeholders and Housing Finance Agencies from Alabama, Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Massachusetts, New Mexico, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah and Washington. The goal of this effort was to make it easier for lenders to partner with IHDA and other Housing Finance Agencies in providing affordable mortgages and down payment assistance to lower-income homebuyers. Towards this end, the HFA1 program features a number of operational improvements that allow mortgage lenders to partner more efficiently with HFA programs, including reduced and/or eliminated loan overlays, common documents to reduce operational differences, and aligned affordable mortgage and down payment assistance requirements in numerous areas.

Even with historically low inventory and interest rates continuing to rise, IHDA is seeing its strongest start ever in homeownership production with more than 4,500 new loan reservations since the beginning of the year. The number of homebuyers who applied for IHDA Mortgage programs was 58 percent higher in the month of April compared to a year ago. In 2022, IHDA’s down payment assistance programs helped more than 5,200 households purchase a home in Illinois.

All IHDA Mortgage programs offer safe and reliable down payment assistance to first-time homebuyers, qualified veterans and non-first-time homebuyers. All mortgage products are subject to income and purchase price limits. Eligibility for each product is based on the borrower’s credit profile, household income and the purchase price of the home. Pre-purchase homeownership counseling is required in order to participate in an IHDA Mortgage program. 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

**IDES Virtual Job Fair**

Illinois Department of Employment Security, New York University, and Illinois Department of Corrections would like to invite you to participate in a Virtual Job Fair highlighting your Company and job opportunities to returning citizens to the Southern Illinois Area.

**Date and time:** Thursday, August 31, 2023 1:00 PM | (UTC-05:00) Central Time (US & Canada)
**Join link:** [https://illinois.webex.com/illinois/j.php?MTID=m768305eb7ff71faab1ee227780e4d839](https://illinois.webex.com/illinois/j.php?MTID=m768305eb7ff71faab1ee227780e4d839)
**Webinar number:** 2630 568 3242
**Panelist password:** TiMEqMdE963 (84637633 from phones and video systems)
**Join by video system Dial** 26305683242@illinois.webex.com
**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: 263 056 83242

For more information contact Freddie Buckingham with Illinois Department of Employment Security at freddie.l.buckingham@illinois.gov or by phone (618) 214-0161.

**IDNR Pheasant Fund and Habitat Fund Grant**

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) is accepting grant applications for the State Pheasant Fund Special Funds Grant Program and for the Illinois Habitat Fund Special Funds Grant Program through **August 1.**
The Pheasant Fund program enhances pheasant habitat through projects developed by nonprofit organizations and governmental entities. The Habitat Fund program enhances game and non-game wildlife habitat through projects developed by nonprofit organizations and governmental entities. Funding for both programs comes from the sale of Habitat Stamps to sportsmen and sportswomen.

Prior to applying for either grant, entities must be registered and current in the state’s Grant Accountability and Transparency Act grantee portal.

This year, all applications will be accepted online in the Amplifund online portal. To apply for a Pheasant Fund grant, follow this link. To apply for a Habitat Fund grant, follow this link.

Click here for more information about Pheasant Fund grants. Follow this link for more information about Habitat Fund grants. Email susan.duke@illinois.gov at IDNR with any additional questions.

Search for all current state funding opportunities by visiting https://gata.illinois.gov/grants/csfa.html

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Illinois HFA1 was developed through a multi-year coordination effort between the Mortgage Bankers Association, National Council of State Housing Agencies, other industry stakeholders and Housing Finance Agencies from Alabama, Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Massachusetts, New Mexico, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah and Washington. The goal of this effort was to make it easier for lenders to partner with IHDA and other Housing Finance Agencies in providing affordable mortgages and down payment assistance to lower-income homebuyers. Towards this end, the HFA1 program features a number of operational improvements that allow mortgage lenders to partner more efficiently with HFA programs, including reduced and/or eliminated loan overlays, common documents to reduce operational differences, and aligned affordable mortgage and down payment assistance requirements in numerous areas.

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Illinois EPA Residential Sharps Collection Program NOFO
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA) Director John J. Kim today announced a new funding opportunity to provide grants to units of local government to conduct household sharps collections for residents. This is the first time the Illinois EPA has offered a grant program for residential sharps collections on this scale. Sharps, including needles, syringes, and lancets, collected from private citizens are a household waste. Through the grant program, Illinois EPA will reimburse grantees that operate a sharps collection station as defined in Section 3.458 of the Illinois Environmental Protection Act for collection and disposal costs they incur. A Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) has been posted to the Illinois EPA website.

Expenses incurred in collecting, storing, and disposing of used sharps will be eligible under the program. Eligible expenses include costs to obtain collection containers for use by individual residents, collection receptacles to store sharps at the sharps collection station, mobilization fees assessed by a permitted Potentially Infectious Medical Waste (PIMW) transporter to pick-up collected sharps, and disposal fees for the collected sharps. Each unit of local government is eligible for the actual costs of sharps collection and disposal, up to $35,000. All required forms and information can be found at: https://epa.illinois.gov/topics/waste-management/waste-disposal/medication-disposal/sharps.html.

Applications for the Residential Sharps Collection Program will be accepted June 13, 2023 through 5:00 PM (CST) on July 28, 2023. Applicants may not apply for a grant until they are pre-qualified through the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA) Grantee Portal.

IHDA Next Generation Capacity Building Initiative
The Illinois Housing Development Authority (IHDA) Board of Directors has approved an award of $5 million to launch the Next Generation Capacity Building Initiative (Next Gen), a new program designed to expand the talent pipeline and increase diversity within the housing development field and related industries. The grant award will be made to the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC), who will use the funds to provide capital, training, and technical assistance that will expand access to housing resources administered by the state, with a focus on reducing barriers to entry for developers of color in the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) program. This joint initiative between IHDA and LISC is part of the Authority’s continuing efforts to support the capacity and growth a diverse pool of affordable housing developers in Illinois.

The LIHTC has long been the primary engine behind the development of affordable housing and provides most of the capital available to developers of affordable housing each year. However, the technical knowledge, high cost of entry, and relationships required to develop tax credit properties has historically made it challenging for new developers, and particularly developers led by Black, Indigenous, or People of Color (BIPOC), to access this resource. The Next Gen initiative seeks to address this disparity by lowering the systematic barriers BIPOC developers encounter in three key ways.
First, IHDA will use Next Gen grant funds to establish a pre-development loan fund administered by LISC to support the pre-construction and planning costs necessary to establish project design, scope, site control, and other early costs.

Second, an in-depth training series will be provided to program participants. This will include 160 hours of training curriculum delivered by LISC on affordable housing development and housing tax credits, with additions to provide specific training on IHDA’s tax credit program and processes. LISC will also coordinate networking opportunities for participants to connect with seasoned industry professionals.

Third, project specific technical assistance will be provided to each BIPOC developer or development team who receives a loan from the pre-development loan fund as they work on their proposal and move their project along IHDA’s application process. The technical assistance will be curated to participants’ specific needs with a focus on building their capacity and potential development project.

The launch of the Next Gen initiative builds on several steps taken by IHDA to increase diversity among affordable housing developers participating in the state’s LIHTC program. These include introducing incentives for having a BIPOC-led firm on the development team, as well as additional incentives for projects demonstrating proactive racial equity work related to development planning processes. In IHDA’s most recent LIHTC application round, 100 percent of approved applications had BIPOC participation on the development team.

IHDA expects the developer application process to begin in Fall 2023, with participant selections and training beginning in early 2024. More information on the application process, participant eligibility, and program details will be available at LISC Central Illinois [www.lisc.org/central-il/programs/build-physical-environment/].

**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.

Through this funding opportunity, Illinois EPA intends to fund projects in the three priority areas outlined in the VW BMP and specified in the NOFO:

- **Priority Area 1**: Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry, and Will counties, Oswego Township in Kendall County, and Aux Sable and Goose Lake townships in Grundy County.
- **Priority Area 2**: Madison, Monroe, and St. Clair counties.
- **Priority Area 3**: Champaign, DeKalb, LaSalle, McLean, Peoria, Sangamon, and Winnebago counties.

Eligible applicants include school districts that own their buses or commercial school bus providers. Purchased buses must serve a school district within one of the three priority areas. Existing diesel buses must be engine Model Year 2009 and older diesel-powered Class 4 – 8 school buses and must be scrapped within 90 days of the new bus being placed into service.

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](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].

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!

IDOA Free Recycling Program For Agrichemical Containers

The Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA) encourages farmers and agrichemical facilities to take part in a free agrichemical container recycling program. Beginning in the middle of July and continuing into August, sites throughout the state will collect containers that are recycled to make shipping pallets.

Participants are responsible for rinsing containers and removing all caps, valves, metal, labels, booklets and foil seals. Participants are also responsible for cutting off the top and bottom of plastic drums and cutting the side of the drum from top to bottom. Mini-Bulk and Intermediate Bulk containers can be recycled via the IDOA’s container recycling program by making the following container preparations: Mini Bulk (cage) containers are required to be cut into separate top, bottom and sides, fittings discarded (no metal, no wood) (6 slabs of plastic).

Intermediate Bulk Containers are to be cut in to 1-foot square pieces, fittings discarded (no metal, no wood). G. Phillips and Sons, L.L.C. is offering services to pick up Mini-Bulk and Intermediate Bulk containers throughout the year. Feel free to contact G. Phillips and Sons, L.L.C. at 678-232-6047 to learn more about their Mini-Bulk and Intermediate Bulk container collection service.


To obtain a free brochure about the program, call IDOA toll free at 1-800-641-3934. The collection sites and dates for the 2023 Pesticide Container Recycling Program are as follows:

**Permanent collection sites:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>Contact Phone #</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pike</td>
<td>Logan Agri Srv, Inc.</td>
<td>Griggsville</td>
<td>Troy Kennedy 217-833-2375</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lawrence</td>
<td>Klein Flying Service</td>
<td>Lawrenceville</td>
<td>Ryan Klein 812-890-6685</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>Klein Flying Service</td>
<td>Carmi</td>
<td>Bri Klein 812-890-8605</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Single Day Collection Sites:**

**AM** Site hours are 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

**PM** Site hours are 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

*** Site hours are 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date/Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Contact</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>07/17 PM</td>
<td>Southern FS</td>
<td>Ryan Moss</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pulaski</td>
<td>(618) 845-3333</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07/18 ***</td>
<td>Bockhorn Ag, Inc.</td>
<td>Justin Bockhorn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Randolph</td>
<td>Sparta</td>
<td>(618) 443-3905</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07/18 PM</td>
<td>Gateway FS</td>
<td>Tim Keller</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monroe</td>
<td>Waterloo</td>
<td>(618) 939-8237</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07/19 AM</td>
<td>Nutrien Ag Sol, Inc.</td>
<td>Jeff Haas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinton</td>
<td>New Baden</td>
<td>(618) 588-3525</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07/19 PM</td>
<td>Irvington Elevator Co</td>
<td>Steve Seidel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washington</td>
<td>Irvington</td>
<td>(618) 249-6206</td>
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<tr>
<td>07/20 AM</td>
<td>Effingham Equity</td>
<td>Andy Meinhart</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Effingham</td>
<td>Montrose</td>
<td>(217) 342-3123</td>
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<tr>
<td>07/20 PM</td>
<td>Nutrien Ag Sol, Inc.</td>
<td>Randy Goodman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fayette</td>
<td>Vandalia</td>
<td>(618) 283-1263</td>
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<tr>
<td>07/21 AM</td>
<td>M &amp; M Service Co</td>
<td>Brian McKinney</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Macoupin</td>
<td>Girard</td>
<td>(217) 627-2151</td>
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<tr>
<td>07/21 PM</td>
<td>Effingham Equity</td>
<td>Andy Meinhart</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christian</td>
<td>Pana</td>
<td>(217) 342-3123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07/24 AM</td>
<td>Wabash Valley Srv Co</td>
<td>Kent Ochs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wayne</td>
<td>Ellery</td>
<td>618-516-1697</td>
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<tr>
<td>07/24 PM</td>
<td>Southern FS</td>
<td>Jeff Brown</td>
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<tr>
<td>Franklin</td>
<td>Mulkeytown</td>
<td>(618) 724-2454</td>
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<tr>
<td>07/25 AM</td>
<td>Prairieland FS, Inc.</td>
<td>Dick Stiltz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morgan</td>
<td>Jacksonville</td>
<td>(217) 243-6561</td>
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<tr>
<td>07/25 PM</td>
<td>Sunrise FS</td>
<td>Zach Witherell</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cass</td>
<td>Virginia</td>
<td>(217) 836-0763</td>
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<tr>
<td>07/26 AM</td>
<td>United Prairie, LLC</td>
<td>Ben Rawlins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Champaign</td>
<td>Tolono</td>
<td>(217) 485-6000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iroquois</td>
<td>Onarga</td>
<td>Todd Miller</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(815) 268-4428</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hancock</td>
<td>Bowen</td>
<td>Todd Nelson</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>(217) 842-5514</td>
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<tr>
<td>McDonough</td>
<td>Blandinsville</td>
<td>Travis Weaver</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>(309) 652-3694</td>
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<tr>
<td>Schuyler</td>
<td>Rushville</td>
<td>Aaron Winner</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>(217) 322-2028</td>
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<tr>
<td>Warren</td>
<td>Ormonde</td>
<td>Brian McMillen</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>(309) 255-5102</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tazewell</td>
<td>Deer Creek</td>
<td>Karmon Gudeman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>(309) 620-1440</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peoria</td>
<td>Hanna City</td>
<td>Jarret Summers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(309) 565-4315</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kankakee</td>
<td>Chebanse</td>
<td>Dean Schafer</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Chebanse</td>
<td>(815) 697-2392</td>
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<tr>
<td>Livingston</td>
<td>Saunemin</td>
<td>Eric Green</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>(815) 368-4491</td>
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<tr>
<td>LaSalle</td>
<td>Lostant</td>
<td>Greg Simms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(815) 368-3215</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woodford</td>
<td>Toluca</td>
<td>Justin Hughes</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>(815) 452-2377</td>
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<tr>
<td>DeKalb</td>
<td>Kirkland</td>
<td>Gary Hopkins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>(815) 522-3251</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kane</td>
<td>Maple Park</td>
<td>Paul Ramm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>(630) 247-8882</td>
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<tr>
<td>McHenry</td>
<td>Marengo</td>
<td>Brett Wolter</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>(815) 568-7211</td>
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<tr>
<td>Winnebago</td>
<td>Rockford</td>
<td>Mike Webb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(815) 703-4612</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Helpful Resources

- GATA Grantee Portal: https://grants.illinois.gov/portal/
- GATU Resource Site: https://gata.illinois.gov/
- DCEO Current Grant Opportunities: https://dceo.illinois.gov/aboutdceo/grantopportunities/grants.html


DCEO Website – https://dceo.illinois.gov
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!

Other state and federal funding opportunities can be found here.

Do you have questions about ARPA NEU funding?
To ask a question or request a support call, contact the NEU Support Team at either ILARPA@crowe.com or CEO.CURE@illinois.gov.
To ask a question about the U.S Treasury Reporting Portal, please contact covidreliefITsupport@treasury.gov

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 7/19/2023
Accounting Operations Manager (SPSA, Opt.2) – Office of Financial Management – Sangamon County

Posting closing 7/20/2023
Senior Grant Accountant (Accountant Advanced) – Office of Financial Management – Sangamon County

Posting closing 7/25/2023
SBDC Assistant Director (SPSA, Opt. 1) – Office of Entrepreneurship, Innovation & Technology – Sangamon County

Posting closing 7/26/2023
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
LinkedIn – linkedin.com/company/IllinoisDCEO