



**Illinois  
Department of Commerce  
& Economic Opportunity**

JB Pritzker, Governor

**Northeast Region Weekly Update  
August 1, 2022**

**SBA Will Offer Disaster Assistance to Illinois Small Businesses Affected by Highland Park Parade Mass Shooting and Related Investigation**

Illinois small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, small aquaculture businesses, and private nonprofit organizations affected by the Highland Park parade mass shooting and related investigation on July 4 - 10, may apply for low-interest Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs) from the U.S. Small Business Administration. **The declaration covers Lake County and the adjacent counties of Cook and McHenry in Illinois; and Kenosha in Wisconsin.**

**Applicants may apply online using the Electronic Loan Application (ELA) via SBA's secure website at: <https://disasterloanassistance.sba.gov/ela/s/> and should apply under SBA declaration # 17536, not for the COVID-19 incident.** Disaster loan information and application forms may also be obtained by calling the SBA's Customer Service Center at 800-659-2955 and 800-877-8339 (for the deaf and hard-of-hearing) or emailing DisasterCustomerService@sba.gov. Loan applications may be downloaded at: <https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/disaster-assistance>

**\$15 Million in Additional Funding to Support Local Festivals and Tourism Across the State**

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 this \$15 million investment, which is open for applicants beginning today, \$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.**

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](#).

## Illinois Department of Transportation

**HACIA & IDOT's Office of Business and Workforce Diversity Workshop Series will be conducted on August 4<sup>th</sup> 10-12pm (In Person)**

Location: 650 West Lake Street, Suite 230, Chicago. Register [HERE](#)

## Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program application period to open, more options for disadvantaged communities

As part of their commitment to support the governor's Rebuild Illinois capital plan The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) announced that the application period for the **Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP) begins August 1**. The funding cycle is the largest ever due to the passage of Gov. Pritzker's Rebuild Illinois capital program and again dedicates resources to communities with the greatest needs. 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. **Deadline: Sept. 30, 2022 to submit proposals for local quality-of-life projects**

## 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 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 micro mobility 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**.

## Illinois DCEO & Groupon Present: What Can I Do? Tools to Help Your Community Support and Celebrate Black Business Month and Beyond

**Wednesday August 17, 2022 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM**

Register: <https://illinois.webex.com/illinois/onstage/g.php?MTID=ef12a8a23a93f4759705835af948a717d>

**Black Business Month offers an opportunity for communities across Illinois to celebrate local Black entrepreneurs.** Join staff from DCEO's Office of Minority Economic Empowerment (OMEE), Groupon, and Visit Champaign County to learn best practices and easy steps your economic development organization can take to engage and support Black businesses during Black Business Month in August, and all year long!

## EPA Opportunity for School Districts to Adopt Electric School Buses

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. **The deadline to apply is August 19.** 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.

For more information and application link, visit [www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus](http://www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus)

## IDNR Grants

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources is accepting applications for two grant opportunities through **Aug. 2:** the Illinois Habitat Fund and the State Pheasant Fund grants.

The Illinois Habitat Fund Special Funds Grant Program enhances game and non-game wildlife habitat through projects developed by not-for-profit organizations and governmental entities. The State Pheasant Fund Special Funds Grant Program enhances pheasant habitat through projects developed by not-for-profit organizations and governmental entities. Funding for both grants come from the sale of habitat stamps to sportsmen and sportswomen. This year, all applications for these grants will be accepted online through the Amplifund portal.

**For information on how to apply for a Habitat Fund grant, visit:**

<https://www2.illinois.gov/dnr/grants/Pages/Habitat-Funding-Opportunity.aspx>.

**For information about applying for a Pheasant Fund grant, visit:**

<https://www2.illinois.gov/dnr/grants/Pages/Pheasant-Funding.aspx>.

**Search for all current state funding opportunities by visiting:**

<https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/GATA/Grants/SitePages/CSFA.aspx>

## 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.

The initial grant installment delivers \$60 million to qualifying public school districts and not-for-profit early childhood facilities providing educational, health, social, or child development services to children aged zero to five years old and their families. Centers seeking to increase their capacity to provide care or educational opportunities for children in underserved communities are eligible for up to \$10 million under the Early Childhood Construction Grant. A three to ten percent match is required. Rebuild Illinois, Governor Pritzker's historic \$45 billion bipartisan capital plan, will provide a total of \$100 million in state funding for early childhood education provider grants.

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

## 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.

Closing Date/Time: 08/05/2022

ACCOUNTANT (UPWARD MOBILITY) – DCEO – Sangamon County

Closing Date/Time: 08/11/2022

TECHNICAL SUPPORT MANAGER (EXECUTIVE II) – DCEO – Sangamon County

## DCEO Website – [www.illinois.gov/dceo](http://www.illinois.gov/dceo)

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

## Follow DCEO & Connect with Team RED

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

**Facebook** – [facebook.com/IllinoisDCEO](https://facebook.com/IllinoisDCEO)

**Twitter** – [twitter.com/IllinoisDCEO](https://twitter.com/IllinoisDCEO)

**Linked In** – [linkedin.com/company/IllinoisDCEO](https://linkedin.com/company/IllinoisDCEO)