



**Illinois
Department of Commerce
& Economic Opportunity**

JB Pritzker, Governor

**Northeast Region Weekly Update
October 10, 2023**



Manufacturing Month October 2023

Manufacturing: "Reimagining the Industry of Tomorrow"

The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) is proud to support October as Manufacturing Month and celebrate the present and future makers across our great state. Join us and industry partners as we explore one of Illinois' top industries, learning about its rich legacy and robust ecosystem. We are the fourth largest manufacturing state in the country, with over 14,000 companies employing over 650,000 Illinoisans. In the years ahead, this industry is on pace to grow for the future – and this month we will join the national celebration of Manufacturing Month to educate, inspire, and cultivate the next generation of makers in Illinois.

Throughout the month of October, DCEO, agency leaders and partners will be hosting a series of webinars, participating in events and visiting industry leaders and the next generation of Illinois makers.

<https://dceo.illinois.gov/mfg2023.html>

Proclamation

[View the Manufacturing Month proclamation.](#)

Partner Webinars (register at link in header)

[ELEVATE YOUR WORKFORCE: Refreshing Recruitment to Attract & Retain the Next Generations](#)

Tuesday, October 10 | 11:30 a.m.

[ELEVATE YOUR WORKFORCE: Incorporating DEI Into Your Retention Strategies](#)

Tuesday, October 17 | 11:30 a.m.

[ELEVATE YOUR WORKFORCE: Integrating Learning and Development Into Organizational DNA](#)

Tuesday, October 24 | 11:30 a.m.

Explore additional statewide [Manufacturing Day](#) events.

Check out [“Makers on the Move”](#), an eight-day bus tour across Illinois to celebrate Manufacturing Month. Designed to showcase modern manufacturing, which is high-tech, clean, diverse, and sustainable, the Makers on the Move bus will visit manufacturing facilities, colleges, and high schools across the state to highlight the innovative manufacturing sector and amazing job opportunities that are available today.



Women's Business Month 2023

The Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity (DCEO) is honored to continue celebrating, connecting, and advancing women-owned businesses and future women entrepreneurs. Throughout October during National Women's Business Month, DCEO is hosting events, uplifting businesses, and elevating business resources to strengthen women-owned businesses throughout the state.

Virtual Events

Making Your Idea, Passion, or Side Hustle into a Business

Wednesday, October 18, 2023 | 6:00-7:00 PM | Virtual-[Register](#)

Tailored for 18-30-year-old women, with all ages & genders welcome.

Please join DCEO in a virtual presentation along with interactive activities and Q&A led by the Illinois-based non-profit [Future Founders](#) who will share tools to help you organically turn your interests into a profitable side hustle and - eventually - even a full-scale business. As the virtual event will not be recorded, you don't want to miss out.

Turning Our Challenges & Failures into Opportunities & Successes

Wednesday, October 25, 2023 | 10:00-11:00 AM | Virtual- [Register](#)

Tailored for women-owned businesses of all stages & future women entrepreneurs, with all genders welcome.

Join us in a virtual panel event featuring women-owned businesses who will share their past challenges and failures, what they learned from those experiences, and how they pivoted and turned those moments into future opportunities and successes. A virtual Q&A will follow the panel conversation.

In-Person Event

Connecting HER to Illinois Business Resources

Monday, October 30, 2023 | 1:30-3:30 PM | In-Person-[Register](#)

[Market Street Music Conservatory](#) | 310 N. Market St., Marion, IL

Tailored for women-owned businesses of all stages, future women entrepreneurs, & aspiring female founders, with all genders welcome.

In recognition and celebration of National Women's Business Month, please join DCEO and the City of Marion in a presentation focused on inspiring, connecting, and advancing Illinois women-owned businesses, future women

entrepreneurs, and aspiring female founders with business resources and opportunities offered across Illinois' entrepreneurial ecosystem. During this free in-person resource presentation, representatives will also be available to answer your questions.

Statewide Events & Programs

Check out upcoming [events and programs](#) throughout the state.

Women's Business Month Tool Kit

Find tips, sample social media posts, graphics, and ideas on how to celebrate and promote Women's Business Month!

- [Women's Business Month Toolkit](#)

Celebrate Illinois Women-Owned Businesses

Join DCEO as we celebrate and recognize Women's Business Month! Throughout the month of October, we encourage Illinoisans to support and utilize women-owned businesses in their local communities. Below are a variety of business directories and articles which list Illinois women-owned businesses. Check with your local chambers of commerce organizations and economic development corporations for additional business directories! To help promote Illinois women-owned businesses, please share photos and the businesses' website and/or social media pages by using the hashtag **#ILWomensBiz**

- [Champaign County Chamber of Commerce's Woman Owned Business List](#)
- [City of Peoria's Minority and Women Business Enterprise \(M/WBE\) Directory](#)
- [City of Rockford's List of Certified Woman Business Enterprises \(WBEs\)](#)
- [Cultivate Illinois Central Illinois Directory](#)
- [Cultivate Illinois Southern Illinois Directory](#)
- [Federation of Women Contractors](#)
- [Illinois Made](#)
- [Illinois Office of Tourism](#)
- [Lake County Women-Owned Businesses](#)
- [Let's Talk Womxn Chicago](#)
- [Marketplace](#) (*featuring Chicago area businesses*)
- [National Association of Minority & Women Owned Law Firms](#)
- [Refine Collective](#)
- [Small Business Majority Holiday Guide](#)
- [State of Illinois BEP and VEP Certification Directory](#)
 - Step 1: Click on BEP and/or VBP Certified Directory.
 - Step 2: In the "Search by Certification Type" area, click on Women Business Enterprise (WBE) and/or Women/Minority Business Enterprise (WMBE).
 - Step 3: In the "Search by Reference" area, navigate to the Gender section and select Female.
 - Step 4: To look for a woman-owned business in a particular industry, go to the "Search by Commodity Code" area and select "Click to Lookup Commodity Codes" then click "Browse Codes".
- [Women Entrepreneurs Central Illinois Directory](#)
- [YWCA Shop for Good in Evanston & Wilmette](#)
 - 100% of profits help support the [YWCA Evanston/North Shore's](#) domestic violence and economic advancement programs that serve women across northeastern Cook County

Business Resources

Illinois' entrepreneurial support organizations across the sectors offer a magnitude of business resources and events for women-owned businesses from all backgrounds and experiences. Get connected with these resources, which can also be found on the [OMEE Business Library](#) webpage.

- [Guide to Business Resources](#) for Illinois Women-Owned Businesses – Future Women Entrepreneurs – Aspiring Female Founders
- [State of Illinois Government](#)
- [Federal & Local Governments](#)
- [Financial Capital Resources](#)
- [Social Capital \(mentoring & networking\) Resources](#)

For more information on National Women's Business Month and events planned for businesses, contact Michelle Lura White, Women's Business Development Manager, at Michelle.White@Illinois.gov and to learn more about ongoing resources and programs for businesses, follow DCEO on social media @IllinoisDCEO.

Hispanic Heritage Month 2023 **“Recognizing and Celebrating Latin@/e/x and** **Hispanic Contributions to the IL Economy”**

Illinois is honored to continue celebrating our diverse Latin@/e/x and Hispanic communities in observation of Hispanic Heritage Month September 15th – October 15th.

Support Latino Business Day & Hispanic/Latinx Heritage Month Tool Kit & Resources

In the link below you will find tips, sample social media posts, graphics and ideas on how to celebrate and promote Support Latino Business Day as well as Hispanic/Latinx Heritage Month!

- Toolkit, click [HERE](#) or para español haga clic [Aqui](#)

For more information on Hispanic/Latinx Heritage Month and Support Latino Business Day events planned for businesses, contact Diana Alfaro, the Latinx Business Development Manager, at Diana.Alfaro@Illinois.gov or to learn more about ongoing resources and programs for businesses, follow DCEO on social media @IllinoisDCEO.

DCEO Grants & Programs

Clean School Bus Rebate Program

The 2023 Clean School Bus Rebate program is now open! **Applications are due January 31, 2024, 4:00 PM ET.** There are nine more webinars scheduled for the 2023 Rebate program:

<https://www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus/events-related-clean-school-bus-program>. As a reminder, potential applicants should check their SAM.gov registration and ensure it is still valid or renew if it is set to expire soon! This is the first step in order to apply.

The major updates to this round of rebates from the previous two CSB funding opportunities are:

- An updated lottery process where approximately 60% of funds will be available for prioritized applicants with approximately 40% to other applicants.
- Certain eligible applicants can use funds for ADA-compliant wheelchair lifts.
- Certain eligible applicants can use funds for high bus delivery costs.
- Changes in funding levels per bus and applicant prioritization criteria.

Event Date	Host	Event Name	Location
2023/10/12 at 1 PM ET	EPA's Clean School Bus Program	JOET: Technical Assistance Overview & Utility Planning with Q&A	Zoom Register here
2023/10/17 at 1 PM ET	EPA's Clean School Bus Program	Panel Discussion: Selectee and Utility with Q&A	Zoom Register here
2023/11/02 at 1 PM ET	EPA's Clean School Bus Program	JOET: Fleet Planning & Route Analysis with Q&A	Zoom Register here
2023/11/14 at 1 PM ET	EPA's Clean School Bus Program	Panel Discussion: Transportation Directors with Q&A	Zoom Register here
2023/12/13 at 1 PM ET	EPA's Clean School Bus Program	OIG: Fraud Prevention & Best Practices with Q&A	Zoom Register here
2024/01/09 at 1 PM ET	EPA's Clean School Bus Program	Popular Q&A with Extended Q&A session	Zoom Register here
2024/01/24 at 1 PM ET	EPA's Clean School Bus Program	CSB Outreach: Topic TBD	Zoom Register here
2023/02/07 at 1 PM ET	EPA's Clean School Bus Program	2023 Rebates Feedback and Next Steps	Zoom Register here

For more information visit : <https://ev.illinois.gov/communities.html>

State-Designated Cultural Districts

The Pritzker administration launched the application to apply to become a State-Designated Cultural District in Illinois. State-Designated Cultural Districts are communities, towns, or specific geographic areas that have a distinct shared historical and cultural identity that binds the community together. Once selected, the state plans to make \$3 million available to State-Designated Cultural Districts, and through the designations, aims to uplift the unique contributions of historic cultural districts with the goal of increasing economic development opportunities.

The State-Designated Cultural Districts opportunity is open to localities, municipalities and community-based non-profit organizations through a competitive Notice of Designation Opportunity (NODO). As outlined in statute, a maximum of five State-Designated Cultural Districts can be selected each calendar year. The Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) anticipates designating five Cultural Districts in 2023 and an additional five in 2024. To be selected, applicants must demonstrate the ways in which they have a distinct cultural identity and have historically faced challenges preserving their unique cultural attributes due to

gentrification, displacement or the COVID-19 pandemic. Full information for applicants can be found on the [application webpage](#).

The definition of State-Designated Cultural Districts is intentionally broad in state statute in order to empower communities and geographic areas to collaborate on applications based on the shared characteristics and experiences that bind them together, such as ethnic identity or shared history. There are no population or geographic limitations on what defines a Cultural District and it could take many forms, for example, a main street business corridor, an entire rural town, or a historic geographic cluster in a larger city. Applications will be evaluated based on the needs of the community, capacity to serve as a Cultural District, and quality of the application submitted.

The goal of the State-Designated Cultural Districts program is to encourage economic development; support the preservation and development of history and culturally significant structures, traditions, and languages; foster local cultural development and education; provide a focal point for celebrating communities' unique cultural identities; and promote equitable growth and opportunity without generating displacement.

Once selected, Cultural Districts will be designated for a period of 10 years. Once 10 Cultural Districts are designated in calendar years 2023 and 2024, DCEO will make available \$3 million for districts to apply for funding. The funding opportunity will be tailored to fit the needs of individual Cultural Districts and will broadly support the goals of the program to foster economic development and help communities preserve their unique cultural identities. Cultural Districts will also benefit from increased exposure from the designation, as well as additional potential future funding opportunities that prioritize Cultural District designations.

The program design and criteria were developed in partnership with the State-Designated Cultural Districts Advisory Committee, which consists of legislators, community members and cultural leaders from throughout Illinois.

Application Information:

Application Page: <https://dceo.illinois.gov/omee/state-cultural-districts-nodo.html>

Application Deadline: October 23, 2023, 5:00 p.m.

Eligibility: Localities & community-based non-profits may apply

LIHEAP Program for Energy Bill Assistance

LIHEAP will begin accepting applications on October 2, 2023, through **August 15, 2024, or until funds are exhausted**. The energy bill assistance program offered through the Help Illinois Families Program in program year 2023 will provide \$237 million to eligible families to assist with natural gas, propane, and electricity bills.

Overview of Program Improvements for LIHEAP in 2023

Program Year 2023 includes a variety of improvements based on feedback from advocates such as the expanded program year, as well as re-instating the pre-pandemic practice of tiered applications to allow families most in need to apply first.

Beginning **October 2, 2023**, eligible families can apply by visiting 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. This year, the tiered application system will be reinstated to ensure families most in need are able to apply first.

- **October 2** – Income-eligible households who fall under the following categories:
 - Households with seniors age 60+
 - Households with a documented long-term disability
 - Households with children under age 6
- **November 1** – Income-eligible households who fall under the following categories:
 - October priority period households
 - Households that are disconnected
 - Households facing imminent threat of disconnection
- **December 1**
 - All income-eligible households

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 over 311,000 households received LIHEAP, with an average of over \$1,000 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.

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.

For a complete list of current DCEO grant opportunities, upcoming grant trainings, video resource library and Grant Help Desk assistance,

visit [DCEO Grants \(illinois.gov\)](https://illinois.gov)

International Tourism Grant Program **click [here](#)**

Route 66 Grant Program **click [here](#)**

Illinois Soundstage Capital Grant Program **click [here](#)**

Illinois Clean Jobs Workforce Network Program (CEJA) **click [here](#)**

SBIR/STTR Match Program **click [here](#)**

Illinois Energy Transition Navigators Program (CEJA) **click [here](#)**

Illinois Meat and Poultry Supply Chain Grant Program **click [here](#)**

CDBG Economic Development Program **click [here](#)**

Connect Illinois Broadband Grant **click [here](#)**

Federal Grant Support Program **click [here](#)**

Business Resiliency Grant Program **click [here](#)**

Other Federal and State Agency Grants & Programs

Illinois EPA Water Quality Management Program

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA) Director John J. Kim announced \$750,000 in funding through the release of a Section 604(b) Water Quality Management Program Grant Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO). This grant program is used to implement the Illinois Water Quality Management Program and Illinois' Nonpoint Source Management Program through water quality projects and activities. The NOFO has been posted at <https://il.amplifund.com/Public/Opportunities/Details/d08c9b29-bf05-4432-8dda-3e8f2b0d1787>.

Grant funds under this program can be used to determine the nature, extent and causes of point and nonpoint source water pollution, develop watershed-based plans, and develop technical and administrative tools to support development and implementation of water pollution control projects and programs. In addition, projects can develop designs for best management practices to address water quality problems, implement administrative water pollution controls, and educate the public about the impact and importance of water pollution control.

Illinois EPA receives federal funds from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency through the Clean Water Act to implement the Section 604(b) Grant Program. The \$750,000 in funding is anticipated to fund three (3) to five (5) awards. There is no maximum or minimum total project cost; however, past projects have ranged from approximately \$50,000 to \$350,000. These grants are available to Areawide Planning Agencies and any entity proposing a project with water quality benefits that fulfills part of the applicant's organizational charter.

Additional information can be found at on Illinois EPA's [Water Quality Management Planning Grants webpage](#). Applications for the Section 604(b) Grant Program will be accepted October 3, 2023 through 12:00 PM (CST) on **November 15, 2023**. Applicants must apply through the [Grant Accountability and Transparency Act Grantee Portal](#).

Office of the State Fire Marshal Small Equipment Grant

The OSFM will award \$4 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 **December 15, 2023**.

The Small Equipment Grant Program was established to provide grants of up to \$26,000 to eligible departments. The grants allow eligible applicants the opportunity to purchase small tools and equipment. In addition to firefighting personal protective equipment (PPE), applicants can also apply for personal infection control items such as masks, gowns, and gloves this application cycle. Most Illinois fire departments, fire protection districts, and township fire departments are eligible to apply. In addition, stand-alone, not-for-profit ambulance service providers are eligible to apply.

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 September 2021 through August 2023 for this grant period. Additional information including the application can be found here: <https://sfm.illinois.gov/iam/firedepartment/grants-and-loans.html>

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

USDA Seeks Applications to Spur Rural Job Growth and Economic Development

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced that the Department is accepting applications for funding to help create jobs and promote economic growth in rural communities. USDA is making loans and grants available under the [Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant \(REDLG\)](#) programs for fiscal year (FY) 2024. Through these programs, USDA provides zero-interest loans to local utilities which they, in turn, pass through to local businesses for projects that will create and retain employment in rural areas. Through the REDLG programs, USDA also provides grants to local utility organizations, which use the funding to establish revolving loan funds to finance community facilities. Specifically, applicants may use funds to support business startup, business expansion and business incubators; technical assistance and feasibility studies; essential community facilities; and advanced telecommunications services and computer networks for medical, educational and job training opportunities. For more information, read full [Stakeholder Announcement](#).

The deadlines for complete applications to be received in the RD State Office for quarterly funding competitions are no later than 4:30 p.m. (local time) on:

Second Quarter, **December 31, 2023**

Third Quarter, **March 31, 2024**

Fourth Quarter, **June 30, 2024**

Illinois Arts Council Artist Fellowship Program

The application is open in the Illinois Arts Council's online [Salesforce system](#) and has a deadline of 11:59 PM central time on **November 3, 2023**. **Awards will be announced in the spring of 2024.**

The Artist Fellowship Program's intent is to enrich and strengthen the state by supporting accomplished Illinois artists who are the foundation of Illinois' creative environment. The program recognizes exceptional artists who are at a career stage beyond emerging and have created a substantial body of work throughout their career. The program does not support an artist's specific project, but rather provides monetary awards to support an artist's continued artistic growth and exploration.

The IACA will provide a limited number of \$15,000 awards across the following discipline categories:

- Crafts
- Digital Arts
- Ethnic & Folk Arts
- New Art Forms (non-performative)
- Photography
- Sculpture
- Visual Arts (includes the 2D sub-categories of painting, mixed-media, printmaking, and other non-digital based visual arts)

A limited number of \$1,500 Finalist Awards will also be given. The IACA encourages artists working in these disciplines and who are residents of Illinois to apply. Fellowship applications will be submitted in IACA's online platform: [Salesforce](#). Previous IACA individual applicants should log into Salesforce using their already established account name and password. New applicants should create a new user account. If you have trouble logging in, please email iac.info@illinois.gov. More information on the Salesforce system, including a [user manual](#), can be found on the [IACA website](#).

Application Assistance

IACA staff are available via three drop-in video meetings to answer any questions. Simply click the link at the time of the meeting to join the drop-in session via WebEx:

AFA Drop-in session #2: Wednesday, October 11, 2023, 1:00 PM Central Time. [Meeting Link](#)

AFA Drop-in session #3: Wednesday, October 25, 2023, 3:00 PM Central Time. [Meeting Link](#)

For more information and assistance visit: <https://arts.illinois.gov/AFA-Program>

Illinois EPA Announces Fall 2023 Household Hazardous Waste Collection Events

These collection events are co-sponsored by units of local government and provide residents the free opportunity to safely dispose of unused or leftover hazardous products commonly found in homes.

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

For safe transport of HHW, residents are asked to:

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

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

DATE	LOCATION	ADDRESS	Co-Sponsor/Public Contacts
October 7	East Moline <i>Rock Island County</i> Registration Link	Rock Island County Fairgrounds 4200 Archer Drive East Moline, IL 61244	Rock Island County Waste Management Agency gmccullough@bistateonline.org 309-788-8925
October 7	Quincy <i>Adams County</i> Registration Link	Adams County Highway Dept. 101 North 54 th Street Quincy, IL 62305	Adams County Health Dept. health@adamscountyiil.gov 217-222-8440
October 14	Orland Park <i>Cook County</i> Registration Links	Village of Orland Park 14700 South Ravinia Avenue Orland Park, IL 60462	Orland Township Highway Dept. highway@orlandroaddistrict.org 708-403-5148

***NOTE: All one-day collection events for fall 2023 require pre-registration.**

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

- **Naperville**, 156 Fort Hill Drive (immediately North of Naperville Public Works), DuPage County,

www.naperville.il.us/hhw.aspx

Hours: Saturdays 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM, Sundays 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM, Phone: 630-420-6095

- **Rockford**, Four Rivers Sanitation Authority, 3333 Kishwaukee, Winnebago County

<https://www.rockfordil.gov/492/Household-Hazardous-Waste-Disposal>

Hours: Saturdays 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM, Sundays Noon – 4:00 PM, Phone: 779-348-7425

- **Chicago**, Goose Island, 1150 North Branch, Cook County www.cityofchicago.org/hccrf

Hours: Tuesdays 7:00 AM – Noon, Thursdays 2:00 PM – 7:00 PM, and

First Saturday of every month 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM, Phone: 312-744-3060

- **Lake County**, The Solid Waste Agency of Lake County (SWALCO) currently operates a long-term household chemical waste collection program. Information and a collection schedule can be found on their website

(www.swalco.org) or by calling 847-336-9340.

- **Madison County**, Madison County Building & Zoning, 249 N. Old St. Louis Road, Wood River, Madison County,

https://www.co.madison.il.us/departments/planning_and_development/recycle_events.php

Hours: First Saturday and Third Friday of every Month 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM. **Appointments are required.** See website to schedule your appointment. Questions: 618-296-5237 or recycling@co.madison.il.us

For questions concerning the Illinois EPA's one-day or long-term collections, please contact the Illinois EPA Materials Management Unit at 217-524-3300. HHW collection schedules are also available on the Illinois EPA website at <https://epa.illinois.gov/topics/waste-management/waste-disposal/household-hazardous-waste/collections.html>.

Illinois EPA Electric Vehicle Rebate Program Funding

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

EV purchasers must apply for a rebate within 90 days of the vehicle purchase date. However, applications will not be accepted or reviewed if submitted or postmarked prior to the November 1, 2023 rebate cycle start date. Payments will be made to eligible individuals as long as funding is available.

The Illinois General Assembly has appropriated \$12 million to Illinois EPA for the current fiscal year, which ends on June 30, 2024. Actual funding amounts will be determined by the amount of money available in the Electric Vehicle Rebate Fund, not to exceed \$12 million.

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

Program may be submitted to EPA.EV@Illinois.gov. Individuals interested in receiving updates on Illinois EPA's EV programs may register for the EV Listserv located at the bottom of the [Electric Vehicle Rebate Program webpage](#).

Illinois EPA Green Infrastructure Grant

The Green Infrastructure Grant Opportunities (GIGO) Program has been made possible by Governor Pritzker's bipartisan Rebuild Illinois capital plan. The Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) is posted at <https://il.amplifund.com/Public/Opportunities/Details/8eb59a23-1ba2-4930-acf3-2622dbb7e364>.

The GIGO Program provides funding for projects to construct green infrastructure best management practices (BMPs) that prevent, eliminate, or reduce water quality impairments by decreasing stormwater runoff into Illinois' rivers, streams, and lakes. Projects that implement treatment trains (multiple BMPs in series) and/or multiple BMPs within the same watershed may be more effective and efficient than a single large green infrastructure BMP.

For GIGO, green infrastructure means any stormwater management technique or practice employed with the primary goal to preserve, restore, mimic, or enhance natural hydrology. Green infrastructure includes, but is not limited to, methods of using soil and vegetation to promote soil percolation, evapotranspiration, and filtering or the harvesting and reuse of precipitation. Examples of project types/BMPs that may be funded through GIGO are provided in the NOFO. Illinois EPA anticipates project awards between \$75,000 and \$2.5 million.

Applications for the GIGO Program are **due by noon on October 18, 2023**. Conference information and registration will be available at: <https://epa.illinois.gov/topics/grants-loans/water-financial-assistance/gigo.html>. Applicants must apply for GIGO through the [GATA Grantee Portal](#).

Illinois Housing Development Authority Homeowner Assistance Fund Program

The Illinois Housing Development Authority (IHDA) announced the Illinois Homeowner Assistance Fund (ILHAF) **application deadline 11:59 p.m. on Tuesday, October 31, 2023**. ILHAF supports qualified homeowners with grants of up to \$60,000 for past-due mortgage payments, property taxes, property insurance and homeowner and/or condo association fees. Any application submitted prior to closing will be reviewed to determine eligibility and a submitted application is not a guarantee of approval. Eligible Illinois homeowners can apply online at www.illinoishousinghelp.org.

Illinois Department of Employment Security Workshare Illinois

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

WorkShare IL Benefits Employers and Employees **Employer Benefits:**

- Employers maintain a trained workforce during temporary periods of business downturn.
- Employers avoid turnover costs associated with hiring and training new employees.

- Minimizes significant increases to employers' Unemployment Insurance costs.
- Employers can have multiple plans, allowing the flexibility to tailor plans for the needs of business units with different challenges.

Employee Benefits:

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

Resources

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

Illinois Arts Council Agency Rebuild Illinois Cultural Capital Planning Grant

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

The purpose of the Rebuild Illinois Cultural Capital Planning Grants is to help organizations that provide arts programming get the objective information and analysis they need before they commit their organization's energies and financial resources to a facilities project.

Rebuild Illinois Cultural Capital Planning Grants will support project related activity from January 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024. Applicants will request a specific grant amount in the application and awards will range from \$5,000 - \$50,000. No cash match is required for this grant. Examples of projects that may be considered for funding include:

- Architectural planning and design
- Site selection
- Feasibility studies
- Expansion planning
- Energy efficiency planning
- Accessibility and ADA planning
- Business and operational planning related to a new or expanded facilities

Important to note is that the Cultural Capital Planning Grants applications will be submitted in IACA's online Salesforce platform: <https://arts-illinois.my.site.com/> Returning applicants should login to their existing account to apply. New applicants should create a new user account. More information on the online system, including a [user manual](#), can be found on the [IACA website](#).

Applicants must also:

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

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

IACA staff are available via a drop-in video meeting to answer any questions. **Simply click the link at the time of the meeting to join the meeting via WebEx: Friday, September 29, 2023, at 11:00am.** For details, please visit the [Rebuild Illinois Cultural Capital Planning Grants](#) landing page.

Helpful Resources

Climate and Equitable Jobs Act (CEJA)

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

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.
 - [Sign up for any of these sessions with this link](#)
- **Email Us:**
 - ceo.granthelp@illinois.gov
 - Or use our Inquiry Form:
<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/df9d38efa4e241218ced486c54f3c109>
- **Visit Our Website:**
 - <https://dceo.illinois.gov/aboutdceo/grantopportunities.html>
 - Browse our Learning Libraries, Quick Reference Guides, and Instructional Videos

Grant Accountability and Transparency (GATA)

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

Audit Report Review Process Manual:

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

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!

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 covidrelieflTsupport@treasury.gov

Join DCEO's Team

DCEO's Team 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 10/10/23

Executive II – Office of Grants Management – Sangamon County

Postings closing 10/17/23

Deputy Director EO Monitoring & Compliance (SPSA, OPT 1) – Office of Employment Opportunity (EO) Monitoring and Compliance - Cook County (Primary) and Sangamon County (Secondary)

Assistant Deputy Director (SPSA, Opt. 1) – Office of Grants Management – Sangamon County

Posting closing 10/19/23

Expenditure Planning Accountant (Accountant Upward Mobility) – Office of Financial Management – Sangamon County

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

Linked In – linkedin.com/company/IllinoisDCEO