



Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity

JB Pritzker, Governor

Northeast Region Weekly Update October 23, 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. 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>

Partner Webinars (register at link in header)

ELEVATE YOUR WORKFORCE: Integrating Learning and Development Into Organizational DNA

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

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



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

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.

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](#)

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](#).

DCEO Grants & Programs

Tourism Private Sector Grant

The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity is issuing a Notice of Funding Opportunity to provide grants for the purpose of attracting, hosting and developing new events and festivals in Illinois or enhancing existing festivals and events. Grantees must be able to match grant award dollar-for-dollar; however, up to 25% of the required match may be substituted with in-kind contributions. Costs associated with hosting existing or repeat events and festivals will not be eligible unless documentation can be provided that the event was secured in direct competition with other states or significant enhancements will be made to the event or festival to increase the attendance from travel outside 50 miles.

Tourism Event is defined as an event, such as a major convention, trade show, sporting activity or festival, with potential to attract visitors from outside a 50-mile radius and to produce significantly increased economic impact for the State of Illinois through overnight stays.

Tourism Festival is defined as an organized series of public activities for a specific duration that may include, but are not limited to, cultural performances, exhibitions, fairs, or carnivals that may include music and the service of food and beverages.

Applicant must identify performance measurements they will use to identify successful outcomes as a result of the grant funding such as:

1. Estimated number or percentage of increase visitation as a result of the festival or event;
2. Estimated increase in local hotel tax revenue to the area served after event or festival;
3. Number of media impressions and value for promotion of the festival or event;
4. Estimated increase in sales tax revenue as a result of the festival or event.

Total amount of funding expected to be awarded through this NOFO is \$4,600,000. Awards will range from \$10,000 to \$500,000. Anticipated start date for awards is February 1, 2024 with initial terms of up to one year in length, upon request some pre-award requests may be permitted. The period of performance is expected to be 1/1/2024 through 12/31/2024.

Activities eligible for funding include, but are not limited to, the following costs associated with attracting and hosting events and festivals:

1. Advertising and marketing activities directed toward areas outside of 50 miles from the event;
2. Transportation and housing;
3. Prize/award money;
4. Building or equipment rental;
5. Receptions and banquets;
6. Registrations;
7. Entertainment and speakers;
8. Programming;
9. Photography, postage and printing;
10. Audiovisual;
11. Telemarketing;
12. Promotional items; and
13. Temporary staff.

Activities that are ineligible for funding include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Developing or making permanent improvements to facilities;
2. Purchase of equipment;
3. Normal payroll or operating expenses; and
4. Purchase of alcoholic beverages.

Applications are due December 4, 2023. To view the NOFO and application documents click [here](#)

Tourism Attraction Grant

The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity is issuing this Notice of Funding Opportunity to provide grants to assist in the development or improvement of tourism attractions that increase the economic impact of tourism throughout the State. Grantees must be able to match grant dollars as described in the NOFO.

The Tourism Attractions Grant program is part of a broader effort underway to help reinvigorate tourism in Illinois, and help the tourism industry on a path to economic recovery and welcome more visitors to Illinois. Grants up to \$500,000 will be awarded to develop and enhance Illinois tourism attractions.

Applicant must identify performance measurements they will use to identify successful outcomes as a result of the capital investment; such as:

1. Anticipated number or percentage of increased visitation as a result of the capital investment;
2. Anticipated increase in local hotel tax revenue to the area served after completion of the project;
3. Anticipated increase in local sales tax revenue after completion of the project;

Total amount of funding expected to be awarded through this NOFO is \$10,800,000. Awards will range from \$15,000 to \$500,000. Anticipated start date for awards is February 1, 2024. The period of performance is expected to be January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024.

Expenditures and activities for which grant funds can be utilized by Grantees include, but are not limited to, the following for Tourism Attractions:

1. Capital Projects- land and building acquisitions, construction and renovations of buildings for the purpose of creating or enhancing a Tourism Attraction; 2
2. Equipment – purchase and installation of machinery and equipment designed to create or enhance the Tourism Attraction, or rental of equipment for a Festival;
3. Training – development and presentation of hospitality, quality service and/or other types of tourism training programs intended to provide a competitive workforce for the tourism industry of Illinois;
4. Interpretive Programs – creation, implementation and staffing of, and fabrication of exhibits for, interpretive programs located within historic/cultural sites.

Ineligible projects and activities for Tourism Attractions include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Studies (feasibility, research, development, marketing, etc.);
2. Debt refinancing;
3. Contingency funding;
4. Normal payroll or operating expenses;
5. Administrative expenses;
6. Purchase of alcoholic beverages
7. Marketing

Applications are due December 18, 2023. To view the NOFO and application documents click [here](#)

Economic Empowerment Centers Program

Governor JB Pritzker and the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) launched \$2.5 million in funding for the new Illinois Economic Empowerment Centers Program (EEC). Eligible career education agencies and non-profit organizations can now apply to serve as EECs to provide entrepreneurship training to

prepare individuals from historically marginalized communities to pursue business opportunities in a more inclusive business ecosystem. EECs will be selected through a competitive Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)

The EEC Grant Program was created to address the need for tailored support at a local, community and cultural level for Illinoisans in targeted populations in the business community, including minorities, women, individuals with a disability, dislocated workers, veterans, and youth entrepreneurs. Through the new grant program, EECs will aim to create an inclusive business ecosystem for communities that have traditionally faced systemic barriers to entry and growth through dynamic partnerships, targeted outreach, and tailored programs and initiatives.

EECs will provide business advice, technical assistance, education, and cohort training, including resources and training tailored toward start-ups, existing businesses, and dislocated workers. Selected EECs will provide a variety of services, including management analysis and counseling, business planning and financial planning assistance, market analysis, referrals to educational programs and more.

Eligible applicants include career-education agencies and non-profit organizations, including but not limited to local developments corporations, chambers of commerce, community-based outreach centers, community-based organizations that provide services to minority-owned businesses and entrepreneurs.

Qualified entities can apply for grants between \$250,000 to \$500,000, with a 1:1 match required. DCEO anticipates selecting up to 10 awards. **Applications will be accepted until November 28, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.** To view the NOFO and apply for the grant, please visit the [DCEO website](#). Interested parties are encouraged to reach out to CEO.GrantHelp@illinois.gov for application assistance.

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) – Public Infrastructure

The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity is soliciting applications for the 2023/2024 Public Infrastructure Grant opportunity funded by the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The purpose of grants relative to the Public Infrastructure (PI) Notice of Funding Opportunity is to fund water and sanitary systems and storm sewer construction projects that alleviate public health, safety, and public welfare and help communities with substantial low to moderate-income populations.

Project areas must be primarily residential in character. Projects that are designed to benefit a commercial/business area are not eligible.

All grant funded projects must meet the following requirements:

1. Low-to-Moderate Income Benefit Requirements: Projects must benefit at least 51.0 percent low-to-moderate income (LMI) persons. Those projects benefiting less than 51.0 percent LMI persons will not be considered for funding.
2. Documentation of Threat to Health and Safety: Projects must address present conditions that affect public health and safety.
3. Water and Sewer Rates: Water or sewer rates must currently meet or exceed 1 percent of the Median Household Income (MHI) per 5,000 gallons. This requirement does not apply to storm sewer or drainage projects.

For more information and to apply click [here](#). **Applications are due January 19, 2024.**

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) – Housing Rehabilitation

The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity is soliciting applications for the 2023/2024 Housing Rehabilitation Grant opportunity funded by the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) through

the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The purpose of grants relative to the Housing Rehabilitation (HR) Notice of Funding Opportunity is to provide units of general local government with funds to address housing needs of eligible low-to-moderate income (LMI) households. The program targets projects which preserve singlefamily, owner-occupied housing needing rehabilitation and encourage neighborhood revitalization.

As this is a direct benefit activity, 100 percent of CDBG housing rehabilitation funds must benefit low-to-moderate income persons. CDBG funds can be used to rehabilitate only those homes occupied by families verified to be of low-to-moderate income. Project must rehabilitate a minimum of eight (8) homes. Applications must demonstrate the need for housing rehabilitation and support for the proposed project from eligible residents of the project area. Need should be demonstrated through the submission of surveys, completed within 24 months of the application filing date. Resident support can be demonstrated through submission of public meeting minutes and/or resident signup sheets.

Eligible activities include:

- Labor and materials,
- Replacement of principal fixtures and components of existing structures;
- Water and sewer connections (if needed for code compliance);
- Initial homeowner warranty premium;
- Hazard insurance premium;
- Flood insurance premium;
- Conservation costs for water and energy efficiency;
- Garages where health & safety issues have been identified;
- Evaluating and treating lead-based paint; and
- Removal of architectural barriers that restrict the mobility and accessibility of elderly or severely disabled persons.
- Rehabilitation to a single-family, owner-occupied residential property that is also used as a place of business and is required to operate the business may be considered homeowner rehabilitation (as opposed to commercial rehabilitation) if the improvements provide general benefit to the residential occupants of the building.

For more information and to apply click [here](#). **Applications are due January 19, 2024.**

CEJA Contractor Incubator Hubs

Governor JB Pritzker and the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) launched \$21 million in funding for the Clean Energy Contractor Incubator Program or "CEJA Contractor Incubator Hubs." The program establishes a network of 13 community-based hubs across the state offering incubator services designed to assist clean energy contractors – especially those from underserved areas – grow their businesses.

The CEJA Contractor Incubator Hubs is CEJA's central small business support program among a highly interconnected set of statewide clean energy workforce development and community support programs. The Hubs will provide a variety of services to contractors and clean energy small businesses, including access to low-cost capital, training, mentorship, networking opportunities and other business-related assistance. The program prioritizes support for business owners and contractors from historically marginalized backgrounds as well as entrepreneurs located in environmental justice communities.

Through a competitive Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), qualified entities can apply for grants, with awards ranging from \$500,000 to \$2.5 million. **Applications will be accepted until December 11, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.** To view the NOFO and apply for the grant, please visit the [DCEO website](#). Interested parties are encouraged to reach

out to CEO.GrantHelp@illinois.gov for application assistance. A [Technical Assistance Webinar](#) will be held on October 20, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.

Qualified entities include community-based organizations such as non-profit organizations and accredited public colleges or universities that have experience providing business-related assistance, knowledge of the construction and clean energy trades, have a record of effectively serving diverse populations, and have established relationships within the local area.

The Hubs will be located in the 13 geographic areas designated by statute: Alton, Aurora, Carbondale, Champaign, Chicago (South Side), Chicago (Southwest and West Sides), Danville, Decatur, East St. Louis, Joliet, Peoria, Rockford, and Waukegan. DCEO anticipates identifying at least one grantee to administer the program in each of the 13 locations.

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](#).

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

Illinois Office of Broadband

The Illinois Broadband Lab – a collaboration between DCEO’s Office of Broadband and the University of Illinois System – is hosting an informational webinar about why and how local governments can participate in the federal Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program Challenge Process funding available to Illinois via the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. The webinar will provide background on the BEAD program and information about how local governments can start preparing for the Challenge Process.

Local Government Webinar: Introduction to Illinois’ BEAD Challenge Process

Tuesday, October 24, at 1:00 pm

Register at: <https://registration.extension.illinois.edu/start/introduction-to-illinois-bead-challenge-process>

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.

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)

Route 66 Grant Program [click here](#) **Deadline October 30, 2023**

Illinois Soundstage Capital Grant Program [click here](#) **Deadline November 10, 2023**

Business Resiliency Grant Program [click here](#) **Deadline December 31, 2023**

Illinois Clean Jobs Workforce Network Program (CEJA) [click here](#) **Deadline March 31, 2024**

SBIR/STTR Match Program [click here](#) **Deadline June 30, 2024**

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

Federal Grant Support Program [click here](#) **No specific due date**

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

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

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

Other Federal and State Agency Grants & Programs

Illinois Department of Employment Security 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.

Southern Region Re-Entry Virtual Job Fair

Date and time: **Thursday, November 16, 2023 1:00 PM** | (UTC-05:00) Central Time (US & Canada)

Join link: <https://illinois.webex.com/illinois/j.phpMTID=md40418622ab32ed9a342e10c15bbe7d4>

Webinar number: 2633 928 6023

Panelist password: FAq36hm3Ewm (32736463 from phones and video systems)

Join by video system Dial [26339286023@illinois.webex.com](tel:26339286023)

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: 263 392 86023

For more information contact Freddie Buckingham Freddie.L.Buckingham@illinois.gov or call 618-241-6716

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.**

For more information visit <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.

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

Illinois Arts Council Agency Arts and Foreign Language Education Planning Assistance Grant

The [Illinois Arts Council Agency](#) (IACA), in cooperation with the [Illinois State Board of Education](#) (ISBE), is pleased to announce that funding is available for school districts and other eligible applicants in fiscal year 2024 (FY24) with the Arts and Foreign Language Education Planning Assistance Grant.

The Arts and Foreign Language Education Grant Program (AFL) is designed to assist school districts and other eligible applicants with the development or enhancement of curricular programs in the arts or foreign language.

The Illinois Arts Council Agency has released a Request for Proposals (RFP) to solicit proposals from eligible applicants that seek resources to develop district-based plans for initiating, strengthening, or expanding

instruction in the arts or foreign language. Annual grant awards will not exceed \$40,000 depending on programmatic needs, size of district, and level of planning to take place. **Proposals are due December 5, 2023.**

An online, interactive informational webinar about the Arts and Foreign Language Education Planning Assistance Grant, designed to provide technical assistance on the RFP and answer questions about the process, will be held Wednesday, October 25, at 1 PM. To access the RFP and register for the webinar, visit www.arts.illinois.gov/AFL.

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.

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

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' [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 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.

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](#) account. The UEI number must be entered in the Salesforce system as part of the Applicant Information.

Helpful Resources

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 covidrelieftsupport@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 10/23/23

Compliance Manager (Executive II) – Office of Broadband Development – Sangamon County

Posting closing 11/1/23

First Stop Specialist (Economic Development Representative 2) – Office of Entrepreneurship, Innovation & Technology – 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