DCEO Grants & Programs

2023 DCEO Business Development Roadshow

On behalf of DCEO, Team RED would like to invite you to our 2023 Business Development Roadshow! Over the next 7 weeks, DCEO staff will be hosting meetings in each region of the state to discuss all the recent changes we have made to our business development programs and introduce you to new ones. We want to ensure you have an understanding of resources that are available from the state to assist with business attraction, expansion, and retention. We will cover the new changes to our faithful Economic Development for a Growing Economy (EDGE) program, introduce you to the new Reimagining Energy and Vehicles program, and cover all the other new programs and changes that have been recently enacted. Below is the schedule and location of each meeting.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Meeting Location</th>
<th>City</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7/26/2023</td>
<td>2 pm - 4 pm</td>
<td>Southern</td>
<td>Greater Egypt RPC/Marion Confernece Room</td>
<td>Marion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/16/2023</td>
<td>10 am - 12 pm</td>
<td>Northwestern</td>
<td>Illinois Valley Community College</td>
<td>Oglesby</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/18/2023</td>
<td>10 am - 12 pm</td>
<td>East Central</td>
<td>Parkland College Building D Room 244</td>
<td>Champaign</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/22/2023</td>
<td>2 pm - 4 pm</td>
<td>Southwest</td>
<td>Greater Belleville Chamber of Commerce</td>
<td>Belleville</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/23/2023</td>
<td>10 am - 12 pm</td>
<td>Southeast</td>
<td>Koerner Distributor</td>
<td>Effingham</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/24/2023</td>
<td>9:30 am - 11:30 am</td>
<td>Northeast Region</td>
<td>College of Lake County ATC (Atrium)</td>
<td>Gurnee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/28/2023</td>
<td>1 pm - 3 pm</td>
<td>Northeast Region</td>
<td>Illinois Room - First Floor</td>
<td>Chicago</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/30/2023</td>
<td>10 am - 12 pm</td>
<td>North Central</td>
<td>Heartland Bank</td>
<td>Normal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/31/2023</td>
<td>1:30 pm - 3:30 pm</td>
<td>Northern Stateline</td>
<td>City of Rochelle- City Hall</td>
<td>Rochelle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/6/2023</td>
<td>10 am - 12 pm</td>
<td>West Central</td>
<td>WIU Main Campus</td>
<td>Macomb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/7/2023</td>
<td>10 am - 12 pm</td>
<td>Central Region</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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We respectively request that you RSVP for the event you wish to attend by sending an email to CEO.TeamREDInquiries@illinois.gov and letting us know which date you want to attend. Please put “ROADSHOW” in the subject line. We hope you can join us and look forward to a robust discussion with you.

If you cannot attend one of these meetings, Team RED will be hosting an encore virtual presentation on September 21, 2023 starting at 10:00 am as part of our monthly office hours series. To register for this webinar event, click here.
Illinois Works Pre-Apprenticeship Program

Governor JB Pritzker and the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) launched $10 million in funding for the third round of the Illinois Works Pre-Apprenticeship Program. The Illinois Works Pre-Apprenticeship Program provides training opportunities, expands the talent pipeline, and boosts diversity in the construction industry and building trades. Grantees will be selected through a competitive Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) process.

The Illinois Works Pre-Apprenticeship Program launched in 2021 with the goal of increasing diversity and access to apprenticeship programs. Comprehensive pre-apprenticeship programs can help participants gain admission to apprenticeship programs, which provide a greater opportunity to obtain employment in the construction trades.

The latest round of funding will focus on awarding grants in geographic areas without pre-apprenticeship programs, while increasing the representation of underrepresented groups that are not served or are underserved by existing programs, including Asian Americans, veterans, and women. The Illinois Works Pre-Apprenticeship Program will fund approximately 45 programs throughout the state including new and existing grantees, serving more than 1,800 residents.

Through Illinois Works, DCEO is expanding its statewide network of providers to recruit, prescreen, and provide pre-apprenticeship skills training. The program providers offer structured pathways and manage the program graduates' transition from the pre-apprenticeship program to a full apprenticeship program in construction and building trades.

Participants of the program attend tuition-free and receive a stipend and other supportive, barrier reduction services to help enter the construction industry. Upon completion of the program, pre-apprentices receive industry aligned certifications which will prepare and qualify them to continue to a registered apprenticeship program in one of the trades.

Applications are open to all Economic Development Regions, with a focus on expanding capacity in the following areas:

- Central Region (Region 1) – Sangamon County
- North Central Region (Region 3) – Peoria County, McLean County
- Northeast Region (Region 4) – DeKalb County, DuPage County, Kane County, Kankakee County, Kendall County, McHenry County, Suburban Cook County, Will County
- Northwest Region (Region 6) – LaSalle County, Rock Island County, Whiteside County
- Southeast Region (Region 7) – Marion County, Lawrence County
- Southern Region (Region 8) – Jackson County

Eligible applicants include non-profit, community-based organizations, such as industry associations, chambers of commerce, local workforce areas, community colleges, technical schools, and school districts. Experienced and new providers are encouraged to apply, along with existing Illinois Works grantees who propose to serve a different geographic area or Economic Development Region than they were originally contracted to serve. Applicants serving priority Economic Development Regions and underrepresented populations as outlined in the NOFO will be granted extra points during the merit review process.
Qualified entities can apply for grants between $55,000 to $550,000. Applications will be accepted until **August 30, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.** To view the NOFO and apply for the grant, please visit the [DCEO website](https://dceo.illinois.gov/aboutdceo/grantopportunities/3165-2578.html). Interested parties are encouraged to reach out to CEO.GrantHelp@illinois.gov for application assistance.

To help applicants prepare to apply for funding, DCEO will also be providing technical assistance in the form of webinars, regional meetings, and FAQ. More information will be posted on the [DCEO website](https://dceo.illinois.gov/aboutdceo/grantopportunities/3165-2578.html).

### 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](https://dceo.illinois.gov/aboutdceo/grantopportunities/3165-2578.html) and specifically the NOFO can be viewed [here](https://dceo.illinois.gov/aboutdceo/grantopportunities/3165-2578.html). 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.**

### Cook County Source Grant

The Cook County Small Business Source proudly introduces **The 2023 Source Grant**, which will provide $40 Million in grants to small businesses to help stabilize operations, foster recovery and resiliency, and advance equity in a post-pandemic economy. [https://cookcountysmallbiz.org/sourcegrant/](https://cookcountysmallbiz.org/sourcegrant/) Application review will begin in August 2023 and not before – so there is no rush to apply. Early submission of an application does not lead to an earlier or faster review. Applicants will be notified of their application status by November 2023 and grant awards will be distributed in January 2024.

### 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](https://dceo.illinois.gov/aboutdceo/grantopportunities/3165-2578.html). The schedule is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<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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</tbody>
</table>
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):

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)
  - 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](https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/df9d38efa4e241218ced486c54f3c109)
- Visit Our Website:
  - [https://dceo.illinois.gov/aboutdceo/grantopportunities.html](https://dceo.illinois.gov/aboutdceo/grantopportunities.html)
  - Browse our Learning Libraries, Quick Reference Guides, and Instructional Videos

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.

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).

- 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.
• **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.

• **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.

For questions, please reach out to [CEO.SSBCI@Illinois.gov](mailto:CEO.SSBCI@Illinois.gov). Businesses can also complete [this short form](#) to receive more information.

**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.

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.**

**Other State Agency Grants & Programs**

**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
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 grantees 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

**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.

**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](https://epa.illinois.gov/topics/air-quality/driving-a-cleaner-illinois.html).

**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](https://epa.illinois.gov/topics/air-quality/driving-a-cleaner-illinois.html). Contact Brad Fletcher ([bfletcher@il-fa.com](mailto: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>
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<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>
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**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.

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<th>Date/Time</th>
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<td>Wabash Valley Srv Co</td>
<td>Kent Ochs</td>
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<td>Ellery</td>
<td>618-516-1697</td>
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<td>Southern FS</td>
<td>Jeff Brown</td>
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<td>(618) 724-2454</td>
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<td>Prairieland FS, Inc.</td>
<td>Dick Stiltz</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Jacksonville</td>
<td>(217) 243-6561</td>
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<td>Sunrise FS</td>
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<td>Virginia</td>
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<td>Todd Miller</td>
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<td>Onarga</td>
<td>(815) 268-4428</td>
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<td>Todd Nelson</td>
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<td>Bowen</td>
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<td>Travis Weaver</td>
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<td>McDonough Blandinsville</td>
<td>(309) 652-3694</td>
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**Helpful Resources**

- GATA Grantee Portal: [https://grants.illinois.gov/portal/]
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 7/25/2023
SBDC Assistant Director (SPSA, Opt. 1) – Office of Entrepreneurship, Innovation & Technology – Sangamon County

Posting closing 7/26/2023
VCP Investment Coordinator (ICDR II) – Office of Entrepreneurship, Innovation & Technology – Sangamon County

Posting closing 7/27/2023
Apprenticeship Initiative Manager (Executive II) - Office of Illinois Works – Sangamon County

Posting closing 8/01/2023
Accountant (Upward Mobility) – Office of Financial Management – Sangamon County
Office Coordinator, OPT 2 - Office of Community Development – Sangamon County

Posting closing 8/02/2023
Accounting Operations Manager (SPSA, Opt. 2) – Office of Financial Management – Sangamon County
Weatherization Specialist III – Office of Community Assistance – 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
Twitter – twitter.com/IllinoisDCEO
Linked In – linkedin.com/company/IllinoisDCEO