



Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity

JB Pritzker, Governor

Northeast Region Weekly Update November 1, 2022

Team RED Monthly Webinar – Thursday, November 10 at 10am

Webinar topic: Reimagining Electric Vehicles (REV)

Date and time: Thursday, November 10, 2022 10:00 am | (UTC-05:00) Central Time (US & Canada)

Register link:

<https://illinois.webex.com/illinois/j.php?RGID=r6eb2aa27df452ff77dad72ba49035aa9>

Illinois Travel and Tourism Grant

Governor JB Pritzker and the Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity (DCEO) today announced nearly \$3 million in funding to support local tourism promotional efforts across the state through the Illinois Travel and Tourism Grant Program.

The Illinois Travel and Tourism Grant Program provides funding for promotional efforts by local governments, and municipalities, non-profits and local promotional groups such as Illinois' Certified Convention and Visitor Bureaus (CVBs), with the goal of attracting visitors to destinations, attractions, and events throughout Illinois. This program is funded by a federal Economic Development Administration (EDA) grant.

With more than 97.1 million visitors in 2021 spending billions across the State's economy, Illinois is a top destination for visitors with recognition in national travel publications like [Condé Nast Traveler](#) and [Time Out](#) who named Chicago the best big city in the U.S., and [CNN](#) who ranked Southern Illinois among the most underrated travel destinations in U.S.

Through the grant opportunity, the state will match local funds used to promote destinations, attractions and events through marketing such as promotional materials, media production costs, billboards, promotional materials at trade shows and additional uses outlined in the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO). The ultimate goal of the program is to support promotional projects that increase visitation and overnight stays, thereby fueling the local economies across the state.

Through a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) entities can apply for grants of up to \$100,000 for promotional funds. Applications will be accepted until **December 12, 2022**. To view the NOFO and apply for the grant, please visit illinois.gov/dceo and navigate to the Grant Opportunities page.

DCEO has prioritized local tourism recovery through multiple grant funding efforts and opportunities, including \$25 million for two rounds of the Tourism Attraction and Festivals Grant Program, \$4 million for Route 66 tourism funding, and more than \$285 million for restaurants, hotels and small businesses in the tourism/travel industry through the Back to Business (B2B), Business Interruption Grant (BIG) and Emergency Hospitality grant programs.

Join DCEO's Team RED

DCEO is expanding our Team RED even further with a new position in the Southern Region. We are accepting applications for ***Southern Regional Manager (Senior Public Service Administrator, Opt 1)***. This position is in Williamson County. The posting will close on 11/7/22. For more information, please go to <https://illinois.jobs2web.com/>

DCEO is also expanding around the state. We are accepting applications on the following positions right now. To apply for these jobs, please go to the Work4Illinois website at <https://illinois.jobs2web.com/> and use the search function to find the positions for our department.

Postings closing 11/01/22

CEJA Central Region Administrator - Office of Employment & Training (SPSA, Opt 1) – Sangamon County
PSA 1 (CEJA) – Office of Employment and Training – Sangamon County

Posting closing 11/02/22

Public Service Administrator, Opt 1 – Cook County

Postings closing 11/04/22

CEJA Northern Regional Administrator – Office of Employment & Training (SPSA, OPT 1) - Cook County

Posting closing 11/07/22

CEJA Southern Regional Administrator – Office of Employment & Training (SPSA, OPT 1) – Williamson County

Posting closing 11/09/22

Weatherization Specialist III – Office of Community Assistance – Sangamon County

Posting closing 11/10/22

Accountant Advanced – Office of Financial Management – Sangamon County

Meat & Poultry Supply Chain Capital Grant Program

Governor JB Pritzker and the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) announced a new \$6 million capital grant program designed to strengthen the meat and poultry supply chain by helping independently owned meat processing companies in Illinois build capacity and create and retain jobs. Through the Meat & Poultry Supply Chain Capital Grant Program, companies are eligible for grants of \$250,000 to \$1.5 million, with a company match of at least four times the amount awarded. The Meat & Poultry Supply Chain Capital Grant Program aims to support communities by helping independently owned companies build capacity, create jobs and ultimately, strengthen our meat processing supply chain in Illinois, thereby making food products more affordable and accessible. Eligibility is restricted to plants that are not operated by the four largest meat processing companies that own most of the nation's meat processing market share. Through the program, companies can receive funding for the construction of a new facility, expanding or renovating existing facilities, and modernizing processing and manufacturing equipment. As part of DCEO's commitment to equity, the application process prioritizes applicants located in underserved and rural areas.

Grants will be issued on a rolling basis; interested parties can find more information on the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) [here](#).

DCEO Launches Public Input Process for Climate and Equitable Jobs Act (CEJA) Curriculum

The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) announced public listening sessions and additional engagement opportunities to collect input on the Clean Jobs Curriculum which will be used in two new workforce training programs: the Clean Jobs Workforce Network Program Hubs (Clean Jobs Hubs) and the Returning Residents Clean Jobs Training Program. Aligned with the program requirements set under the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act (CEJA), interested parties can visit www.illinois.gov/dceo/ceja to provide input through public engagement sessions, surveys or through email.

The Clean Jobs Curriculum will create guidelines and benchmarks that will help CEJA training programs prepare Illinois' workforce for jobs in the clean energy industry. The training programs that will use the curriculum will prioritize underrepresented populations and Illinoisans living in communities that have historically faced economic and environmental barriers, bolstering a diverse workforce in the clean energy industry.

Gathering public input to develop the curriculum is the first step toward launching the Clean Jobs Workforce Network Program Hubs (Clean Jobs Hubs) and the Returning Residents Clean Jobs Training Program where the curriculum will be administered.

The Hubs – which will be located in 13 areas defined in state statute - will administer the curriculum and offer training and certifications to help Illinoisans secure clean energy jobs. The Returning Residents Clean Jobs Training Program will also utilize the curriculum to provide incarcerated individuals with the skills and support needed gain employment in the clean energy sector or enroll in a training program upon release. Both training programs – which will launch in 2023 - will be administered by qualified community-based or workforce organizations, which will be selected through a competitive application process.

As a first step in creating the curriculum, DCEO is seeking public input from employers, training providers, community-based organizations, workforce and advocacy organizations, and interested community members. Feedback will be gathered through listening sessions during small group break outs, and well as a survey and through direct feedback via email.

The listening sessions will be hosted by DCEO and their research and engagement partners from the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) and Illinois public universities with experience in clean energy jobs and workforce development, including the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC), Northern Illinois University, Chicago State University, Governor's State University, Southern Illinois University Carbondale, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, and Western Illinois University.

Listening sessions will be held online via zoom at the times and dates listed below based on specified regions outlined in CEJA. Participants are encouraged to join a session aligned with their region but are welcome to join any session if they have scheduling conflicts. Advance registration is required, and information can be found below:

REGION	DATE/TIME	REGISTRATION LNK
Northern Illinois	Monday, Oct. 24 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Register here.
Northern Illinois	Thursday, Oct 27 11:00 am – 1:00 pm	Register here.
Central Illinois	Tuesday, Nov. 1 11:00 am – 1:00 pm	Register here.

Southern Illinois	Thursday, Nov. 3 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Register here.
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In addition to public listening sessions, interested parties can submit feedback through a survey or by emailing the DCEO CEJA inbox. Stakeholders are also encouraged to sign up to receive updates on the CEJA workforce program launch and other engagement opportunities. Information can be found below:

- Survey: <https://forms.office.com/r/N8NWuX4wRw>
- Email to receive updates or for questions: CEO.CEJA@illinois.gov
- Interest form: <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/354dfa104e0f4190b0e9f2b1404a6b03>

Learn more about the CEJA workforce programs, the stakeholder process, and program launch at DCEO’s CEJA Webpage: www.illinois.gov/dceo/ceja.

Office of Minority Economic Empowerment (OMEE)

Wednesday | November 2, 2022 | 10:00-11:00 a.m. | [Register](#)

Is access to financial capital important for your business? The Office of Minority Economic Empowerment (OMEE) Business Development Managers invite you to an online conversation that’s open to all racial/ethnic minorities, women, persons with disabilities, veterans, LGBTQIA+ owned businesses and all other marginalized groups. Team OMEE will provide you with the latest updates on financial resources, federal and state programs, share information about other opportunities, and answer any questions you may have about your business. We’ll take questions in English and Spanish.

Illinois Apprenticeship Week – November 14 through 18

Check out the daily webinar line up, hosted each day at 9am, and register [HERE](#).

November 14 **Explosive Growth In Apprenticeship in Illinois**

November 15 **Non-Traditional Sectors**

November 16 **Training Mentors**

November 17 **Employer Boot Camp**

November 18 **Apprentices**

To learn more about apprenticeships in Illinois visit www.apprenticeshipillinois.com connect with a local apprenticeship navigator or intermediary by visiting this [page](#) for a statewide list.

Illinois Apprenticeship Education Tax Credit Program

Effective January 1, 2020, employers are allowed a tax credit for qualified educational expenses associated with qualifying apprentices. Employers may receive a credit of up to \$3,500 per apprentice against the taxes imposed by subsections (a) and (b) of Section 201 of the Illinois Income Tax Act, and an additional credit of up to \$1,500 for each apprentice if (1) the apprentice resides in an underserved area or (2) the employer’s principal place of business is located in an underserved area. The application and expense spreadsheet can be found on [DCEO’s website](#) or you can email CEO.ApprenticeshipCredit@illinois.gov.

Illinois workNet American Job Centers

Additionally, as part of the public workforce system, a variety of employer services are available under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act to connect employers and job seekers and advance Illinois’

workforce. Illinois workNet American Job Centers offer services for recruitment and hiring, labor market information, and employee training. Employers can utilize the [Service Finder](#) to connect with their local Business Service Representatives.

IDPH Lead Abatement Grant

As part of the State of Illinois' efforts to protect children from lead poisoning and in recognition of Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Week, the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) is offering \$12 million in grant opportunities to local municipalities and community groups to help residential property owners with lead abatement and mitigation projects. Governor JB Pritzker also issued a proclamation declaring October 23-29 as Lead Poisoning Prevention Week in Illinois.

IDPH is currently accepting applications through November 18 from local municipalities and community action agencies for up to \$12 million in grants from the Comprehensive Lead Education, Reduction, and Window Replacement (CLEAR-Win) program. Applications must be submitted through the web-based "EGrAMS" system (Electronic Grants Administration and Management System) utilized by IDPH for end-to-end grants management.

CLEAR-Win is run by IDPH's Division of Environmental Health with the goal of assisting residential property owners of single-family homes and multi-unit residential properties to reduce lead paint and leaded plumbing hazards in qualified residential properties by replacing old windows and other lead hazard control techniques. The program aims to increase lead-safe housing, reduce childhood lead exposure, and reduce the financial burden of lead mitigation for low-income residential property owners.

While the primary source of lead exposure is contaminated dust created by disturbed and/or deteriorated lead-based paint, it can also be caused by lead in soil, water, or other products containing lead.

The primary objective of the IDPH's Illinois Lead Program is to eliminate the incidence of childhood lead exposure. Illinois has approximately 2 million homes that contain lead hazards. Exposure to lead may cause damage to the brain and nervous system, slowed growth and development, learning and behavioral problems, and even coma and death can occur at severely high levels.

Anyone can be exposed to lead, but children are at greatest risk. Lead can also be passed from a pregnant person to their unborn child. All children ages 6 and younger are required to be evaluated for lead exposure risks by their physician and receive a blood test, if necessary. The Illinois Lead Program recommends all children be evaluated or tested as indicated at ages 12 months and 24 months, and 3, 4, 5, and 6 years of age. IDPH also recommends that pregnant persons be evaluated for lead exposure and tested if deemed necessary.

For more information about IDPH's lead poisoning prevention programs, click [HERE](#).

Building Blocks of Success: IDOT hosting series of workshops for Disadvantaged Business Enterprise program

The Illinois Department of Transportation is hosting free virtual workshops as part of its continuing Building Blocks of Success series for Disadvantaged Business Enterprise firms interested in strengthening their skills, growing their business and bidding on state projects. New and existing DBEs, as well as firms interested in becoming certified in the program, are invited.

November workshop dates and topics are:

- Nov. 1, 10 a.m. to noon: Expansion of Work Category Codes
- Nov. 3, 10 a.m. to noon: QuickBooks Part 1- Setting up your company
- Nov. 8, 10 a.m. to noon: Accounting Best Practices & Financial Reporting
- Nov. 10, 10 a.m. to noon: Improving Your Personal & Business (D&B) Credit Score
- Nov. 15, 10 a.m. to noon: Navigating the IDOT Website (Basic)
- Nov. 17, 10 a.m. to noon: Navigating the IDOT Website (Advanced)
- Nov. 29, 10 a.m. to noon: QuickBooks Part 2 – Performing Day to Day, Part 2

Future topics covered will include estimating and bidding, insurance, bonding, risk management, steps needed to be certified as a DBE firm and more. Building Blocks of Success will continue through April. Workshop information, including dates and times, is available through Eventbrite at bit.ly/DBEworkshops. Advance registration is required. Questions can be directed to IDOT’s DBE Resource Center at (312) 939-1100.

Administered by IDOT, the DBE program provides minorities, women and other eligible small businesses opportunities to participate in highway, transit and airport contracts that are federally and state funded. For more information on becoming a certified DBE and learning more about IDOT resources that are available, visit www.idot.illinois.gov/dbe.

Illinois EPA Watershed Management Projects NOFO

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA) Director John J. Kim announced \$4.5 million in funding through the release of two Section 319(h) Grant Program Notice of Funding Opportunities (NOFO) to address nonpoint source pollution. Illinois EPA is seeking proposals for watershed-based planning projects and watershed-based plan implementation projects to prevent, eliminate, or reduce water quality impairments to Illinois’ surface and groundwater resources. Both NOFOs have been posted to the [Illinois EPA website](#).

Nonpoint source pollution is the result of rain or snowmelt carrying natural and human-made pollutants and depositing them into lakes, rivers, wetlands, and groundwater. It is estimated that over 60 percent of the national water pollution problem can be traced to nonpoint sources.

Section 319 funds can be used for the development, update, and implementation of watershed-based management plans, including the development of information and education programs and for the installation of best management practices.

Additional information can be found at on Illinois EPA’s [Nonpoint Source Grants page](#). Applications for the Section 319(h) Grant program will be accepted October 24, 2022 through 12:00 PM (CST) on **December 7, 2022**. Applicants must pre-qualify through the [Grant Accountability and Transparency Act Grantee Portal](#).

Illinois EPA will host a Technical Assistance Session for these two NOFOs on **November 2, 2022** at 1:30 PM. The Conference Information and Registration can be found at: <https://illinois.webex.com/illinois/j.php?MTID=m20d48817e89bfb44a0354790b1ef8c5b>. The session is not mandatory.

Illinois EPA Announces Second Electric Vehicle Rebate Program

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA) Director John J. Kim announced the next funding round for Illinois’ Electric Vehicle (EV) Rebate Program will be open **Tuesday, November 1, 2022 – Tuesday, January 31, 2023**. Individuals that have purchased an all-electric vehicle since July 1, 2022 can access and complete an

application for a rebate under Illinois' EV Rebate Program at:

<https://www2.illinois.gov/epa/topics/ceja/Pages/Electric-Vehicle-Rebates.aspx>. EV purchasers must apply for a rebate within 90 days of the vehicle purchase date.

To be eligible for a rebate, the vehicle must be exclusively powered and refueled by electricity, plugged in to charge, and licensed to drive on public roadways. Electric mopeds, electric off-highway vehicles, hybrid electric or extended-range electric vehicles that are also equipped with conventional fueled propulsion or auxiliary engines are not eligible under the program.

Eligibility requirements for an EV rebate in Illinois include, but are not limited to:

- The purchaser must reside in Illinois at time of vehicle purchase and at the time the rebate is issued.
- The vehicle must be purchased from a dealer licensed by the Illinois Secretary of State.
- Rented or leased vehicles do not qualify for the rebate.
- The vehicle cannot have been the subject of a previous EV rebate under this new program in Illinois.
- The rebate amount cannot exceed the purchase price of the vehicle.
- The purchaser must retain ownership of the vehicle for a minimum of 12 consecutive months immediately after the vehicle purchase date.
- The purchaser must apply for the rebate within 90-days after the vehicle purchase date.
- Documentation requirements include a copy of purchase invoice, proof of purchase, vehicle registration, and IRS W-9 or W-8 forms.

A webpage has been established for Illinois' EV Rebate Program at:

<https://www2.illinois.gov/epa/topics/ceja/Pages/Electric-Vehicle-Rebates.aspx>. This includes a link to the current rebate application, instructions on completing the application, a Frequently Asked Questions document, and other relevant information. **PLEASE NOTE: A new application form will be posted to the webpage for the second funding round.**

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 EV Rebate Program webpage: <https://www2.illinois.gov/epa/topics/ceja/Pages/Electric-Vehicle-Rebates.aspx>.

Illinois EPA Lead Service Line Inventory Grant Program NOFO

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA) Director John J. Kim today announced a new funding opportunity to assist communities in meeting the requirements outlined in the Lead Service Line Replacement and Notification Act. The Lead Service Line Inventory (LSLI) Grant Program offers grants to local government units ranging from \$20,000 - \$50,000 to fund the creation of a complete lead service line inventory. The Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) has been posted to the [Illinois EPA website](#).

The Lead Service Line Replacement and Notification Act (Public Act 102-0613) requires owners and operators of community water supplies (CWS) in Illinois to deliver a complete water service line material inventory to the Illinois EPA no later than April 15, 2024. The complete inventory must report the composition of all service lines within the CWS's distribution system.

The LSLI Grant Program will utilize a portion of Illinois EPA Public Water Supply Loan Program (PWSLP) loan support funds generated from loan repayments. Illinois EPA expects to award a total of \$2,000,000 and anticipates distributing this amount across forty (40) to one hundred (100) awards. Funding will be limited to a

maximum of \$50,000 per applicant. Applicants may request supplemental funding in the form of a low-interest loan through the Illinois EPA's PWSLP. To inquire about funding through the PWSLP, please call (217) 782-2027 and ask to speak with the Infrastructure Financial Assistance Section Project Manager on call.

The LSLI NOFO, and all required forms and information, can be found on the Illinois EPA website at: <https://www2.illinois.gov/epa/topics/drinking-water/public-water-users/Pages/lead-service-line-information.aspx>. Applications for the LSLI Grant Program will be accepted October 18, 2022, through 12:00 PM (CST) on **December 2, 2022**. All applicants must pre-qualify through the [Grant Accountability and Transparency Act Grantee Portal](#)

Illinois EPA Public Light-Duty Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure NOFO

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA) Director John J. Kim announced a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the purchase and installation of new Direct Current Fast Charging (DCFC) light-duty electric vehicle charging stations at publicly accessible locations. This opportunity is being made available following the Pritzker Administration's commitment to focus Illinois' remaining Volkswagen (VW) Settlement funding on electric transportation and infrastructure. The NOFO and related documents have been posted to the [Illinois EPA website](#).

Through this funding opportunity, Illinois EPA intends to fund a percentage of DCFC light-duty electric charging stations to be located at publicly accessible locations (shopping centers, retail stores, gas stations, etc.) in the three priority areas outlined in the VW Beneficiary Mitigation Plan (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.

Each application must include a minimum of two projects in two or more priority areas. Applications with a minimum of three projects, one in each of the three priority areas, will be prioritized for review, scoring, and funding. Eligible applicants include businesses (corporations, partnerships, sole-proprietorships, and limited liability companies), business trusts, or other legal business entities incorporated in or registered with the Illinois Secretary of State.

All required forms and information can be found on the Driving A Cleaner Illinois webpage: <https://www2.illinois.gov/epa/topics/air-quality/driving-a-cleaner-illinois/Pages/default.aspx>. Applications for the VW Settlement – Public Light-Duty Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure NOFO will be accepted September 28, 2022 through **5:00 PM (CST) on December 30, 2022**. All applicants must pre-qualify through the [Grant Accountability and Transparency Act Grantee Portal](#).

Illinois EPA Unsewered Communities Construction Grants

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA) Director John J. Kim announced a new funding opportunity to assist communities where there are currently no wastewater collection and/or treatment facilities. As part of Governor Pritzker's Rebuild Illinois Capital Plan, Illinois EPA is making \$20 million available for grants through the Unsewered Communities Construction Grant Program, which seeks proposals for projects that will provide wastewater collection and/or treatment facilities for areas where there are currently none. A Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) has been posted to the [Illinois EPA website](#).

All required UCCGP forms and information can be found at: <https://www2.illinois.gov/epa/topics/grants-loans/unsewered-communities/Pages/UCCGP.aspx>. Applications for the UCPGP program will be accepted September 12, 2022 through 12:00 PM (CST) on **November 15, 2022**. Applicants must pre-qualify through the [Grant Accountability and Transparency Act Grantee Portal](#).

State Fire Marshal's Small Equipment Grant Program

The Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) announced the application period is open for the Small Equipment Grant Program. The OSFM will award \$1.5 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 **November 30, 2022**. The Small Equipment Grant Program was established to provide grants of up to \$26,000.

The grants allow eligible applicants the opportunity to purchase small tools and equipment that they may otherwise not be able to purchase. 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 August 2020 through August 2022 for this grant period. Additional information including the application can be found here: <https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/sfm/lam/FireDepartment/Grants-and-Loans/Pages/default.aspx?fbclid=IwAR2IKJADTq30x027VLZUazoBZVtynRWD91meoygszVGPng61et5NSFhblXc>

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

Illinois Housing Development Authority Permanent Supportive Housing Development Program

The Illinois Housing Development Authority (IHDA) is pleased to share that up to \$60 million in state and federal resources is available to finance the creation or preservation of permanent supportive housing across the state. Under Round IX of IHDA's Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) Development Program, approved applications will support the construction and rehabilitation of affordable housing developments for persons at risk of homelessness, residents with physical challenges or mental health needs, and other vulnerable populations. The request for applications and supplemental information can be found online at <https://www.ihda.org/developers/supportive-housing/>.

Non-profit, for-profit and joint-venture affordable housing developers are eligible to apply for funds and may request up to \$9 million per project. Applications are due **Friday, December 16, 2022**. Additional program details can be found at <https://www.ihda.org/developers/supportive-housing/>.

Illinois Housing Development Authority Mortgage Assistance Program

The Illinois Housing Development Authority (IHDA) announced it is reopening a mortgage assistance program designed to assist homeowners financially impacted by the pandemic on Tuesday, Nov. 1, 2022. The Illinois Homeowner Assistance Fund (ILHAF) provides up to \$30,000 in mortgage assistance to eligible homeowners —

paid directly to the servicer, taxing body or other approved entity — while homeowners work to regain their financial footing. Whether homeowners have a mortgage, a reverse mortgage, or are mortgage-free, the program can fund past due housing payments and up to three months of prospective mortgage payments.

The program is free and funds do not need to be repaid. Application, program information and updates can be found at illinoishousinghelp.org. Applications will be accepted until 11:59 p.m. on Tuesday, **January 31, 2023**.

To qualify for ILHAF assistance, Illinois homeowners must have experienced a financial hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic after Jan. 21, 2020 (including a hardship that began before Jan. 21, 2020, but continued after that date). They also must currently own and occupy their home in Illinois as their primary residence, be at least 30 days late on their monthly housing payments and have a household income at or below 150% of the area median income.

Potential applicants must demonstrate they have either communicated with their mortgage provider about their inability to pay, or sought counseling with a HUD-approved counseling organization. Interested homeowners are strongly encouraged to attend an information session hosted by IHDA or one of our housing partners. The session schedule is posted online at illinoishousinghelp.org, for those without access to a computer or the internet, please contact the ILHAF hotline at 1-866-IL-HELP (866-454-3571).

Homeowners who received assistance in the previous round of ILHAF can apply for additional assistance this round. Please note, however, the maximum assistance that can be provided in total to applicants across both rounds is \$30,000. For more information and updates on the program, please visit illinoishousinghelp.org.

ICJIA Grant Opportunity to Ease Transportation Barriers for Justice-Impacted Individuals

The Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority (ICJIA) today announced a \$255,000 funding opportunity to support justice-impacted individuals in need of transportation to meet their pre-trial court, probation, or parole conditions. Supported with federal Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant funds (JAG), this opportunity will offer grants to local units of government in both rural and urban counties to support programs that assist in providing transportation to court proceedings, court-ordered services, probation appointments, employment, community service, and treatment.

Transportation barriers are a concern in both rural and urban communities. With fewer local services in rural areas, individuals must travel longer distances to attend treatment or obtain employment. In urban communities, public transportation is not always available or reliable. In addition, some clients become at increased risk for violence when moving through gang territories. Grants will be made in the amounts of \$40,000 to \$50,000 and must be expended between April 1, 2023, and March 31, 2024. The application deadline for this program is **November 10, 2022**. Visit icjia.illinois.gov.

Statewide PACE Program - Clean Energy Renovations and New Construction

Governor JB Pritzker and the Illinois Finance Authority announced the launch of a statewide PACE (Property Assessed Clean Energy) program to spur investment in electric vehicle charging stations, energy efficiency, and water conservation, and to stimulate the growth of renewable energy and resilient building design throughout Illinois. The Illinois Finance Authority PACE program, now available to all Illinois counties and municipalities, is designed to reduce costs, improve service delivery, and create uniformity in Illinois' Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE) financing market.

Under Illinois law, counties, cities, villages, and incorporated towns may create PACE areas at the request of for-profit and non-profit owners of commercial, industrial, and multi-family (of 5 or more units) properties. C-PACE financing can be used by owners and developers of commercial properties to finance or refinance eligible clean energy improvements in connection with the renovation of existing buildings and new construction, in each case up to 25% of the value of the property.

Counties and municipalities interested in learning more about the Illinois Finance Authority PACE Program are encouraged to visit its website [here](#). Contact Brad Fletcher (bfletcher@il-fa.com) to opt into the Illinois Finance Authority PACE Program for free!

DCEO Website – www.illinois.gov/dceo

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

DID YOU KNOW? Illinois has a new [EV website](#)! Check it out!

Following DCEO & Connecting with Team RED

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

Facebook – facebook.com/IllinoisDCEO

Twitter – twitter.com/IllinoisDCEO

Linked In – linkedin.com/company/IllinoisDCEO

2022 Illinois Investment Guide

This year's Illinois Investment Guide is live! The annual report features data and stories on the state's unique position as a diverse and thriving global business destination. It highlights Illinois' unique regions and prominent industries including agribusiness, energy, manufacturing, life sciences, transportation and logistics, and technology. View the 2022/23 [Illinois Investment Guide here!](#)