Northeast Region Weekly Update
June 30, 2023

DCEO Grants & Programs

Climate and Equitable Jobs Act (CEJA)

**CEJA Climate Works Pre-apprenticeship Program NOFO Deadline Extended to July 3, 2023**
The deadline for the CEJA Climate Works Pre-apprenticeship Program Notice of Funding Opportunity has been extended to 5:00PM on July 3, 2023. The program will provide training to prepare people to succeed in apprenticeship programs in construction and building trades that are expected to see clean energy job growth. For more information please visit [https://dceo.illinois.gov/aboutdceo/grantopportunities/3137-25380.html](https://dceo.illinois.gov/aboutdceo/grantopportunities/3137-25380.html)

**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](https://www.illinoisworknet.com/cejaenergy) Applications are due on August 15, 2023.

**CEJA PUBLIC OUTREACH AND PARTNER BUILDING MEETINGS**
In July, DCEO will host a series of in-person partner building and networking events throughout Illinois to help applicants of the CEJA programs engage with clean energy employers, training providers, and other potential partners. Stay tuned for more information about these events [here](#).

Office of Minority Economic Empowerment (OMEE)

**Online with OMEE – Overview of Financial Resources for Small Businesses** (click link to register)
Wednesday | July 5, 2023 | 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. | VIRTUAL

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 minorities (racial/ethnic), women, persons with disabilities, veterans, and LGBTQIA+ and any other marginalized groups-owned businesses. Team OMEE will provide you with the latest updates on financial resources like federal and state programs, information about other opportunities, and answer any questions you may have about your business. We'll take questions in English and Spanish.
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.

Providing tax incentives specifically for construction projects supports job creation and additional investments in communities. DCEO currently leverages this innovative tax credit structure for construction jobs as part of the Reimagining Energy and Vehicles (REV) and Manufacturing Illinois Chips for Real Opportunity Act (MICRO) tax credit programs. Companies looking for information are encouraged to email ceo.bcja@illinois.gov or visit the BCJA website.

Federal Grant Support Program

General announcement open for a period of time with no specific due dates for applications.

The State of Illinois benefits economically when federal funds are invested in Illinois. However, Illinois receives less funding in federal grants per person than the average state as well as states similar in population size. Federal grant funding is distributed by formula and non-formula (or competitive) 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’s Federal Grant Support Program will make up to $15 million available to Illinois based businesses and organizations seeking competitive federal grants. 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.

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. At the same time, Connect Illinois seeks progress in digital equity and inclusion while leveraging investment in new broadband infrastructure to spur advances in use and innovation for such areas as agriculture, economic development, education, and telehealth. To view the NOFO and apply, click here. Application Deadline: Rolling.

**Community Development Block Grant – Economic Development**

Only units of general local government (i.e., cities, villages, townships and counties) may apply for funding. Eligible municipalities shall not receive funding from HUD as an entitlement city. Counties and townships that are not participating in the HUD Urban County Entitlement Program are also eligible to apply for block grant funds. For your application to be considered, your entity must be pre-qualified. For more information on pre-qualification, please visit [https://dceo.illinois.gov/aboutdceo/grantopportunities/granteeresources.html](https://dceo.illinois.gov/aboutdceo/grantopportunities/granteeresources.html). To view the NOFO click here. Applications accepted on a rolling basis. Apply here.

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

**Other State Agency Grants & Programs**

**IHDA Competitive Homeownership Assistance Program**

Governor JB Pritzker announced the opening of a new homebuyer program designed to help increase home purchase accessibility for low- and moderate-income individuals, families and seniors interested in purchasing a home in Illinois. Administered by the Illinois Housing Development Authority (IHDA), Illinois HFA1 provides $10,000 for down payment and/or closing cost assistance to make buying a home more affordable. By offering a competitive interest rate and limiting the total fees charged to the borrower, IHDA programs are designed to be as affordable as possible. This can allow for substantial savings over the life of the loan. Funding for Illinois HFA1 is expected to assist more than 1,500 new homebuyers.

All IHDA Mortgage programs offer safe and reliable down payment assistance to first-time homebuyers, qualified veterans and non-first-time homebuyers. All mortgage products are subject to income and purchase price limits. Eligibility for each product is based on the borrower’s credit profile, household income and the purchase price of the home. Pre-purchase homeownership counseling is required in order to participate in an IHDA Mortgage program. Find additional information and a list of participating lenders at [www.ihdamortgage.org](http://www.ihdamortgage.org)

**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.

IHDA Next Generation Capacity Building Initiative

The Illinois Housing Development Authority (IHDA) Board of Directors has approved an award of $5 million to launch the Next Generation Capacity Building Initiative (Next Gen), a new program designed to expand the talent pipeline and increase diversity within the housing development field and related industries. The grant award will be made to the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC), who will use the funds to provide capital, training, and technical assistance that will expand access to housing resources administered by the state, with a focus on reducing barriers to entry for developers of color in the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) program. This joint initiative between IHDA and LISC is part of the Authority’s continuing efforts to support the capacity and growth a diverse pool of affordable housing developers in Illinois.

IHDA expects the developer application process to begin in Fall 2023, with participant selections and training beginning in early 2024. More information on the application process, participant eligibility, and program details will be available at LISC Central Illinois (www.lisc.org/central-il/programs/build-physical-environment/).

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. 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.

**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!

**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:**

**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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<td>Chebanse Ag</td>
<td>Dean Schafer</td>
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<td>Kankakee</td>
<td>Chebanse</td>
<td>(815) 697-2392</td>
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<td>08/03 AM</td>
<td>Helena Chemical Co.</td>
<td>Gary Hopkins</td>
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<tr>
<td>DeKalb</td>
<td>Kirkland</td>
<td>(815) 522-3251</td>
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<td>CHS Inc.</td>
<td>Paul Ramm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kane</td>
<td>Maple Park</td>
<td>(630) 247-8882</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Conserv FS, Inc.</td>
<td>Brett Wolter</td>
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<tr>
<td>McHenry</td>
<td>Marengo</td>
<td>(815) 568-7211</td>
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**Helpful Resources**

**Grant Help Desk Resources**

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**Email Us:**
- [ceo.granthelp@illinois.gov](mailto:ceo.granthelp@illinois.gov)

**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

**GATA Grantee Portal:** [https://grants.illinois.gov/portal/](https://grants.illinois.gov/portal/)

**GATA Grantee Portal New User Guide:**

**GATU Resource Site:** [https://gata.illinois.gov/](https://gata.illinois.gov/)

**Catalog of State Financial Assistance (CSFA):** [https://gata.illinois.gov/grants/csfa.html](https://gata.illinois.gov/grants/csfa.html)

**DCEO Current Grant Opportunities:** [https://dceo.illinois.gov/aboutdceo/grantopportunities/grants.html](https://dceo.illinois.gov/aboutdceo/grantopportunities/grants.html)