



**Illinois  
Department of Commerce  
& Economic Opportunity**

JB Pritzker, Governor

**Southwest Region Weekly Update  
February 9, 2024**



**Black History Month 2024**

***“Knowing the Past Opens Doors for the Future”***

The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) will celebrate Black History Month throughout February 2024. DCEO through its Office of Minority Economic Empowerment (OMEE) will spotlight long-standing Black businesses across the state, highlight Black business accomplishments and their contributions to our state, showcase our commitment to growing and investing in Black businesses, and celebrate the leadership of our Black employees.

**Black History Month Events**

The events below are free to attend; interested parties are encouraged to register on the [DCEO website](#).

**Knowing the Past Opens Doors for the Future: Black Business Panel Discussion in Partnership with Chicago Urban League**

**Wednesday, February 14 | 10-11:30 a.m. | Virtual | [Register](#)**

In partnership with Chicago Urban League Center for Entrepreneurship, OMEE will convene long standing business owners from across the state, representing industries where Black businesses have deep roots. These industries include food and restaurants, health and beauty, arts and entertainment and professional services. The panel

discussion will cover each business's history of entrepreneurship in the state, lessons they have learned and insights they would like to share.

**Opening Remarks:**

- Rebecca Estrada – Deputy Director, IL Office of Minority Economic Empowerment
- Kelly Evans - Vice President, Entrepreneurship and Economic Development Chicago Urban League

**Moderator:**

- Matt Simpson - African American Business Development Manager, IL DCEO

**Panelists:**

- Duntai Mathews – Cofounder, Think Big (Rockford, IL)
- Crystal Young – President, Impact Global (Quincy, IL)
- Malcolm Crawford – Director, Austin African American Business Networking Association (Chicago, IL)
- Don Patton – President, Cairo Historical Preservation Project (Cairo, IL)

**Business and DCEO Employee Spotlights**

Throughout the month, DCEO will be highlighting Black Illinois business owners across the state and celebrating the leadership and commitment of our Black employees.

Twitter: @IllinoisDCEO

Facebook: @illinoisdceo

LinkedIn: Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity

Hashtags: #blackhistory #blackhistorymonth #BHM2024

**Black History Month Toolkit**

Below, you will find a document that includes helpful links, graphics, and samples of text you can use in your newsletter, social media or website to help raise awareness and encourage those in your network to celebrate Black History Month.

**[Black History Month Social Media](#)**

The State's Black History Month activities are presented by the DCEO, Office of Minority Economic Empowerment (OMEE). OMEE plays a crucial role in providing support to minority-owned businesses of all sizes and types, including connection with grants, technical assistance, and incentives to bolster minority entrepreneurs and minority-owned enterprises. For more information on Black History Month events planned for businesses, contact Matthew J. Simpson, the African American Business Development Manager, at [Matthew.Simpson@illinois.gov](mailto:Matthew.Simpson@illinois.gov), or to learn more about ongoing resources and programs for businesses, follow DCEO on social media @IllinoisDCEO.

## **Team RED Monthly Webinar**

Join Team RED and guest Warren Ribley to learn more about the ten Illinois Regional Development Authorities (RDAs) created by Illinois law as "Special District" units of government to promote economic development by offering low-cost financing to eligible projects. These ten RDAs cover 92 of the 102 counties in Illinois.

**Thursday, February 15 at 10:00am**

Register <https://illinois.webex.com/weblink/register/rd72c15389a32e9935b701c282f95abe8>

## Illinois Solar For All to Host Government Certifications Webinar for Small and Emerging Businesses

On **Tuesday, February 13 from 12pm – 1:30pm CT**, Illinois Solar for All's (ILSFA) Program Administrator Elevate is hosting a webinar for small and emerging businesses. The webinar is intended to share information about government certifications and how to obtain them. During the webinar, an expert with over 25 years of industry experience will guide small business leaders and provide technical business assistance.

While government certification can be a complex process, this webinar should help to empower small and emerging business leaders to grow their customer bases, ensure appropriate equity status, and more. This webinar will cover the following topics:

- The benefits and types of government certifications
- Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE), Minority and Women-Owned Business (M/WBE), Veteran Business Enterprise (VBE), and Business Enterprise Program (BEP) eligibility
- Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) size standards
- Certification application review and required supporting documentation
- Where to apply for certification based on marketplace opportunities

To sign up for the webinar, [please register here](#).

Read the [full announcement here](#).

## Local Grocers Equipment Upgrades Grant

Governor JB Pritzker and the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) announced \$3.5 million in available grant funding for local grocers through the Equipment Upgrades Program as part of the Illinois Grocery Initiative. These grants will provide funding for energy-efficient equipment upgrades for existing grocery stores, with priority given to those located in food insecure communities across the state. Grantees will be selected through a competitive Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) process.

The Equipment Upgrades Program is the first program rolled out as part of the Illinois Grocery Initiative's multi-pronged efforts to combat food insecurity by supporting local grocers and combatting food deserts. Additional funding opportunities for new municipal and independent grocery stores will be announced to the public soon.

This program is designed to strengthen existing grocery stores and preserve access to fresh food in food insecure communities, in an effort to stop the formation of new food deserts. In order to support businesses most in-need, eligible applicants must be independently owned grocers with fewer than 500 employees and no more than four grocery stores. Grocery stores located in food deserts as defined by the [USDA map](#) are prioritized for this initiative.

With rising energy costs, outdated equipment presents a major expense for small community grocers. Under the Equipment Upgrades Program, eligible grocers may be eligible to receive grants for the following equipment upgrades:

- Heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) equipment
- Refrigeration units and freezers

- Lighting systems
- Other systems providing significant energy savings

Qualified applicants can apply for grants between \$25,000 to \$250,000, with a 1:3 match required. Applications for this round of grants will be accepted until **March 25, 2024, 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](mailto:CEO.GrantHelp@illinois.gov) for application assistance.

## B2B Grants for Local Chambers

Governor JB Pritzker and the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) announced \$5 million in available [grant funding](#) through the Back to Business (B2B) Local Chambers program. Following state recovery programming for businesses totaling \$1.5 billion, the latest American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)-funded opportunity is designed to provide additional support for local chambers of commerce that experienced negative economic impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Local chambers of commerce play a vital role in supporting businesses in communities across Illinois. The B2B Local Chambers funding can be used by chambers to market and develop localities, provide small businesses with professional development, and more to support small businesses and entrepreneurs while bolstering economic development. Applicants are encouraged to visit the [DCEO website](#) to learn more and apply.

As outlined in [statute](#), B2B Local Chambers (20 ILCS 605/605-1105) grant award amounts will be determined by total annual revenue declines between 2019 and 2020, as reflected on tax returns. [Applications are open](#) from January 11 **through February 15, 2024**, and awards are expected to be made several weeks after the deadline date. All eligible applicants will receive a grant as long as the chamber of commerce meets eligibility requirements and submits proper documentation and attestations.

Eligible chambers of commerce include organizations of businesses and professionals dedicated to improving the economic climate and business development of the community in which they are located that experienced a negative economic impact from the COVID-19 pandemic. Eligible chambers will have an annual revenue of \$1 million or less.

Qualified entities can apply for grants up to \$50,000, to be determined by 1/6 of the annual revenue lost between 2019 and 2020. **Applications will be accepted until 5:00 p.m. February 15, 2024.** To help applicants prepare to apply for funding, DCEO is offering live Help Desk support to walk through each step of the application at [chambers@a4cb.org](mailto:chambers@a4cb.org) and 312-275-3000. Interested parties are encouraged to reach out to [CEO.GrantHelp@illinois.gov](mailto:CEO.GrantHelp@illinois.gov) for application assistance.

## Climate and Equitable Jobs (CEJA) Program Updates

### Apply for Funding

The Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity encourages organizations to apply to deliver the following Climate and Equitable Jobs Act (CEJA) workforce programs in select regions. **The deadline to be considered for the second round of reviews is February 23, 2024.**

- Clean Jobs Workforce Network Program (Workforce Hubs). [Application link](#). **Regions accepting applications: Waukegan, Aurora, Joliet, Peoria, Danville, Carbondale, East St. Louis**
- Energy Transition Navigator Program. [Application Link](#). **Regions accepting applications: Waukegan, Aurora, Joliet, Peoria, Champaign, Danville, Decatur, East St. Louis, and Alton**

## CEJA Application links

- Clean Jobs Workforce Network Program (Workforce Hubs). [Application link.](#)
- Energy Transition Navigator Program. [Application Link.](#)

## CEJA Technical Assistance

Applicants are encouraged to take advantage of technical assistance to improve the quality of their applications.

- Request one-on-one technical assistance by [completing this form.](#)
- Attend the following technical assistance webinars:

Please see the [CEJA Updates and Program Status page](#) for more CEJA announcements. Questions may be directed to [ceo.ceja@illinois.gov](mailto:ceo.ceja@illinois.gov).

## Office of Accountability

Attention Grantseekers! DCEO's Office of Accountability is hosting virtual training sessions covering various stages in the grant process.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month 9AM. Learn more: [here](#)**

The presentation will discuss important grant-related topics pertaining to grant management. Each month we will discuss a different component, process, or emerging practice that can benefit potential and existing grantees. Future topics offerings include:

- **2/21/24 Financial Management:** This training will cover the financial aspects of the Grant process. We will introduce the Uniform Budget Template, procurement policies, reporting requirements, and proper supporting documentation.
- **3/20/24 Grantee Compliance:** This training will introduce the Grantee Compliance Enforcement System and the requirements set forth in the 2 CFR 200, Grant Agreement, and Disclosures.
- **4/17/24 Audit and Monitoring:** This training will introduce grantees to the different Audit types, requirements, and the importance of record retention.

## CEJA Equitable Energy Future Grants

Governor JB Pritzker and the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) launched \$25.5 million in funding for the Equitable Energy Future Grants Program as part of a larger strategy to equitably grow the clean energy workforce in Illinois through the landmark Climate and Equitable Jobs Act (CEJA). The program supports renewable energy and energy efficiency projects in low-income and historically disadvantaged communities to grow and diversify the clean energy ecosystem across Illinois. Grantees will be selected through a competitive Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) process.

The goal of the Equitable Energy Future program is to provide seed and pre-development funding opportunities to eligible contractors to support the development of renewable energy and energy efficiency projects benefitting businesses, community organizations and the workforce in historically disadvantaged communities. The program

is designed to help remove barriers to projects, community and business development efforts caused by lack of access to capital.

Grant funding can be used to support a variety of projects to benefit historically disadvantaged communities, including planning and project development, professional services, purchasing and leasing of land, equipment, staff, and more.

Qualified entities include equity eligible contractors and independent contractors, non-profits, co-operatives that are majority-owned by equity eligible persons, and businesses or non-profits with a proposed project that meets equity building criteria. Equity eligible contractors are businesses or non-profits that are majority-owned by equity eligible persons, including participants in CEJA workforce programs, Illinoisans who are in the foster care system or who were formerly in the foster care system, people who were formerly incarcerated, and Illinoisans who live in an R3 zone or environmental justice community.

Through a competitive Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), qualified entities can apply for grants, with awards ranging from \$250,000 to \$1 million. **Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis until funds are exhausted.** 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](mailto:CEO.GrantHelp@illinois.gov) for application assistance.

## LIHEAP Program for Energy Bill Assistance

Governor JB Pritzker and the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) are encouraging additional income-eligible families to apply for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) to support with utility bill assistance for natural gas, propane, and electricity. Applications expanded November 1 to include income-eligible households that are disconnected or facing imminent disconnection. Eligible families including those that are disconnected or facing imminent disconnection can apply by visiting [helpillinoisfamilies.com](http://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.

To apply, visit [helpillinoisfamilies.com](http://helpillinoisfamilies.com) to fill out and submit a request for services form online OR visit your local agency (a list of partners throughout the State can be found [here](#)). After you submit the form, someone from your local agency will be in touch. Call 1-833-711-0374 for assistance at any point during the application process. Additional information about eligibility and criteria can be found on the [website](#) along with fact sheets in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

**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/dceo/grants)**

Other grant opportunities include:

Illinois Energy Transition Navigators Program (CEJA) Click [here](#) **Deadline February 23, 2024**

Illinois Clean Jobs Workforce Network Program (CEJA) Click [here](#) **Deadline February 23, 2024**

Energy Transition Community Grant Program Click [here](#) **Deadline March 15, 2024**

Tourism Incentive Grant Click [here](#) **Deadline May 1, 2024**

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

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

CDBG Economic Development Program [click here](#) Deadline rolling  
Connect Illinois Broadband Grant [click here](#) Deadline rolling

## **Other Federal and State Agency Grants & Programs**

### **IDOT Advance Draft Copy of Notice of Funding Opportunity for the NEVI Formula Grant Program Available**

The Illinois Department of Transportation is making an advance draft of the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the Illinois National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) Program available ahead of the solicitation. With this information it is the Department's intention to allow potential grant applicants to begin to conceptualize their applications and begin discussions between the eligible entities prior to the solicitation beginning in Spring 2024.

The Illinois NEVI Program will invest over \$40 million in grants to eligible applicants to support the deployment of a direct current fast charge electric vehicle charging infrastructure network on Illinois' **designated alternative fuel corridors**.

The advance copy of the NOFO provides details on the program, including:

- Funding Information: The total amount of funding available, anticipated number of awards, and the process for accessing the funds if awarded.
- Program Requirements: Rules that must be followed to use the funds.
- Eligibility Information: Including eligible applicants, eligible project locations, and eligible costs.
- Application Process: The steps that applicants will need to take to apply for funding.
- Application Review Information: How the applications will be prioritized for funding.

Please note that the NOFO is still draft and subject to change. IDOT encourages interested parties to review the advance copy of the NOFO and prepare for the solicitation **to be opened in Spring 2024**.

### **IMEC Made In Illinois Grant**

Governor JB Pritzker, the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) and the Illinois Manufacturing Excellence Center (IMEC) today launched \$1 million in funding for the Made in Illinois Grant Program. The Made in Illinois program provides up to \$50,000 in matching grant funding to small- and mid-sized Illinois manufacturers to support innovation and strategic advancements in manufacturing.

**Applications are open now through March 31, 2024**, and manufacturers are encouraged to explore the benefits offered by the Made in Illinois Grant Program by visiting [www.imec.org/madeinillinois](http://www.imec.org/madeinillinois). The page provides details on eligibility criteria, application procedures, and the improvements achievable through this initiative.

To be eligible to apply for this program, companies must:

- Be an Illinois manufacturer (as designated with a NAICS code starting with 31-33)
- Have between 5-250 employees

- Operated in Illinois for at least 3 years
- Had sales revenue in the last 12 months prior to application date

## U.S. Department Of Labor Veterans' Employment and Training Service

Notice of Availability of Funds and Funding Opportunity Announcement for: Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program (HVRP), Incarcerated Veterans' Transition Program (IVTP), and the Homeless Women Veterans' and Homeless Veterans' with Children Reintegration Grant Program (HWVHVWC) (referred to collectively as HVRP)

ANNOUNCEMENT TYPE: Initial

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY NUMBER: FOA-VETS-24-50

ASSISTANCE LISTING NUMBER: 17.805

KEY DATES: **The closing date for receipt of applications under this Announcement is 03/11/2024.** Applications must be received no later than 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time.

ADDRESSES: Submit all applications in response to this solicitation through <https://www.grants.gov>.

For complete application and submission information, including online application instructions, please refer to Section IV. The U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration (ETA), is responsible for the grant award process of the Veterans' Employment and Training Service grant program.

**A Prospective Applicant Webcast will be available on February 13, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. Eastern Time.** While a review of the webcast is strongly encouraged to support successful grant applications, it is not mandatory. The two sessions will cover the same information, but prospective applicants are welcome to attend both sessions. The webcast will provide specific information related to this funding opportunity and guidance on how to apply. Applicants will also be able to ask questions during the webcast. Click on the link below to register for the respective session:

- **February 13, 2024 at 2 p.m. EST:** <https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/9cb77c0b-650d-4b4e-97ca-d95d988acbb5@e1f1c337-2599-4753-95d8-4853fb4b179c/registration>

## US Small Business Administration Surety Bond Guarantee Program

Surety Bonds for Government Service and Construction Contracts

FREE Webinar: **Wednesday, February 28, 2024** 2:00-3:30pm CST

The U. S. Small Business Administration's Surety Bond Guarantee Program can help your small business obtain a contract, and performance and payment bonds. Presenting will be Stephen Konkle, Economic Development Specialist from the SBA Illinois District Office. Steve has worked with bonding at SBA for 15+ years and previously, in the private sector, worked in bonding and as a finance manager. Topics to be covered:

What are contract bonds and why are they required?

Potential contract bonding capacity

Ways to maximize your surety credit

What is SBA's Surety Bond Guarantee Program?

Surety contract bond guarantees up to \$6.5 Million

Costs & getting started with bonding

Eligibility to obtain surety bonds

Q&A Session



Please join us if you want to learn about surety bonds and how to increase your current bonding capacity, even if your small business has limited financial resources, little/no prior bonded work experience, has been in business less than three years, or has previously been denied bonding.

To register for this and other FREE SBA webinars, go to [www.SBA.gov/district/illinois](http://www.SBA.gov/district/illinois) and scroll down to Upcoming events > See more events.

## **IDOA Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure Grant**

The Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA) announces \$6.4 million in competitive grant funds will be available for projects designed to help strengthen the state's food supply chain. The program, Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure program (RFSI), is a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Applications will be accepted beginning January 22, 2024, from food and farm business and other eligible entities including nonprofits, local government entities, universities, schools and hospitals.

The purpose of the program is to assist in building resilience in the middle of the food supply chain, supporting those activities that happen after harvest and prior to retail sale. Examples include processing, manufacturing, storing, transporting, wholesaling, and distributing locally and regionally produced food. RFSI funds support food system crops and products meant for human consumption, excluding meat and poultry products which are funded through other USDA programs.

Grants are divided into two categories, Infrastructure, which seeks to expand capacity and infrastructure, and Equipment Only, which funds the cost of equipment.

**Those interested should apply online at [Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure Program \(illinois.gov\)](http://Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure Program (illinois.gov)) by March 15, 2024, at 11:59 p.m.** Applications from smaller farms and ranches, new and beginning farmers and ranchers, underserved producers, veteran producers, and underserved communities are encouraged.

For more information, visit the USDA [Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure webpage](http://Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure webpage).

## **IDOT Building Blocks of Success**

The Illinois Department of Transportation is hosting free virtual workshops in January 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.

January workshop dates and topics:

- **February 13**, 10 a.m. to noon: How to Connect & Stand Out
- **February 15**, 10 a.m. to noon: Benefits of Becoming IDOT DBE Certified, How to Apply & Expand Work Categories
- **February 27**, 10 a.m. to noon: Accounting Practices / Financial Reporting Financial Series
- **February 29**, 10 a.m. to noon: Budgeting & Cashflow Management

Building Blocks of Success will continue through April. Workshop information, including dates and times, is available through Eventbrite at [bit.ly/DBEworkshops](https://bit.ly/DBEworkshops). Advance registration is required. Questions can be directed to IDOT's Bureau of Small Business Enterprises at (217) 785-4611.

Through Gov. JB Pritzker's historic, bipartisan Rebuild Illinois, IDOT is helping to deliver the largest capital program in state history while promoting diversity, equity and inclusion. Administered by IDOT, the DBE program provides minorities, women and eligible small businesses with opportunities to participate in federally and state funded highway, transit and airport contracts. For more information on becoming a certified DBE and learning more about available IDOT resources, visit [www.idot.illinois.gov/dbe](https://www.idot.illinois.gov/dbe).

## Illinois EPA Energy Efficiency Projects Grant

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Director John J. Kim announced the Residential Energy Efficiency Trust Fund Grant Program – previously known as the Low-Income Residential Energy Efficiency Program or LIREE - with up to \$5,000,000 in funding available for energy efficiency upgrades at single family or duplex residential properties. The Energy Efficiency Trust Fund Grant Program will benefit residents receiving housing assistance from a state or federal housing assistance program and located in areas of environmental justice concern. A Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) has been posted to the [Agency's website](#).

Eligible applicants include public housing authorities, units of local government (municipalities, counties, or townships), or nonprofit organizations. Examples of eligible projects include window replacement, heating and cooling equipment retrofits, and lighting upgrades. Total project costs may range from \$25,000 - \$500,000 with a match requirement subject to total funding request.

**Applications for the Energy Efficiency Trust Fund Grant Program NOFO will be accepted on a rolling basis** and eligible properties will receive funding on a first come, first serve basis. For eligibility and application information, visit: <https://epa.illinois.gov/topics/energy/energy-efficiency/energy-efficiency-trust-fund-grant.html>.

Before applying to the grant program, applicants must be pre-qualified through the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA) Grantee Portal, <https://gata.illinois.gov/>.

## IDPH Sickle Cell Disease Grant

The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) is now accepting applications for Prevention, Care and Treatment of Sickle Cell Disease grants. A total of \$750,000 has been allocated for the program. As many as eight organizations may receive grants for programs to increase comprehensive services for people with sickle cell disease and sickle cell trait. A grant to a single organization may range from \$30,000 up to a maximum of \$500,000.

Organizations will be awarded grant funding with the goal of increasing access to any of the following: comprehensive sickle cell treatment, pain management therapies, infusion centers, mental health resources, and counseling opportunities for people with sickle cell disease and sickle cell trait. Grant funding may also support new development or enhancement of current educational and outreach programs; the goal is to provide people with sickling disorders and trait, their families, and others (such as clinical providers, health care professionals, local public health, service providers, educators and the community) with accurate, up to date, and timely information.

This grant is competitive. All applications received will undergo a merit-based review by the IDPH grant committee. Priority will be given to established sickle cell disease community-based organizations, which serve adults and adolescents transitioning to adult care and to establishing sickle cell centers in underserved areas with larger populations of people with sickle cell disease and sickle cell trait.

This program is part of an effort to meet the goals of [the Sickle Cell Prevention, Care and Treatment Program Code](#).

**Applications will be accepted through 5:00pm on March 18, 2024**, with the announcement of the grant award expected in April. Prospective applicants can apply at [EGrAMS : Home \(idphgrants.com\)](#); search for this program under “Current Grants” and “Health Promotion.”

For more information about sickle cell disease and sickle cell trait, go to <https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/sicklecell/index.html>.

## 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](#)

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:ILARPA@crowe.com) or [CEO.CURE@illinois.gov](mailto:CEO.CURE@illinois.gov).

To ask a question about the U.S Treasury Reporting Portal, please contact [covidrelieflsupport@treasury.gov](mailto:covidrelieflsupport@treasury.gov)

### Illinois Catalog of State Financial Assistance

The Catalog of State Financial Assistance (CSFA) is a single, authoritative, statewide, comprehensive source document of State financial assistance program information. Click [here](#) to browse a list of agencies that have active grant opportunities.

### 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.

### 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](https://facebook.com/IllinoisDCEO)

**Linked In** – [linkedin.com/company/IllinoisDCEO](https://linkedin.com/company/IllinoisDCEO)