



**Illinois
Department of Commerce
& Economic Opportunity**

JB Pritzker, Governor

**Southeast Region Weekly Update
September 25, 2023**



**NATIONAL
HISPANIC HERITAGE
MONTH**

September 15 - October 15



Hispanic Heritage Month 2023

**“Recognizing and Celebrating Latin@/e/x and
Hispanic Contributions to the IL Economy”**

Illinois is honored to continue celebrating our diverse Latin@/e/x and Hispanic communities in observation of Hispanic Heritage Month September 15th – October 15th.

Small Business Workshop

Tuesday | October 3, 2023 | 6pm – 7:30pm | Valladolid Banquet Hall, 6254 S. Archer Rd., Summit, IL | [Register](#)

Looking to learn about what resources are available for your business? Join us for a workshop to learn about supports and funding available to small businesses in Illinois. Hosted by State Representative Abdelnasser Rashid, Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity (DCEO) - Office of Minority Economic Empowerment (OMEE), Summit Chamber of Commerce, and Valladolid Banquet Hall

Support Latino Business Day & Hispanic/Latinx Heritage Month Tool Kit & Resources

In the link below you will find tips, sample social media posts, graphics and ideas on how to celebrate and promote Support Latino Business Day as well as Hispanic/Latinx Heritage Month!

- Toolkit, click [HERE](#) or para español haga clic [Aqui](#)

Here is some information on where you can find Latin@/e/x and Hispanic-owned businesses:

- Mercados (Markets)
 - Every Friday during the summer and September - October, Mercado on Fifth in Moline, IL has an outdoor market. For more information click [HERE](#).
 - Open Friday - Sunday ¡WEPA! Mercado del Pueblo in Humboldt Park, Chicago is open to the public. For more information click [HERE](#).
- Festivals happening across Illinois - check out our Office of Tourism webpage for more information where you can support more Latin@/e/x and Hispanic owned businesses, click [HERE](#) or [HERE](#).

- Hispanic Cultural Heritage Itineraries
 - [Chicago to Rockford](#)
 - [Peoria, Rock Island, Moline](#)

For more information on Hispanic/Latinx Heritage Month and Support Latino Business Day events planned for businesses, contact Diana Alfaro, the Latinx Business Development Manager, at Diana.Alfaro@Illinois.gov or to learn more about ongoing resources and programs for businesses, follow DCEO on social media @IllinoisDCEO.

DCEO Grants & Programs

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> and specifically the NOFO can be viewed [here](#). 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.**

State Designated Cultural Districts

The Pritzker administration launched, last week, the application to apply to become a State-Designated Cultural District in Illinois. State-Designated Cultural Districts are communities, towns, or specific geographic areas that have a distinct shared historical and cultural identity that binds the community together. Once selected, the state plans to make \$3 million available to State-Designated Cultural Districts, and through the designations, aims to uplift the unique contributions of historic cultural districts with the goal of increasing economic development opportunities.

The State-Designated Cultural Districts opportunity is open to localities, municipalities and community-based non-profit organizations through a competitive Notice of Designation Opportunity (NODO). As outlined in statute, a maximum of five State-Designated Cultural Districts can be selected each calendar year. The Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) anticipates designating five Cultural Districts in 2023 and an additional five in 2024. To be selected, applicants must demonstrate the ways in which they have a distinct cultural identity and have historically faced challenges preserving their unique cultural attributes due to gentrification, displacement or the COVID-19 pandemic. Full information for applicants can be found on the [application webpage](#).

Grant Administrators and CDBG Application Workshops
October 18 & 19, 2023
Wyndham Springfield City Centre

700 East Adams Street Springfield, Illinois

We are excited to hold our first in-person Workshop since February, 2020! In an effort to streamline, reduce travel time and costs, the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity's Office of Community Development is combining three specific training opportunities:

- **2023/2024 Application Workshops for Community Development Block Grant Programs (CDBG)**
 - All those who intend to write and submit an application for competitive CDBG programs (Public Infrastructure and/or Housing Rehabilitation) in January, 2024 must attend **both** the 2023/2024 Application Workshop and the Grant Administrator's Workshop
- **Administrator's Workshop for CDBG funded grants**
 - All Grant Administrators of awarded 2022 CDBG grants must attend.
 - All Local Governments receiving a 2022 CDBG grant must send a representative (preferably the person handling financial transactions).
 - All Project Engineers for projects funded in-part or in-whole by 2022 CDBG Public Infrastructure grants must attend the entire first half (9:00 AM-12:45 PM) of the Administrator's Workshop.
 - All Housing Inspectors for Housing Rehabilitation grants awarded with 2022 funds must attend the entire first half (9:00 AM-12:45 PM) of the Administrator's Workshop.
 - All those who intend to write and submit an application for competitive CDBG programs (Public Infrastructure and/or Housing Rehabilitation) in January, 2024 must attend **both** the 2023/2024 Application Workshop and the Grant Administrator's Workshop
- **Administrator's Workshop for Rebuild Illinois Public Infrastructure grants administered in DCEO's Office of Community Development**
 - All Grantees awarded Rebuild Illinois Public Infrastructure grants
 - All Grant Administrators for Rebuild Illinois Public Infrastructure grants

All sessions will be held in the Prairie Room of Wyndham Springfield City Centre in downtown Springfield. We have planned the sessions in a way that some attendees will not need to spend the night while others will have the opportunity to travel in the morning and just stay one night. As requested by our Administrators, we have structured the sessions so components do not overlap.

Registration and Lodging Information

- ❖ There is no fee for this Workshop. However, please plan to pay for your personal meals, travel and lodging. The Hotel is located in downtown Springfield with plenty of restaurants for your dining pleasure as well as places to shop and sites to see.
- ❖ Please register for all the program segments you plan to attend. This will allow us to plan refreshments appropriately.
- ❖ Please include the grant numbers for the grant(s) you received or are administering on the registration form to ensure proper credit for attendance.

- ❖ In an effort to reduce waste, all registration forms must be filled out and returned electronically to ceo.cdbg@illinois.gov by **Thursday, October 5, 2023**. A confirmation e-mail will be sent upon registration.
- ❖ The Wyndham has reserved a block of rooms for our conference attendees. Please call 217/789-1530 and ask for the DCEO Community Development Workshop room block. Room fees will be the standard state rate of \$85/night and include a complimentary parking pass. **Cut-off date to reserve your room is: Wednesday, October 4, 2023.**

Workshop Materials will be e-mailed the week of **October 9th** to all those registered. **PLEASE MAKE AND BRING COPIES WITH YOU.** Copies will not be available at the Workshop. **Please be certain to check in at the Registration desk at the beginning of each segment to receive credit for attendance.**

In an effort to reduce waste, all registration forms (attached) should be filled out and returned electronically to ceo.cdbg@illinois.gov. A confirmation e-mail will be sent to you. **All registration forms must be completed and returned by: Thursday, October 5, 2023.**

WIOA State Plan Stakeholder Event - Employers and Businesses

Date: September 26

Time: 12:00 pm -1:30 pm

Registration link: https://illinoisstate.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_fyfwmCunRzyiY5nz9JjAOg#/registration

Under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), Illinois is developing a four-year plan for its workforce development system. The plan offers an opportunity to incorporate lessons learned over the past several years and new ideas that can help bolster our economy. This webinar is explicitly aimed at employers and will feature content unique to that audience, such as developing talent pipelines and sector strategies. Participants will be invited to openly discuss concepts for addressing challenges and opportunities for improving the state's workforce development system over the next four years. Additionally, Illinois' workforce development system offers an array of tools and resources, from recruiting & filling job openings to using Labor Market Information (LMI) to make decisions on how to grow your business. Learn more about no-cost workforce resources at [BizHub](#).

Climate and Equitable Jobs Act (CEJA)

Questions about the CEJA Workforce Programs? Learn more [here](#), email ceo.ceja@illinois.gov or check out our [FAQ page](#).

Grant Help Desk Resources DCEO Office of Accountability

- Office Hours for Grantees – Office of Accountability is hosting a weekly office hour **every Tuesday from 2-3pm** for any questions grantees or potential grantees may have.
 - [Sign up for any of these sessions with this link](#)
- **Email Us:**
 - ceo.granthelp@illinois.gov
 - Or use our Inquiry Form: <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/df9d38efa4e241218ced486c54f3c109>
- **Visit Our Website:**

- <https://dceo.illinois.gov/aboutdceo/grantopportunities.html>
- Browse our Learning Libraries, Quick Reference Guides, and Instructional Videos

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.**

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.**

LIHEAP Program for Energy Bill Assistance

LIHEAP will begin accepting applications on **October 2, 2023, through August 15, 2024, or until funds are exhausted**. The energy bill assistance program offered through the Help Illinois Families Program in program year 2023 will provide \$237 million to eligible families to assist with natural gas, propane, and electricity bills.

Overview of Program Improvements for LIHEAP in 2023

Program Year 2023 includes a variety of improvements based on feedback from advocates such as the expanded program year, as well as re-instating the pre-pandemic practice of tiered applications to allow families most in need to apply first.

Beginning **October 2, 2023**, eligible families can apply by visiting helpillinoisfamilies.com or by visiting their local agency (a list of partners throughout the State can be found [here](#)). Families can also call 1-833-711-0374 for assistance in 30 languages. This year, the tiered application system will be reinstated to ensure families most in need are able to apply first.

- **October 2** – Income-eligible households who fall under the following categories:
 - Households with seniors age 60+
 - Households with a documented long-term disability
 - Households with children under age 6
- **November 1** – Income-eligible households who fall under the following categories:
 - October priority period households
 - Households that are disconnected
 - Households facing imminent threat of disconnection
- **December 1**
 - All income-eligible households

LIHEAP provides one-time payments directly to energy service providers on behalf of recipients. While the amount of support varies based on the needs of individual families, last year over 311,000 households received LIHEAP, with an average of over \$1,000 per household. All families who meet the qualifications and provide proper documentation will receive support until funding is exhausted. Families who earn up to two-times the federal poverty level are eligible to receive support through LIHEAP.

Additional Program Information:

The State of Illinois offers various programs to support eligible low-income families with utility assistance. These programs are open to ALL eligible low-income Illinois families who meet the criteria, including undocumented families. Programs for eligible families include:

- **One-time Direct Vendor Payment:** All LIHEAP recipients receive a one-time payment.
- **Crisis/Reconnection Assistance:** Funding is available for families in heating-related emergency situations.
- **Furnace Assistance:** Based on funding availability, Furnace Assistance may be provided to households that do not have an operating furnace for their residence.
- **Home Weatherization Program:** The Illinois Home Weatherization Assistance Program (IHWAP) helps low-income residents and households conserve fuel and reduce energy costs by making their homes and apartments more energy efficient.

For a complete list of current DCEO grant opportunities, upcoming grant trainings, video resource library and Grant Help Desk assistance,

visit [DCEO Grants \(illinois.gov\)](http://illinois.gov)

International Tourism Grant Program click [here](#)

Route 66 Grant Program click [here](#)

Illinois Soundstage Capital Grant Program click [here](#)

Illinois Clean Jobs Workforce Network Program (CEJA) click [here](#)
SBIR/STTR Match Program click [here](#)
Illinois Energy Transition Navigators Program (CEJA) click [here](#)
Illinois Meat and Poultry Supply Chain Grant Program click [here](#)
CDBG Economic Development Program click [here](#)

Webinars and Events

Winning Workforce Solutions Summit

Date and time: Tuesday, September 26, 2023 9:00 AM – 11:30 AM | Koerner Distributors, Effingham
Register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/winning-workforce-solutions-summit-2023-tickets-669450593747?aff=oddtcreator>

In recognition of Workforce Development Month, LWIA 23 Business Services Team invites you to the inaugural Winning Workforce Solutions Summit! This Summit is for business representatives, workforce development stakeholders, and community leaders. We will feature several special guests, including Bonnie Moore from Lake Land College, Josh Doerner from New York University, DuWayne Owens from Illinois Department of Corrections, and James Ginder from Illinois Department of Employment Security discussing hot topics in the workforce today. Light refreshments will be available. Be part of the winning solution and register today. Space is limited! Do not miss this opportunity!

Local Government Funding Workshop

Date and time: Wednesday, September 27, 2023 9:30 AM – 12 PM | Farm Bureau, 15 S. 5th St., Albion
RSVP: to Kim Watson at kim.watson@illinois.gov

Please join us on September 27th from 9:30 am – 12 pm for a local government funding workshop hosted by Greater Wabash Regional Planning Commission (GWRPC) and the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO). Agencies attending will include Illinois Housing Development Authority, USDA Rural Development, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Illinois Department of Transportation, Delta Regional Authority, and the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity. GWRPC staff will also be available to discuss their services. This event is aimed for local government officials in Crawford, Edwards, Lawrence, Richland, Wabash, Wayne and White counties.

Manufacturing and the Crucial Role It Plays in Our Regional Economy

Date and time: Thursday, September 28th, 2023 10:30 AM – 11:30 AM
Register: https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_GL9IH5u_T_mHYMIG4Jolyg

Join DCEO Small Business Community Navigator Grantee, Business Navigator Alliance of South Central and Southeastern Illinois for a webinar focusing on the crucial role manufacturing plays in the regional economy. For this webinar, we dive into regional initiatives that the Business Navigator Alliance are taking to bring new opportunities to our local businesses, by introducing the aerospace industry to Southcentral and Southeastern Illinois. Paul Gandola, Legal Counsel to the Ohio Aerospace Institute and Angela Griffin, President of Coles Together will detail these plans. Attendees will also hear an analysis from U of I Extension Specialist Zach Kennedy, demonstrating the significant role that manufacturing has on our economy.

Grand Opening: Small Business Development Center

Date and time: Friday, September 29, 2023 10:30 AM | Terry L. Bruce West Richland Center, Noble

RSVP: to Sheryl Childers 618-879-9405/Ext: 5505 or childerss@iecc.edu

This will be a come-and-go event, to be held following the dedication of the Terry L. Bruce West Richland Center. We encourage you attend and share the invitation with clients, members, and colleagues who could benefit from all the SBDC has to offer. Please utilize the following link <https://iecc.edu/sbdc> to review services and their upcoming events.

Other Federal and State Agency Grants & Programs

Office of the State Fire Marshal Small Equipment Grant

The OSFM will award \$4 million to eligible fire departments and ambulance services for the purchase of small firefighting and ambulance equipment. All interested departments should send an application to OSFM electronically or postmarked no later than **December 15, 2023**.

The Small Equipment Grant Program was established to provide grants of up to \$26,000 to eligible departments. A total of \$1.5 million was awarded to 64 fire departments/districts and EMS providers across the state in March.

The grants allow eligible applicants the opportunity to purchase small tools and equipment. In addition to firefighting personal protective equipment (PPE), applicants can also apply for personal infection control items such as masks, gowns, and gloves this application cycle. Most Illinois fire departments, fire protection districts, and township fire departments are eligible to apply. In addition, stand-alone, not-for-profit ambulance service providers are eligible to apply.

All applicants are required to have participated in the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) for a minimum of two years prior to applying. The OSFM will require departments to be current from September 2021 through August 2023 for this grant period. Additional information including the application can be found here: <https://sfm.illinois.gov/iam/firedepartment/grants-and-loans.html>

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

USDA Seeks Applications to Spur Rural Job Growth and Economic Development

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced that the Department is accepting applications for funding to help create jobs and promote economic growth in rural communities. USDA is making loans and grants available under the [Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant \(REDLG\)](#) programs for fiscal year (FY) 2024.

Through these programs, USDA provides zero-interest loans to local utilities which they, in turn, pass through to local businesses for projects that will create and retain employment in rural areas. Through the REDLG programs, USDA also provides grants to local utility organizations, which use the funding to establish revolving loan funds to finance community facilities.

Specifically, applicants may use funds to support business startup, business expansion and business incubators; technical assistance and feasibility studies; essential community facilities; and advanced telecommunications services and computer networks for medical, educational and job training opportunities. For more information, read full [Stakeholder Announcement](#).

Illinois Arts Council Artist Fellowship Program

The application is open in the Illinois Arts Council's online [Salesforce system](#) and has a deadline of 11:59 PM central time on **November 3, 2023**. **Awards will be announced in the spring of 2024.**

The Artist Fellowship Program's intent is to enrich and strengthen the state by supporting accomplished Illinois artists who are the foundation of Illinois' creative environment. The program recognizes exceptional artists who are at a career stage beyond emerging and have created a substantial body of work throughout their career. The program does not support an artist's specific project, but rather provides monetary awards to support an artist's continued artistic growth and exploration.

The IACA will provide a limited number of \$15,000 awards across the following discipline categories:

- Crafts
- Digital Arts
- Ethnic & Folk Arts
- New Art Forms (non-performative)
- Photography
- Sculpture
- Visual Arts (includes the 2D sub-categories of painting, mixed-media, printmaking, and other non-digital based visual arts)

A limited number of \$1,500 Finalist Awards will also be given. The IACA encourages artists working in these disciplines and who are residents of Illinois to apply. Fellowship applications will be submitted in IACA's online platform: [Salesforce](#) Previous IACA individual applicants should log into Salesforce using their already established account name and password. New applicants should create a new user account. If you have trouble logging in, please email iac.info@illinois.gov. More information on the Salesforce system, including a [user manual](#), can be found on the [IACA website](#).

Application Assistance

IACA staff are available via three drop-in video meetings to answer any questions. Simply click the link at the time of the meeting to join the drop-in session via WebEx:

AFA Drop-in session #1: Friday, September 29, 2023, 1:00 PM Central Time. [Meeting Link](#)

AFA Drop-in session #2: Wednesday, October 11, 2023, 1:00 PM Central Time. [Meeting Link](#)

AFA Drop-in session #3: Wednesday, October 25, 2023, 3:00 PM Central Time. [Meeting Link](#)

For more information and assistance visit: <https://arts.illinois.gov/AFA-Program>

Illinois EPA Announces Six Fall 2023 Household Hazardous Waste Collection Events

These collection events are co-sponsored by units of local government and provide residents the free opportunity to safely dispose of unused or leftover hazardous products commonly found in homes.

One-day collections are open to [all Illinois residents](#) and operate from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on the day of the event. **Pre-registration is required for all Fall 2023 collection events.** Residents participating are encouraged to bring chemical cleaners, oil-based paints, thinners, antifreeze, motor oil, gasoline, kerosene, weed killers, insecticides, and pesticides, old or outdated medication, and similar hazardous household products. Fluorescent and other high-intensity discharge lamps may also be brought to the collections. **ITEMS NOT ACCEPTED include**

latex paint, explosives, propane tanks, fire extinguishers, smoke detectors, agricultural chemicals, and business wastes.

For safe transport of HHW, residents are asked to:

- Pack HHW items in a disposable box to avoid spilling during transport.
- Keep like chemicals together and separate unlike chemicals.
- Secure lids and make sure containers are not leaking.
- Place box(es) of HHW in the empty trunk or storage compartment of your vehicle, away from passengers during transport.
- **Remain in vehicle at collection site.** On-site personnel will remove the HHW from your vehicle.

A complete list of wastes that are and are not accepted is available online at <https://epa.illinois.gov/topics/waste-management/waste-disposal/household-hazardous-waste/acceptable-wastes.html>. The Fall 2023 one-day collections are scheduled on Saturdays as follows:

DATE	LOCATION	ADDRESS	Co-Sponsor/Public Contacts
September 23	Normal <i>McLean County</i> Registration Link	Heartland Community College 1500 West Rabb Road Normal, IL 61761	Ecology Action Center mbrown@ecologyactioncenter.org 309-454-3169
September 30	Springfield <i>Sangamon County</i> Registration Link	Illinois State Fairgrounds 801 E. Sangamon Avenue Springfield, IL 62702	City of Springfield Public Works Public.Works@springfield.il.us 217-789-2255
October 7	East Moline <i>Rock Island County</i> Registration Link	Rock Island County Fairgrounds 4200 Archer Drive East Moline, IL 61244	Rock Island County Waste Management Agency gmccullough@bistateonline.org 309-788-8925
October 7	Quincy <i>Adams County</i> Registration Link	Adams County Highway Dept. 101 North 54 th Street Quincy, IL 62305	Adams County Health Dept. health@adamscountyiil.gov 217-222-8440
October 14	Orland Park <i>Cook County</i> Registration Links	Village of Orland Park 14700 South Ravinia Avenue Orland Park, IL 60462	Orland Township Highway Dept. highway@orlandroaddistrict.org 708-403-5148
*NOTE: All one-day collection events for fall 2023 require pre-registration.			

In addition to the one-day collections, the following long-term collection facilities are available for disposal of HHW throughout the year:

- **Naperville**, 156 Fort Hill Drive (immediately North of Naperville Public Works), DuPage County, www.naperville.il.us/hhw.aspx
Hours: Saturdays 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM, Sundays 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM, Phone: 630-420-6095
- **Rockford**, Four Rivers Sanitation Authority, 3333 Kishwaukee, Winnebago County

<https://www.rockfordil.gov/492/Household-Hazardous-Waste-Disposal>

Hours: Saturdays 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM, Sundays Noon – 4:00 PM, Phone: 779-348-7425

- **Chicago**, Goose Island, 1150 North Branch, Cook County www.cityofchicago.org/hccrf

Hours: Tuesdays 7:00 AM – Noon, Thursdays 2:00 PM – 7:00 PM, and

First Saturday of every month 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM, Phone: 312-744-3060

- **Lake County**, The Solid Waste Agency of Lake County (SWALCO) currently operates a long-term household chemical waste collection program. Information and a collection schedule can be found on their website (www.swalco.org) or by calling 847-336-9340.

- **Madison County**, Madison County Building & Zoning, 249 N. Old St. Louis Road, Wood River, Madison County, https://www.co.madison.il.us/departments/planning_and_development/recycle_events.php

Hours: First Saturday and Third Friday of every Month 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM. **Appointments are required.** See website to schedule your appointment. Questions: 618-296-5237 or recycling@co.madison.il.us

For questions concerning the Illinois EPA's one-day or long-term collections, please contact the Illinois EPA Materials Management Unit at 217-524-3300. HHW collection schedules are also available on the Illinois EPA website at <https://epa.illinois.gov/topics/waste-management/waste-disposal/household-hazardous-waste/collections.html>.

Illinois EPA Electric Vehicle Rebate Program Funding

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA) is announcing that the next funding round for Illinois' Electric Vehicle (EV) Rebate Program will open **Wednesday, November 1, 2023 and run through Wednesday, January 31, 2024**. Individuals that purchase a new or used all-electric vehicle from an Illinois licensed dealer, meet all other eligibility requirements, and apply during the rebate cycle will be eligible for a rebate as long as funds are available. Forms and instructions on submitting a rebate application will be made available on the [Electric Vehicle Rebate Program webpage](#) on **October 18, 2023**.

EV purchasers must apply for a rebate within 90 days of the vehicle purchase date. However, applications will not be accepted or reviewed if submitted or postmarked prior to the November 1, 2023 rebate cycle start date. Payments will be made to eligible individuals as long as funding is available.

The Illinois General Assembly has appropriated \$12 million to Illinois EPA for the current fiscal year, which ends on June 30, 2024. Actual funding amounts will be determined by the amount of money available in the Electric Vehicle Rebate Fund, not to exceed \$12 million.

The Illinois' [Electric Vehicle Rebate Program webpage](#) includes a Frequently Asked Questions document, and other relevant information. Please note, **a new EV Rebate Application form will be posted to the webpage on October 18, 2023, along with instructions for completing the application.** Questions about the EV Rebate Program may be submitted to EPA.EV@Illinois.gov. Individuals interested in receiving updates on Illinois EPA's EV programs may register for the EV Listserv located at the bottom of the [Electric Vehicle Rebate Program webpage](#).

Illinois EPA Green Infrastructure Grant

The Green Infrastructure Grant Opportunities (GIGO) Program has been made possible by Governor Pritzker's bipartisan Rebuild Illinois capital plan. The Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) is posted at <https://il.amplifund.com/Public/Opportunities/Details/8eb59a23-1ba2-4930-acf3-2622dbb7e364>.

The GIGO Program provides funding for projects to construct green infrastructure best management practices (BMPs) that prevent, eliminate, or reduce water quality impairments by decreasing stormwater runoff into Illinois'

rivers, streams, and lakes. Projects that implement treatment trains (multiple BMPs in series) and/or multiple BMPs within the same watershed may be more effective and efficient than a single large green infrastructure BMP.

For GIGO, green infrastructure means any stormwater management technique or practice employed with the primary goal to preserve, restore, mimic, or enhance natural hydrology. Green infrastructure includes, but is not limited to, methods of using soil and vegetation to promote soil percolation, evapotranspiration, and filtering or the harvesting and reuse of precipitation. Examples of project types/BMPs that may be funded through GIGO are provided in the NOFO. Illinois EPA anticipates project awards between \$75,000 and \$2.5 million.

Applications for the GIGO Program are **due by noon on October 18, 2023**. Conference information and registration will be available at: <https://epa.illinois.gov/topics/grants-loans/water-financial-assistance/gigo.html>. Applicants must apply for GIGO through the [GATA Grantee Portal](#).

Illinois DOT Safe Routes to School Program

The Illinois Department of Transportation announced that applications for the Safe Routes to School program are now being accepted. The program helps to support projects that make walking, biking and rolling to school a safe option for students as part of a commitment by IDOT and Gov. JB Pritzker to expand active transportation throughout the state.

Administered by IDOT using federal funds, Safe Routes to School advances projects that improve safety and reduce traffic in areas around schools, grades kindergarten through high school. The new grant cycle will distribute a total of \$6 million, with a maximum award of \$250,000. Projects may include new sidewalks, traffic-calming measures and improvements that increase accessibility for those with disabilities.

Successful applications will demonstrate how the projects encourage students to walk, bike or roll. Eligible applicants include school districts, local governments, planning organizations and nonprofit associations. Preference will be given to schools with higher percentages of low-income students and students with disabilities.

The deadline to apply is October 2, with awards to be announced in the spring. For more information on the program, including selection criteria and details on how to register for webinars to assist in the application process, visit the [Safe Routes to School homepage](#) at <https://idot.click/SRTS> or email DOT.SafeRoutes@illinois.gov.

Illinois Housing Development Authority Homeowner Assistance Fund Program

The Illinois Housing Development Authority (IHDA) announced the Illinois Homeowner Assistance Fund (ILHAF) **application deadline 11:59 p.m. on Tuesday, October 31, 2023**. ILHAF supports qualified homeowners with grants of up to \$60,000 for past-due mortgage payments, property taxes, property insurance and homeowner and/or condo association fees. Any application submitted prior to closing will be reviewed to determine eligibility and a submitted application is not a guarantee of approval. Eligible Illinois homeowners can apply online at www.illinoishousinghelp.org.

Illinois Department of Employment Security Workshare Illinois

WorkShare IL is a voluntary program that provides employers facing a decline in business with an alternative to layoffs. The program allows an employer to reduce the number of hours worked in any unit of their business in order to avoid permanent layoffs. Each employee in an affected unit continues to work but experiences a reduction in hours that ranges from 20% to 60%. Employees receive a corresponding

percentage of unemployment benefits during the period of temporary reduction to offset the reduction in earnings.

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](#)

Illinois Arts Council Agency Rebuild Illinois Cultural Capital Planning Grant

The Illinois Arts Council Agency (IACA) is pleased to announce the release of [Fiscal Year 2024 Rebuild Illinois Cultural Capital Planning Grants](#). The application is open in the IACA's online [Salesforce](#) system and has a deadline of **Wednesday, October 25, 2023 at 11:59pm**.

The purpose of the Rebuild Illinois Cultural Capital Planning Grants is to help organizations that provide arts programming get the objective information and analysis they need before they commit their organization's energies and financial resources to a facilities project.

Rebuild Illinois Cultural Capital Planning Grants will support project related activity from January 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024. Applicants will request a specific grant amount in the application and awards will range from \$5,000 - \$50,000. No cash match is required for this grant.

Examples of projects that may be considered for funding include:

- Architectural planning and design
- Site selection
- Feasibility studies
- Expansion planning
- Energy efficiency planning
- Accessibility and ADA planning
- Business and operational planning related to a new or expanded facilities

Important to note is that the Cultural Capital Planning Grants applications will be submitted in IACA's online Salesforce platform: <https://arts-illinois.my.site.com/> Returning applicants should login to their existing account to apply. New applicants should create a new user account. More information on the online system, including a [user manual](#), can be found on the [IACA website](#).

Applicants must also:

- Have pre-qualification status through the [State of Illinois Grantee Portal](#). Please follow the link to the [IACA's Grant Accountability and Transparency Act](#) (GATA) page for details.
- Verify compliance with all [eligibility requirements](#).
- Applicants will need to confirm (or register for) a Unique Entity ID (UEI) in their [SAM.gov](#) account. The UEI number must be entered in the Salesforce system as part of the Applicant Information.

IACA staff are available via a drop-in video meeting to answer any questions. **Simply click the link at the time of the meeting to join the meeting via WebEx: Friday, September 29, 2023, at 11:00am.** For details, please visit the [Rebuild Illinois Cultural Capital Planning Grants](#) landing page.

Helpful Resources

2023 Manufacturing Month

The Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity is planning for Manufacturing Month this October! We will join industry leaders and partners in the national celebration of Manufacturing Day (October 6) as well as celebrating month-long promoting one of Illinois' largest industry sectors and highlighting manufacturing as a viable career option for future generations. Are you planning an event or aware of any local manufacturing month events that will be held within your area? Please let us know and [Register your event](#) on [Creatorswanted.com](#)

Grant Accountability and Transparency (GATA)

- GATA Grantee Portal: <https://grants.illinois.gov/portal/>
- GATA Grantee Portal New User Guide: <https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/GATA/Documents/Resource%20Library/GATA%20New%20User%20Guide.pdf>
- GATU Resource Site: <https://gata.illinois.gov/>
- Catalog of State Financial Assistance (CSFA): <https://gata.illinois.gov/grants/csfa.html>
- DCEO Current Grant Opportunities: <https://dceo.illinois.gov/aboutdceo/grantopportunities/grants.html>

Audit Report Review Process Manual:

<https://gata.illinois.gov/content/dam/soi/en/web/gata/documents/audit/audit-manual-august-2018-revision.pdf>

DCEO Website – <https://dceo.illinois.gov>

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

Do you have questions about ARPA NEU funding?

To ask a question or request a support call, contact the NEU Support Team at either ILARPA@crowe.com or CEO.CURE@illinois.gov.

To ask a question about the U.S Treasury Reporting Portal, please contact covidreliefITsupport@treasury.gov

Join DCEO's Team

DCEO's Team is expanding around the state. To apply for these jobs, please go to the Work4Illinois website at <https://illinois.jobs2web.com/> and use the search function to find the positions for our department.

Posting closing 9/26/23

Agency Procurement Officer (SPSA, Opt. 1) – Office of Strategic Sourcing and Procurement – Sangamon County

Posting closing 9/27/23

High Impact Program Manager (Executive II) – Office of Business Development – Sangamon County

Executive Assistant (AA 2) – Director's office – Cook County

Posting closing 10/3/23

CEJA Division Manager (SPSA, Opt. 1) – Office of Employment & Training – Sangamon County

Assistant Deputy Director (SPSA, Opt. 1) – Office of Grants Management – Sangamon County

Workforce Development Special Populations Program Manager (PSA, OPT 1) – Office of Employment and Training – Cook County

Posting closing 10/4/23

Expenditure Planning Accountant (Accountant Upward Mobility) – Office of Financial Management – Sangamon County

Following DCEO & Connecting with Team RED

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

Facebook – facebook.com/IllinoisDCEO

Linked In – linkedin.com/company/IllinoisDCEO