

**State of Illinois Uniform Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)  
Summary Information**

Awarding Agency Name	Commerce And Econ Opp
Agency Contact	Emily Rhodes (CEO.Sites@Illinois.gov)
Announcement Type	Initial
Type of Assistance Instrument	Grant
Funding Opportunity Number	FY26-1
Funding Opportunity Title	Illinois Regional Site Readiness Program
CSFA Number	420-35-3429
CSFA Popular Name	Regional Site Readiness
Anticipated Number of Awards	10
Estimated Total Program Funding	\$60,000,000
Award Range	\$100000 - \$5000000
Source of Funding	State
Cost Sharing or Matching Requirements	Yes
Indirect Costs Allowed	No
Restrictions on Indirect Costs	No
Posted Date	10/30/2025
Application Date Range	10/30/2025 - 04/30/2026 : 5:00 PM
Grant Application Link	Please select the entire address below and paste it into the browser... <a href="https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/5b978dc28a6c43c48c801afcc387fecd">https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/5b978dc28a6c43c48c801afcc387fecd</a>
Technical Assistance Session	Offered : Yes Mandatory : No Date : 11/03/2025 : 12:00 PM Registration link : <a href="https://illinois.webex.com/weblink/register/re32576b206d80a156ad156c7e8eb8eca">https://illinois.webex.com/weblink/register/re32576b206d80a156ad156c7e8eb8eca</a>

# Agency-specific Content for the Notice of Funding Opportunity

## Regional Site Readiness Program – Capital Ready NOFO ID: 3429-3152

For information about grants please visit:

<https://dceo.illinois.gov/dceo-grants.html>

**Updated 3.20.2026: Section B was updated from \$30,000,000 in funding to \$60,000,000 in funding. Section D and E were updated from January 2026 to April 2026.**

### A. Program Description

#### Notice of Funding Opportunity Intent

The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (the “Department” or “DCEO”) is issuing this Notice of Funding Opportunity (“NOFO”) to support infrastructure and other capital improvements on sites across the state to advance the readiness of properties with **industrial and manufacturing economic development potential**.

#### Program Description

The Regional Site Readiness Program aims to better prepare sites for **industrial and manufacturing economic development** across the state.

#### *Purpose of the Program*

- To support communities and landowners in their site readiness capital improvements
- To address financial barriers to construct infrastructure needed to make a site more readily developable
- To increase the number of sites ready for future industrial site development.

#### Program History

This is the second Notice of Funding Opportunity for the Regional Site Readiness Program – Capital Ready. The Regional Site Readiness Program was started in Fiscal Year 2025 to create a more comprehensive state-wide strategy that builds on prior experience establishing the Megasites Development Program and complements Illinois Economic Development Corporation’s (Illinois EDC) existing Vetted Sites Program. Last year’s FY25 Regional Site Readiness Program – Capital Ready provided funding for infrastructure improvements at 11 sites across the state. Project sites that received funding under the FY25 Regional Site Readiness Program **are eligible** sites in for the FY26 Regional Site Readiness

The FY24 Megasites Development Program was intended to improve Illinois’ competitive edge by increasing the number of large, attractive site locations for industrial development and address barriers to preparing sites for competitive site selection opportunities. Project sites that received funding under the Megasites Development Program or any previous megasites-related NOFOs **are eligible** sites for the FY26 Regional Site Readiness funding.

Illinois EDC’s Vetted Sites Program identifies the top sites in Illinois based on a series of characteristics and provides site and infrastructure data for fast-moving projects. Sites designated as a Vetted Site **are eligible** to apply for Regional Site Readiness funding.

#### Performance Goals and Measures

The intended outcome for this grant is for communities and landowners to have better prepared industrial sites in their community to attract future investment and job creation in industries aligned with the State’s Five-Year Economic Growth Plan<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Open for Business: Illinois’ 2024 Economic Growth Plan

<https://dceo.illinois.gov/content/dam/soi/en/web/dceo/documents/illinois-2024-economic-growth-plan.pdf>

Grantees will be required to document and report milestones achieved and the following outcomes of the grant:

1. Project milestones, including completion
2. Investment leveraged

### Other Information

N/A

## **B. Funding Information**

This grant program is utilizing state capital funds consistent with the purpose of this initiative appropriated by the Illinois General Assembly. Total amount of funding expected to be awarded through this NOFO is **\$60,000,000**. Awards will range from \$100,000 to \$5,000,000. The Department expects to make up to 10 awards through this NOFO.

This is a rolling grant opportunity- meaning applicants can submit applications for funding on any date, up until the date the NOFO closes.

The earliest anticipated start date for awards is January 1, 2026. The period of performance for grants is expected to be 2 years.

To promote geographic diversity of funds, DCEO aims to limit each Economic Development Region to no more than two (2) grants from this opportunity. However, where the concentration of program-eligible participants justifies it, DCEO reserves the right to award grants to more than two projects in a given Economic Development Region. Please reach out to the site readiness program manager at [CEO.Sites@illinois.gov](mailto:CEO.Sites@illinois.gov) prior to submitting an application if you have questions.

The Regional Site Readiness Program Capital Ready funds may be used for, but not limited to, the following activities:

- Land acquisition and related expenses
  - Appraisal, surveying, real estate, and legal fees
  - Title transfer taxes
- Land preparation, if done as part of a larger grant funded, bondable project
  - Clearing, grading, drainage
- Infrastructure expenses
  - Utility construction
  - Roadway construction
  - Water and sewer construction
  - Rail access
- Environmental remediation, **if done as part of a larger grant funded, bondable project**

Expenditures for these funds are subject to bondability guidelines. See the full list and guidelines for allowable expenses at <https://dceo.illinois.gov/content/dam/soi/en/web/dceo/aboutdceo/grantopportunities/supportdocs/bondability-guidelines-rebuild-il.pdf>.

Expenditures related to Buildings, Additions, or Structures are not eligible under this Notice of Funding Opportunity.

Costs associated with the development of a grant proposal are **not** allowed.

This grant opportunity requires a portion of the **total project costs** to be funded by the grantee, as determined by the grantee type (see C.2. Cost Sharing and Matching). These matching funds can come in the form of local municipal funds, federal funds, or private investment.

Grants will be awarded on a reimbursement basis.

### **Pre-award and Grant Proposal Development Costs**

All pre-award costs are incurred at the applicant's own risk and will not be funded if an award is not made. To be accepted, proof of services must meet the guidelines and requirements outlined within this NOFO, GATA, and 2 CFR 200 Uniform Administrative Requirements, Costs Principles, and Audit Requirements.

Grants will be awarded on a reimbursement basis. This program requires match from the applicant (see section C.2 Cost Sharing or Matching). If approved, allowable match costs incurred from October 30, 2025 through the period of performance start date are allowed to be charge to the Grant as pre-award costs. If approved, allowable grant costs incurred from the date of an approved Notice of State Award (NOSA) through the period of performance start date are allowed to be charge to the Grant.

**The release of this NOFO does not obligate the Department to make an award.**

## C. Eligibility Information

An entity must be registered in the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA) Grantee Portal, <https://grants.illinois.gov/portal/>, at the time of grant application. The portal will verify that the entity:

- Has a valid FEIN number (<https://www.irs.gov/businesses/small-businesses-self-employed/get-an-employer-identification-number>)
- Has a current SAM.gov registration (<https://sam.gov>). SAM.gov registrations must be marked as "public" to allow the GATA Grantee Portal to expedite the review of the federal information;
- Has a valid UEI number (<https://sam.gov>)
- Is not on the Federal Excluded Parties List (verified at <https://sam.gov>)
- Is in Good Standing with the Illinois Secretary of State, as applicable ([https://www.ilsos.gov/departments/business\\_services/corp.html](https://www.ilsos.gov/departments/business_services/corp.html))
- Is not on the Illinois Stop Payment list (verified once entity is registered in GATA Grantee Portal); and
- Is not on the Department of Healthcare and Family Services Provider Sanctions list (<https://www.illinois.gov/hfs/oig/Pages/SanctionsList.aspx>)

Entities on the Illinois Stop Payment List and/or the Federal Excluded Parties List at time of application submission will not be considered for an award.

An automated email notification to the entity alerts them of "qualified" status or informs how to remediate a negative verification (e.g., not in good standing with the Secretary of State). A federal Debarred and Suspended status cannot be remediated.

At this time, federal memo M-21-20 allows entities to apply for grant awards without a valid UEI number. The UEI number must be obtained prior to grant execution. The State of Illinois has adopted this guidance for the issuance of state awards also.

Pursuant to the policy of the Illinois Office of the Comptroller, to receive grant funds from the State of Illinois, a grantee must be considered a regarded entity by the IRS for federal income tax purposes. Disregarded entities will not be eligible to receive grant funds.

### 1. Eligible Applicants include:

- Local governments
- Economic development organizations (see definition in *Section H. Other Information*)
- Nonprofit organizations
- For-profit organizations
- Private landowner

Eligible applicants must propose projects on eligible sites, which include:

**If applicant currently has site control** (see definition of "site control" in *Section H. Other*

Information):

- Applicant must show clear land title, rights-of way, and easements; and
- **Site should be zoned for industrial or agricultural use or be able to show that the site is in the process of being rezoned for industrial use at application submission; and**
- Site must not be currently occupied by an active business; and
- Minimum acreage required is based on the environmental and surrounding development status of the site (see definition in *Section H. Other Information*):
  - For greenfield sites: Infrastructure improvement must make at least one **50-acre** site more readily developable; and
  - For brownfield site or infill development: Infrastructure improvement must make at least one **25-acre** site more readily developable
- Applicant must provide a written statement indicating they intend to lease or sell the property for future industrial development.

**If applicant does not own the site at time of application:**

- The applicant must submit a partnership agreement with a private landowner or for-profit company that does own the land. The documented agreement must be submitted at the time of application and must include language demonstrating the following conditions:
  - The applicant has the authority to conduct project activities on the site; and
  - The landowner statement of intent to lease or sell the property for future industrial development at the conclusion of the project; and
  - The site is not currently occupied by an active business
- If acquisition activities are being proposed, the site being acquired must be at least 50 contiguous, developable acres OR acquisition must create at least 50-acre contiguous site. No funds will be disbursed until proof of site control is submitted; and
- Minimum acreage required is based on the environmental and surrounding development status of the site (see definition in *Section H. Other Information*):
  - For greenfield sites: Infrastructure improvement must make at least one **50-acre** site more readily developable; and
  - For brownfield site or infill development: Infrastructure improvement must make at least one **25-acre** site more readily developable
- **Site should be zoned for industrial or agricultural use or be able to show that the site is in the process of being rezoned for industrial use at application submission**

If the applicant does not have site control at time of application and plans to acquire the site or secure options on the site as part of this grant, no grant agreement will be finalized and no grant funds will be dispersed until proof of site control is submitted to DCEO. **If rezoning is taking place, no grant agreement will be finalized and no grant funds will be dispersed until proof of confirmed industrial zoning is submitted to DCEO.** Grantees take on all costs at their own risk and will not be reimbursed for any funds expended until site control **or rezoning** documentation is provided. Both greenfield and brownfield locations appropriate for industrial use are eligible.

For this round of Regional Site Readiness Program, project sites that received funding under the Megasites Development Program, Round 1 of the Regional Site Readiness Program, or any previous megasites or site readiness-related NOFOs **are eligible** sites for Regional Site Readiness funding.

Sites designated as a Vetted Site **are eligible** to apply for Regional Site Readiness funding.

Applicants and project sites that do not meet these criteria are ineligible for this funding opportunity.

The Department complies with all applicable provisions of state and federal laws and regulations pertaining to nondiscrimination, sexual harassment and equal employment opportunity including, but not limited to: The Illinois Human Rights Act (775 ILCS 5/1-101 et seq.), The Public Works Employment Discrimination Act (775 ILCS 10/1 et seq.), The United States Civil Rights Act of 1964 (as amended) (42 USC 2000a-and 2000H-6), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 USC 794), The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 USC 12101 et seq.), and The Age Discrimination Act (42 USC 6101 et seq.).

## 2. Cost Sharing or Matching.

This grant opportunity requires a portion of the **total project costs** to be funded by the grantee, as determined by the grantee type (see table below). These matching funds can come in the form of local municipal funds, federal funds, or private investment.

Applicants are required to submit letters or other documentation to verify that funds are available and committed to the project to meet cost-sharing requirements.

Entity Type	% of Cost Share Required
Local government and Economic Development Organization (EDO)	20%
Non-EDO nonprofit organization	30%
For-profit organization and private landowner	50%

The percentage of cost share required is based on the **TOTAL PROJECT COST**. For example, for a project with a total project cost of \$3,750,000:

If a local government or EDO is submitting an application, they are required to provide **20%** of the total project cost:

Grant request:	\$3,000,000	(80%)
Local match required:	\$750,000	(20%)
Total project cost:	\$3,750,000	(100%)

If a non-EDO nonprofit is submitting an application, they are required to provide **30%** of the total project cost:

Grant request:	\$2,625,000	(70%)
Local match required:	\$1,125,000	(30%)
Total project cost:	\$3,750,000	(100%)

If a for-profit or private landowner is submitting an application, they are required to provide **50%** of the total project cost:

Grant request:	\$1,875,000	(50%)
Local match required:	\$1,875,000	(50%)
Total project cost:	\$3,750,000	(100%)

## 3. Indirect Cost Rate.

This grant opportunity is limited to capital improvement expenses. The grant will not compensate for indirect costs, overhead or administrative expenses associated with the execution of the program.

## 4. Freedom of Information Act/Confidential Information.

Applications and accompanying materials are subject to disclosure in response to requests received under provisions of the Freedom of Information Act (5 ILCS 140/1 et seq.). Information that could be proprietary, privileged, or confidential commercial or financial information should be clearly identified as such in the application materials. The Department will maintain the confidentiality of that information only to the extent permitted by law.

## 5. Other, if applicable.

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis. Applicants may submit multiple applications to this opportunity.

## D. Application and Submission Information

### 1. Address to Request Application Package.

Grant application forms are available at the web link provided in the “Grant Application Link” field of this announcement or by contacting the Program Manager:

Emily Rhodes  
Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity  
1011 S. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Springfield, IL 62704  
Email: CEO.Sites@illinois.gov

### 2. Content and Form of Application Submission.

To ensure geographic diversity of funds, DCEO aims to limit each Economic Development Region<sup>2</sup> to two (2) grants from this opportunity. When 2 grants have been awarded in a region, DCEO will prioritize other regions for funding. Please reach out to the site readiness program manager at CEO.Sites@illinois.gov prior to submitting an application if you have questions regarding the number of awards in your region. Where the concentration of program-eligible participants justifies it, DCEO reserves the right to award grants to more than two projects in a given Economic Development Region.

A standard application package must be submitted and reviewed by the Department. Each package should contain the following items:

- Uniform Grant Application in fillable PDF format.
  - Signature page must be signed by the authorized signatory before submission
    - Can be printed, signed, and scanned
    - Can be signed digitally
- Uniform Budget utilizing the template provided by DCEO for this project.
  - The entire Excel document with all the tabs included, even if the tabs are not relevant to the grant opportunity, must be submitted.
  - Do not send a restricted version of the Uniform Budget.
  - Certification page must be signed by the authorized signatory before submission
    - Can be printed, signed, and scanned
    - Can be signed digitally
- Conflict of Interest Disclosure.
  - Conflict of Interest Disclosure must be signed by the authorized signatory before submission
    - Can be printed, signed, and scanned
    - Can be signed digitally
- Mandatory Disclosure.
  - Mandatory Disclosure must be signed by the authorized signatory before submission
    - Can be printed, signed, and scanned
    - Can be signed digitally

This Notice of Funding Opportunity also requires the **submission of the following other programmatic specific items**:

- Program Application
  - Project overview

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<sup>2</sup> DCEO Economic Development Regions: <https://dceo.illinois.gov/smallbizassistance/regionspecificassistance.html>

- **Project name**
- **Project summary** – list the capital activities that are being proposed as part of this project
- **Project location** – provide information on the site’s development potential and the ideal target industry for the site in the context of your region’s economic development strengths including transportation network, existing and growing industries, and regional workforce
- **Project impact** – describe how the infrastructure and capital improvements will better prepare the site to sell or lease for future industrial development
- **Statement of intent** – provide a statement of intent that the owner of the site will sell or lease the land for industrial or manufacturing purposes as the conclusion of the project
- **Site characteristics**, including
  - Site owner
  - Street address
  - Developable acreage
  - Property Index Number (PIN)
  - Current land use
  - Status of buildings on site
  - Miles to nearest highway or interstate
  - Miles to nearest airport
  - Rail-service/rail spur
  - Utilities
    - Electric infrastructure serving the site and available capacity
    - Natural gas infrastructure serving the site and available capacity
    - Water infrastructure serving the site and available capacity
    - Wastewater infrastructure serving the site and available capacity
- **Additional location factors** – indicate if your project is:
  - Identified in a local or regional plan, and include link to the plan
  - Identified in a regional site prioritization plan, and include link to the plan
  - Located in an energy transition community (see definition in *Section H. Other Information*)
  - Located in a DCEO designated Underserved Area (see definition in *Section H. Other Information*)
- Project information
  - **Budget narrative** with associated work plan – describe how the budget will be used to achieve the infrastructure and capital improvement activities proposed in the project summary
  - **Project timeline** and associated milestones – provide project timeline in months
  - **Project team** – describe the key staff’s relevant experience and their ability to manage comparable grants
  - **Project partners** – list project partners from outside your organization and their role in the project
  - **Existing Due Diligence Documentation** – list any due diligence or studies that have already been completed on the site (see definition in *Section H. Other Information*)

- **Site visit documentation** – list any site visits that companies have made to your site, including name of company or project name and date of visit. List “Visit has taken place – NDA” if confidentiality is an issue.

□ Project Readiness Documentation. Attach the following documents and provide a narrative explanation:

- **Site control documentation** (see definition of “site control” in *Section H. Other Information*)
- **Zoning map** – include zoning map with site clearly marked; **if rezoning is taking place, provide evidence that the process for rezoning has started and provide a timeline for final rezoning approval**
- **If applicable, proof of brownfield or infill development status** – for brownfield status, include Phase I environmental assessment, if available, and provide known historical uses of the property; for infill development status, include a map showing directly adjacent development (see definition of “brownfield” and “infill development” in *Section H. Other Information*)
- **Environmental permits, available environmental reports or maps** – describe information on any known environmental factors impacting the site including Phase I environmental assessment showing brownfield status; nonattainment status; presence of wetlands; location of floodplain; levee status and attach any available environmental materials
- **Project design or construction documents**, including map of the project site
- **Map showing existing** roadways on site, utility infrastructure, access to transportation network, or water infrastructure, if feasible
- **Contracts or bids** for project site improvements
- **Matching funds** documentation – document must describe the source of the local matching funds and confirm that they are available and committed to the project
- **Minority inclusion outreach plan** with Business Enterprise Program (BEP) goals
- **Letter(s) of support** from local municipality and community stakeholders

Please note there is a maximum upload of 10 documents in the web form that you submit the application, so combining files may be necessary.

### 3. Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) and System for Award Management (SAM)

Each applicant (unless the applicant is an individual or Federal or State awarding agency that is exempt from those requirements under 2 CFR 25.110(b) or (c), or has an exception approved by the Federal or State awarding agency under 2 CFR 25.110(d)) is required to:

- Be registered in SAM. To establish a SAM registration, go to [www.SAM.gov](http://www.SAM.gov) and/or utilize this instructional link: [www.grants.illinois.gov](http://www.grants.illinois.gov) Resource Links tab. SAM.gov registrations must be “public.”
- Provide a valid UEI number in the GATA Grantee Portal registration.
- Continue to maintain an active SAM registration with current information at all times during which it has an active Federal, Federal pass-through or State award or an application or plan under consideration by a Federal or State awarding agency. The State awarding agency may not make a Federal pass-through or State award to an applicant until the applicant has complied with all applicable UEI and SAM requirements and, if an applicant has not fully complied with the requirements by the time the State awarding agency is ready to make a Federal pass-through or State award, the State awarding agency may determine that the applicant is not qualified to receive a Federal pass-through or State award and use that determination as a basis for making a Federal pass-through or State award to another applicant.

#### 4. Submission Dates and Times.

This is a rolling opportunity that will end once all funding is exhausted or April 30, 2026, whichever occurs first.

Application materials must be submitted to the Department via electronic form at <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/5b978dc28a6c43c48c801afcc387fed>.

The Department is under no obligation to review applications that do not comply with the above requirements. Failure to meet the application deadline may result in the Department returning application without review or may preclude the Department from making the award.

#### 5. Intergovernmental Review, if applicable.

N/A

#### 6. Funding Restrictions.

This opportunity does allow reimbursement of pre-award costs. Other restrictions can be found in Sections A., B., and C.

#### 7. Other Submission Requirements.

Documents stored in Google Docs or other cloud-based servers are not allowed.

The applicant can receive a copy of their submitted application by checking the “Send me a copy of my responses” box at the bottom of the application submission form.

Applicants may confirm receipt of the application and documents by contacting the program contact listed in this NOFO.

### E. Application Review Information.

#### 1. Criteria.

Grant proposals will be reviewed on a competitive basis. Each proposal will be scored on a 100-point scale. The Department shall consider the following criteria when evaluating the application submittal: Need, Capacity, and Quality.

<b>Need- Identification of stakeholders, facts, and evidence that demonstrate the proposal supports the grant program purpose</b>	
Applicant demonstrates that the project will better prepare the site for future industrial development	10
Project site is identified in a regional site prioritization plan or site has significant due diligence completed (see definition of “due diligence” in <i>Section H. Other Information</i> )	8
Project is identified in and aligned with goals of a local or regional plan	7
Project is located in an energy transition community (see definition in <i>Section H. Other Information</i> )	5
Project is located in a DCEO designated Underserved Area (see definition in <i>Section H. Other Information</i> )	5

<b>Capacity- The ability of the applicant to execute the project according to requirements of the grant program</b>	
Team's experience – key staff demonstrates ability to manage comparable grants	8
Budget and workplan – budget and workplan align, are detailed, and are consistent with NOFO eligible activities	7
Match – matching fund sources and availability are documented	5
Timeline – project timeline is clear and reasonable	5
<b>Quality- The totality of features and characteristics of the project that indicate its ability to satisfy the requirements of the grant program</b>	
Location factors: Demonstration of location's economic development potential based on access to transportation network; regional workforce; target industries align with 5-year Economic Plan; project site advances geographic diversity of program	12
Project feasibility: Project is feasible based on engineering and design documents provided and environmental due diligence completed; due diligence is completed, and environmental factors do not raise significant concern for future development	10
Project site is in Illinois EDC's Vetted Sites program or provides documentation of site visit from an economic development prospect	8
Project site has previously received investment from the Megasites Grant Program or FY25 Regional Site Readiness Program	7
Project partners and their roles are listed; letters of support are attached *For-profit and private landowner applicants: at least one letter of support must come from a local municipality confirming the project aligns with the community's economic development goals to receive full points in this category.	3

## 2. Review and Selection Process.

Applications will be graded using the Merit Review Process and scored on the criteria specified in Section E.1. The Department will designate an Evaluation Committee to grade each application received for this funding opportunity. The final score of each Committee member will be calculated and an average of all scores will be the final applicant score. Grants will be awarded on a rolling basis, with the Evaluation Committee scheduled to meet on the first day of each month to review applications that came in the month prior (*For example, on December 1, the Evaluation Committee will begin reviewing all applications received in November*). All applicants with a merit review score that exceeds 75 will receive a recommendation for an award. After recommendations have been made, grants will be awarded in order from highest score to lowest score until funding is exhausted.

All applications will be sorted by their Economic Development Region. To promote geographic diversity of funds, DCEO aims to limit each Economic Development Region to no more than two (2) grants from this opportunity. However, where the concentration of program-eligible participants justifies it, DCEO reserves the right to award grants to more than two projects in a given Economic Development Region. Please reach out to the site readiness program manager at [CEO.Sites@illinois.gov](mailto:CEO.Sites@illinois.gov) prior to submitting an application if you have questions.

By the end of **April** 2026, if all funds have not been made for award recommendation, DCEO may recommend additional applicants with a merit review score that exceeds 60 for award. These additional awards may be selected based on merit review score, as well as geographic dispersion of awardees or location in an underserved or energy community.

The Merit Based Review process is subject to appeal per <https://dceo.illinois.gov/aboutdceo/grantopportunities/meritappreview.html>. However, competitive grant appeals are limited to the evaluation process. Evaluation scores may not be protested. Only the evaluation process is subject to appeal. The appeal must be submitted through the merit review appeal request form (<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/6444bed39ef140c589f002f53b9bc092>) within 14 calendar days after the date that the grant award notice has been published.

### **3. Anticipated Announcement and State Award Dates, if applicable.**

After the application period is closed, the Department will conduct a merit based review of eligible applications. Successful applicants will receive a Notice of State Award (NOSA) to initiate the grant agreement phase. During this phase, you will be contacted by a grant manager to develop a grant agreement, which can be a months long process depending on complexity, cooperation, and conformity with all applicable federal and state laws.

The Department reserves the right to issue a reduced award, or not to issue any award.

## **F. Award Administration Information**

### **1. State Award Notices.**

The Notice of State Award (NOSA) will specify the funding terms and specific conditions resulting from the pre-award risk assessments and the merit based review process. The NOSA must be accepted in the GATA Portal by an authorized representative of the grantee organization. The NOSA is not an authorization to begin performance or incur costs.

### **2. Administrative and National Policy Requirements.**

**Subrecipients and Subcontractors:** Agreement(s) and budget(s) with subrecipients and subcontractors must be pre-approved by and on file with DCEO. Agreements can be submitted to DCEO when available. Subcontractors and subrecipients are subject to all applicable provisions of the Agreement(s) executed between DCEO and the grantee. The successful applicant shall retain sole responsibility for the performance of its subrecipient(s) and/or subcontractor(s).

**Grant Uniform Requirements:** The Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (30 ILCS 708/1 *et seq.*) (and its related administrative rules, 44 Ill. Admin. Code Part 7000), was enacted to increase the accountability and transparency in the use of grant funds from whatever source and to reduce administrative burdens on both State agencies and grantees by adopting federal guidance and regulations applicable to those grant funds; specifically, the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (2 CFR 200).

**Procurement:** Grantees will be required to adhere to methods of procurement per the Procurement Standards (2 CFR 200.317 – 2 CFR 200.327).

**Business Enterprise Program:** For grant awards of \$250,000 or more, grantees will be required to comply with the Business Enterprise Program for Minorities, Females, and Persons with Disabilities Act (30 ILCS 575/0.01 *et seq.*), which establishes a goal for contracting with businesses that have been certified as owned and controlled by persons who are minority, female or who have disabilities. The Department will work with the grantees to ensure compliance prior to the establishment of the grant agreement as well as through the life of the grant.

**Environmental Review Requirements:** Capital grants will be reviewed to determine environmental review requirements. Based on the scope of the project, the grantees may be

required to complete additional environmental approvals before a grant agreement can be initiated.

**Illinois Works Jobs Program Act (30 ILCS 559/20-1 et seq.):** For grants with an estimated total project cost of \$500,000 or more, the grantee will be required to comply with the Illinois Works Apprenticeship Initiative (30 ILCS 559/20-20 to 20-25) and all applicable administrative rules. The “estimated total project cost” is a good faith approximation of the costs of an entire project being paid for in whole or in part by appropriated capital funds to construct a public work. The goal of the Illinois Apprenticeship Initiative is that apprentices will perform either 10% of the total labor hours actually worked in each prevailing wage classification or 10% of the estimated labor hours in each prevailing wage classification, whichever is less. Grantees will be permitted to seek from the Department a waiver or reduction of this goal in certain circumstances pursuant to 30 ILCS 559/20-20(b). The grantee must ensure compliance for the life of the entire project, including during the term of the grant and after the term ends, if applicable, and will be required to report on and certify its compliance.

**Prevailing Wage Act (820 ILCS 130/0.01 et seq.):** Applicants that are awarded grants shall comply with all requirements of the Prevailing Wage Act, including but not limited to, inserting into all contracts for construction a stipulation to the effect that not less than the prevailing rate of wages as applicable to the project shall be paid to all laborers, workers, and mechanics performing work under the award and requiring all bonds of contractors to include a provision as will guarantee the faithful performance of such prevailing wage clause as provided by contract. Grantees will be required to report on Prevailing Wage Act compliance on a monthly basis.

**Employment of Illinois Workers on Public Works Act (30 ILCS 570/0.01 et seq.):** All grantees will be required to comply with the Employment of Illinois Workers on Public Works Act (30 ILCS 570/0.01 et seq.) (the “Act”), which provides that whenever there is a period of excessive unemployment in Illinois (as defined by the Act), if the Grantee is using Grant Funds for (1) constructing or building any public works, or (2) performing the clean-up and on-site disposal of hazardous waste for the State of Illinois or any political subdivision of the State, then the Grantee shall employ at least 90% Illinois laborers on such project. Illinois laborers refers to any person who has resided in Illinois for at least 30 days and intends to become or remain an Illinois resident. Grantees may receive an exception from this requirement by submitting a request and supporting documents certifying that Illinois laborers are either not available, or are incapable of performing the particular type of work involved. The certification must: (a) be submitted to the grant manager within the first quarter of the Award Term; (b) provide sufficient support that demonstrates the exception is met; (c) be signed by an authorized signatory of the Grantee; and (d) be approved by DCEO in consultation with the Illinois Department of Labor. In addition, every contractor on a public works project or improvement or hazardous waste clean-up and on-site disposal project in this State may place on such work no more than 3 (or 6 in the case of a hazardous waste clean-up and on-site disposal project) of the contractor’s regularly employed non-resident executive and technical experts.

### **3. Reporting.**

#### **Periodic Performance Report (PPR) and Periodic Financial Report (PFR)**

Grantees funded through this NOFO are required to submit in the format required by the Grantor, at least on a quarterly basis, the PPR and PFR electronically to their assigned grant manager. The first of such reports shall cover the first three months after the award begins. Pursuant to 2 CFR 200.328, Periodic Financial Reports shall be submitted no later than 30 calendar days following the period covered by the report. Pursuant to 2 CFR 200.329, Periodic Performance Reports shall be submitted no later than 30 calendar days following the period covered by the report. Any additional reporting requirements will be disclosed in the NOSA. Grantees are required within 45 calendar days following the end of the period of performance to submit a final closeout report in the format required by the Grantor (See 2 CFR 200.344).

## **Monitoring**

Grantees funded through this NOFO are subject to fiscal and programmatic monitoring visits by the Department in accordance with 2 CFR 200.337. They must have an open-door policy allowing periodic visits by Department monitors to evaluate the progress of the project and provide documentation upon request of the monitor. Program staff will also maintain contact with participants and monitor progress and performance of the contracts. The Department may modify grants based on performance.

## **Audit**

Grantees shall be subject to Illinois' statewide Audit Report Review requirements. Terms of the Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996 (31 USC 7501-7507), Subpart F of 2 CFR Part 200, and the audit rules set forth under the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act Admin Rules shall apply (See 44 IL Admin Code 7000.90).

## **G. State Awarding Agency Contact(s)**

Grant Help Desk  
Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity  
Email: CEO.GrantHelp@illinois.gov

## **H. Other Information, if applicable**

**Economic Development Organization** is defined as an organization whose primary purpose is to support the economic development of a community or region. To demonstrate this eligibility status, DCEO will review the applicant's articles of incorporations, charter, resolutions, bylaws, and/or other documents that may be relevant to establish the primary purpose of the organization.

**Site Control** is demonstrated by submitting documentation that proves the applicant either 1) owns the site (land title, rights-of-way, permanent easement), 2) has an agreement to acquire the site, 3) has the site under option for a minimum of three years, or 4) has documentation from landowner demonstrating the applicant's authority to make site improvements. DCEO will review all site control documentation to establish sufficient site control for the purposes of this program.

**Brownfield** is defined by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency as abandoned or under-utilized industrial and commercial properties with actual or perceived contamination and an active potential for redevelopment. **Infill development** encourages the development of underused or vacant land in existing urban areas to increase density and place new development near existing resources and infrastructure.

**Greenfield** is defined by the construction of infrastructure on a site that has not been previously developed or polluted.

**Due diligence** is defined as any study, analysis, survey, or report completed with information on the site to assess a site to determine the feasibility of future development and the limitations and opportunities of a particular site. This includes, but is not limited to the following activities: Site concept plans; Engineering studies – including design and pricing of Utility infrastructure, Water infrastructure, Transportation infrastructure; Environmental studies - including Phase I Environmental Site Assessment, Phase II Environmental Site Assessment, Wetland delineation, Archeological surveys, Historical properties studies/surveys, Floodplain, soils, threatened and endangered species analysis, Topographic survey, Preliminary geotechnical study; Permitting.

**Underserved Area** is defined as a census tract which meets one of the following four tests: 1) Poverty rate of at least 20%; or 35% or more of the families with children in the area are living below 130% of the poverty line, according to the latest American Community Survey; or At least 20% of the households in the area receive assistance under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP); or Average unemployment rate that is more than 120% of the national unemployment average, for a period of at least

two (2) consecutive calendar years preceding the date of the application. A map of Illinois Underserved Areas can be found here: <https://dceo.illinois.gov/expandrelocate/incentives/underservedareas.html>

**Energy Transition Community** is defined as a host city or county of a plant/mine that has closed or significantly reduced operations in the past 6-years or has announced a closure or significant reduction in the next 6 years.

<b>Name of Plant/Mine</b>	<b>Host City or County</b>
Red Hawk Mine	Jackson County
Coffeen Power Plant	Montgomery County
Duck Creek Power Plant	Fulton County
Havana Power Plant	Mason County
Hennepin Power Plant	Hennepin
Blackhawk Mine	Randolph County
Cottage Grove Mine	Saline County
Mine Wildcat Hills U/G Mine	Saline County
Shay #1 Mine	Macoupin County
Eagle River #1 Mine	Saline County
E.D. Edwards Power Plant	Peoria County
Joppa Steam Plant	Massac County
Waukegan Power Plant	Waukegan
Will County Power Plant	Romeoville
Midwest Electric Power Inc	Massac County
Joliet Generating Power Plant	Will County
SIPC – Lake of Egypt	Williamson County
Viper Mine	Logan County
City Water, Light & Power	Springfield
Baldwin Generating Center	Randolph County
Kincaid Generation	Christian County
Newton Power Plant	Jasper County
Powerton Station	Tazewell County
Sunrise Coal	Lawrence County