

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

Awarding Agency Name	Commerce And Econ Opp
Agency Contact	Joy Wolfe (ceo.obd@illinois.gov)
Announcement Type	Modified
Type of Assistance Instrument	Grant
Funding Opportunity Number	1
Funding Opportunity Title	Business Attraction Prime Sites
CSFA Number	420-45-2608
CSFA Popular Name	Business Attraction Prime Sites
Anticipated Number of Awards	130
Estimated Total Program Funding	\$90,000,000
Award Range	\$250000 - \$25000000
Source of Funding	State
Cost Sharing or Matching Requirements	Yes
Indirect Costs Allowed	No
Restrictions on Indirect Costs	No
Posted Date	09/20/2021
Application Date Range	09/20/2021 - 06/30/2026 : 11:59pm
Grant Application Link	Please select the entire address below and paste it into the browser... <a href="https://dceo.illinois.gov/aboutdceo/grantopportunities/2608-2023.html">https://dceo.illinois.gov/aboutdceo/grantopportunities/2608-2023.html</a>
Technical Assistance Session	No

# Agency-specific Content for the Notice of Funding Opportunity

## Business Attraction Prime Sites

NOFO ID: 2608-2023

For information about grants please visit <https://dceo.illinois.gov/aboutdceo/grantopportunities/granteeresources.html>.

### A. Program Description

This Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) sets forth the requirements of the Business Attraction Prime Sites program. The Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) administers grant programs designed to promote and enhance economic development.

The intent of this program is to assist companies with large-scale capital investment projects that commit to significant job creation for Illinois residents as they relocate or expand operations within Illinois. Business Attraction Prime Sites grants can encompass a wide range of economic development projects and may include infrastructure and capital equipment purchases that will result in job creation in the state of Illinois.

Program	Details
EDGE	<p>Tier 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Must commit to at least 40 new jobs for Illinois Residents and \$40M investment or commit to at least 100 new jobs for Illinois Residents and \$20M in investment.</li><li>• Grant is equal to \$5,000 per job committed.</li></ul> <p>Tier 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Must meet a minimum of 100 new jobs and \$50M investment.</li><li>• Grant is equal to \$10,000 per new job committed and \$5,000 per retained job committed.</li></ul> <p>For more information, visit <a href="https://dceo.illinois.gov/expandrelocate/incentives/edge.html">https://dceo.illinois.gov/expandrelocate/incentives/edge.html</a></p>
HIB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Must commit to at least 40 new jobs for Illinois Residents and \$40M investment or commit to at least 100 new jobs for Illinois Residents and \$20M in investment.</li><li>• Grant is equal to \$5,000 per job committed.</li></ul> <p>For more information, visit <a href="https://dceo.illinois.gov/expandrelocate/incentives/highimpactbusinessprogram.html">https://dceo.illinois.gov/expandrelocate/incentives/highimpactbusinessprogram.html</a></p>
REV	<p>Tier 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Grant is equal to \$5,000 per new job committed.</li></ul> <p>Tier 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Grant is equal to \$10,000 per new job committed and \$5,000 per retained job committed.</li></ul> <p>For more information, visit <a href="https://dceo.illinois.gov/businesshelp/rev.html">https://dceo.illinois.gov/businesshelp/rev.html</a></p>
MICRO	<p>Tier 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Grant is equal to \$5,000 per new job committed.</li></ul> <p>Tier 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Grant is equal to \$10,000 per new job committed and \$5,000 per retained job committed.</li></ul> <p>For more information, visit <a href="https://dceo.illinois.gov/expandrelocate/incentives/micro.html">https://dceo.illinois.gov/expandrelocate/incentives/micro.html</a></p>

Once a finalized grant agreement has been executed, the grant funds will be paid to the grantee in stages. DCEO will initially reimburse documented grant capital expenditures to a grantee up to 50% of the awarded grant amount. The remaining 50% will be a reimbursement of approved grant capital expenditures once all grant capital expenditures, including match funds, have been expended. Business Attraction Prime Site grants remain open until the Grantee meets their full project capital expenditures and job goals.

## **B. Funding Information**

This grant program is utilizing state capital funds appropriated by the Illinois General Assembly. Grants awarded under this program will range from \$250,000 to \$25,000,000. A total of \$90,000,000 is available through this funding opportunity. Award amounts for eligible projects will be formula based. As described above, an applicant may apply for a grant of up to \$5,000 per new job created. Tier 2 EDGE, REV, and MICRO applicants are eligible to receive \$10,000 per new job created. Tier 2 EDGE, REV, and MICRO applicants are also eligible to receive \$5,000 per retained job.

Eligible projects may include new construction and renovation of industrial and commercial facilities, including associated infrastructure improvements and the purchase and installation of durable equipment. Construction or renovation of facilities to be used as warehouse purposes only are not eligible.

These grants originate from Rebuild Illinois capital funds, so expenditures for these funds are subject to Bondability Guidelines (see guidelines at the same webpage where this NOFO is posted). Eligible expenses for these funds include:

- architectural planning and engineering design;
- land and building acquisition;
- costs related to site selection, preparation and improvement;
- utility work;
- new construction of buildings and structures;
- reconstruction or improvement of existing buildings or structures; and
- original furnishings and durable equipment, including scientific instruments and apparatuses with a long useful life.

Ineligible expenses include:

- Operational expenses;
- Lease payments for rental of equipment or facilities;
- Costs of staff or resident labor and material outside of project construction;
- Expenditures to acquire or construct temporary facilities;
- Purchase of automobiles, trucks, farm equipment, boats or rolling stock; and
- Livestock or laboratory animals.

Once a finalized grant agreement has been executed, the funds will be paid to the grantee in stages. The state will initially reimburse documented grant capital expenditures to a grantee up to 50% of the awarded grant amount. The remaining 50% will be a reimbursement of approved grant capital expenditures only once all grant capital expenditures, including match, has been expended. Business Attraction Prime Site grants remain open until the Grantee meets their full project capital expenditures and job goals.

If the grantee fails to:

- Complete the minimum capital investment by the placed in-service date that is found in the tax credit agreement, or
- Create the new jobs that are required as part of the tax credit agreement, or
- Retain the number of jobs committed in the Tier 2 REV or MICRO tax credit agreement.

DCEO may claw back a portion or all the grant funds that have been disbursed.

Applicants must submit a project narrative that describes in detail how the award will be executed. The

project narrative should include enough information for DCEO to understand the scope of the project, the budget, including a detailed breakdown of the costs associated with each budget line and any additional necessary detail to enable DCEO to manage the grant agreement activity against planned project performance. The Project Narrative must include evidence of capacity, quality and need as defined in Section E.1.

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).

**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/tin/taxpayer-identification-numbers-tin#:~:text=You%20can%20use%20the%20IRS%27s,for%20Individual%20Taxpayer%20Iden>);
- 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/home.html](https://www.ilsos.gov/departments/business_services/home.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 (<http://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.

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:

Eligible applicants include businesses that:

- are relocating to or expanding operations in Illinois,
- received confirmation of eligibility for an EDGE, HIB, REV or MICRO credit or has a pending application for the EDGE, HIB, REV or MICRO programs that is ultimately approved,
- for businesses applying for and/or are eligible for EDGE or HIB, are committed to:
  - hiring at least 40 new employees that are Illinois residents to work onsite where project is located, AND making a \$40 million investment, OR
  - hiring at least 100 new employees that are Illinois residents to work onsite where project is located, AND making a \$20 million investment<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> For the purposes of this eligibility criterion, “investment” has the same definition as that used for EDGE eligibility. For most projects, this “investment” number will exceed the cost of the capital project for which an applicant is requesting grant funds, as investment amounts for EDGE eligibility include several types of investment (e.g. capitalized rent) that are not bondable capital expenses.

- are operating in one of the following industries of focus from the 2024 Illinois Economic Plan  
<https://dceo.illinois.gov/content/dam/soi/en/web/dceo/documents/illinois-2024-economic-growth-plan.pdf>:
  - Life Sciences
  - Quantum Computing, AI, and Microelectronics
  - Clean Energy Production and Manufacturing
  - Advanced Manufacturing
  - Next Generation Agriculture, Ag Tech, and Food Processing
  - Transportation, Distribution, and Logistics (TDL)

Applicants that do not meet these criteria are ineligible.

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 1:1 match requirement. The Department may cover up to 50% of the total eligible capital expenses for the project.

## **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.

# **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:

**Joy Wolfe**  
**Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity**  
**1 W Old State Capitol Plz**  
**Springfield, IL 62701**  
**Email: [ceo.obd@illinois.gov](mailto:ceo.obd@illinois.gov)**

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

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 printed, signed, scanned and submitted with application.
- ☐ Uniform Capital Budget utilizing the template provided by DCEO for this project. The entire budget with all worksheets included even if the worksheets are not relevant to the grant opportunity must be submitted with the application materials. Signature page

- must be printed, signed, scanned and submitted with application.
- ☐ Conflict of Interest Disclosure
- ☐ Mandatory Disclosures

This Notice of Funding Opportunity also requires the submission of the following other programmatic specific items as part of the program application that can be found on the website where you accessed the application document:

- ☐ Project Narrative
- ☐ Authorized Designee Form (optional)
- ☐ W-9 Form
- ☐ IRS Letter 147C (applicants need to request from the IRS)

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:

- (i) Be registered in SAM. To establish a SAM registration, go to [www.SAM.gov](http://www.SAM.gov) and/or utilize this instructional link: How to Register in SAM from the [www.grants.illinois.gov](http://www.grants.illinois.gov) Resource Links tab. SAM.gov registrations must be “public.”
- (ii) Provide a valid UEI number in the GATA Grantee Portal registration.
- (iii) 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 Department will 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 Department is ready to make a Federal pass-through or State award, the Department 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.**

Application materials must be submitted to the Department via electronic form at: <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/2345b19163df4277aec68020e7467aa6>.

The Department is under no obligation to review applications that do not comply with the above requirements.

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

N/A

### **6. Funding Restrictions.**

Pre-award costs are allowable back to the effective date of the tax credit agreement that was required for eligibility into this program.

### **7. Other Submission Requirements.**

Applicants may only submit (1) one application for this program.

## 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. DCEO shall consider the following criteria when evaluating the application submittal:

(30 points) Need – The applicant demonstrates that a state grant is required, without which the project would not occur in the selected location or would be substantially reduced. Points in this category will be based on:

- Demonstration of need for state assistance
- Project location in an Opportunity Zone, underserved area, or Enterprise Zone
- Whether the applicant has operations in Illinois, multiple locations nationally, and multiple locations globally

(20 points) Capacity – The applicant demonstrates the ability to successfully complete the project and comply with grant requirements. Points in this category will be based on:

- Awareness of needs for and plan to execute site acquisition, proper zoning/environmental approvals, construction, and other required steps
- Explanation of any potential risks to the project and proposed mitigations
- Complete and detailed budget estimates with backing documentation, where applicable

(25 points) Quality – The applicant has provided a detailed budget and narrative that includes all necessary attachments. Points in this category will be based on:

- A complete and sufficiently detailed project narrative
- Realistically and sufficiently detailed timeline given scope of project
- Clearly articulated source of matching funds, as well as fund availability and/or credible plan to obtain them to completely fund the project.

(25 points) Economic Impact – The applicant's operations and nature of the project will result in a durable impact on Illinois resident jobs and earnings. Points in this category will be based on:

- Operating in a high-growth industry 2024 Illinois Economic Plan (<https://dceo.illinois.gov/content/dam/soi/en/web/dceo/documents/illinois-2024-economic-growth-plan.pdf>).
- Average wage for new employees relative to the average county wage for full-time employees (Grantees using funds to support construction jobs must ensure construction contractors abide by the prevailing wage requirements described in section F.2 of this Notice of Funding Opportunity)
- Ratio of total investment to requested grant amount<sup>2</sup>.

### 2. Review and Selection Process.

Applications will be graded using the Merit Review Process and scored on the criteria specified in Section E.1. DCEO 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 grantee score.

The intent of this program will be to award the full \$90 million in funds by the end of FY 2026. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis.

All applicants with a merit review score that exceeds 80 will receive a recommendation for an award. At the end of each quarter, DCEO may recommend additional applicants with a merit review score that exceeds 65 for award if the amount of funds that have been awarded under this NOFO are below the quarter trajectory to fully award the funds by the end of FY 2025. These additional awards may be selected based on merit review score, as well as geographic dispersion of awardees, location in an underserved area, and/or operation in a high-growth industry. Only applicants that have applied within the most recent two quarters may be considered for an award.

The Merit Based Review process is subject to appeal. 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 in writing to the Department within 14 calendar days after the date that the grant award notice has been published. The written appeal shall include the name and address of the appealing party, the identification of the grant and a statement of reasons for the appeal. To file an appeal, applicants must submit the appeal in writing and in accordance with the Merit-Based Application Review Appeals Process listed on the Grant Opportunities page of the DCEO website:

<https://dceo.illinois.gov/aboutdceo/grantopportunities/meritappeview.html>.

### **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 month's 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. 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.**

**Grant Uniform Requirements:** The Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (30 ILCS 708/5(b)), codified in 44 IL Administrative Code 7000, was passed 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:** Awardee will be required to adhere to methods of procurement per Procurement Standards (2 CFR 200.317 – 2 CFR 200.326).

**Business Enterprise Program:** For grant awards of \$250,000 or more, the grantee 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 and the Capital Development Board will work with the grantee 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 grantee 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 at the time an applicant submits to the



Department a grant application 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.):** Whenever there is a period of excessive unemployment in Illinois (as defined by the Act), Grantees shall employ at least 90% Illinois laborers on their project. Illinois laborers refer 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.

### **3. Reporting.**

#### **Corporate Accountability**

Grantees funded through this NOFO are required to report employment numbers and wage information identical to that required by Public Act 93-552

(<https://www.ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/ilcs3.asp?ActID=2441&ChapAct=20%26nbsp%3BILCS%26nbsp%3B715%2F&ChapterID=5&ChapterName=EXECUTIVE+BRANCH&ActName=Corporate+Accountability+for+Tax+Expenditures+Act%2E>), the Corporate Accountability for Tax Expenditures Act. A jobs created and retained report, including average wage per job classification, will be necessary to receive the full amount of funding requested under this program.

#### **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 60 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 200.343).

#### **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 shall apply (See 30 ILCS 708/65(c)).

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

Grant Help Desk

Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity Email:

[CEO.GrantHelp@illinois.gov](mailto:CEO.GrantHelp@illinois.gov)

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

The State government is not obligated to make any State award as a result of this announcement. Only grants officers can bind the State government to the expenditure of funds.