

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

Awarding Agency Name	Commerce And Econ Opp
Agency Contact	Chad Phillips (CEO.FedGrantMatch@illinois.gov)
Announcement Type	Modified
Type of Assistance Instrument	Grant
Funding Opportunity Number	FY23-1
Funding Opportunity Title	Federal Grant Support Program
CSFA Number	420-35-3073
CSFA Popular Name	Federal Grant Support Program
Anticipated Number of Awards	100
Estimated Total Program Funding	\$40,000,000
Award Range	\$10000 - \$5000000
Source of Funding	State
Cost Sharing or Matching Requirements	Yes
Indirect Costs Allowed	Yes
Restrictions on Indirect Costs	No
Posted Date	05/24/2023
Application Date Range	General announcement open for a period of time with no specific due dates for applications.
Grant Application Link	Please select the entire address below and paste it into the browser... https://dceo.illinois.gov/aboutdceo/grantopportunities/3073-2554.html
Technical Assistance Session	Offered : Yes Mandatory : No Date : 06/15/2023 : 2:00PM Registration link : https://illinois.webex.com/illinois/j.php?MTID=m468e91cef03a659ca70698e6d81bb34c

Agency-specific Content for the Notice of Funding Opportunity

Federal Grant Support Program

NOFO ID: 3073-2554

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

***REVISED 9/21/23 – Updated Cost Sharing or Matching language and example. ***

***REVISED 10/25/23 – Updated Cost Sharing or Matching example. ***

***REVISED 12/5/23 – Application response timeline has been updated and the eligible applicant criteria in Section C1 was updated for non-Illinois based businesses to invest in Illinois. ***

REVISED 12/11/23 – Modification to include award funding cap for competitive EDA Tech Hub Phase II applicants and an increase in the overall program budget from \$15M to \$25M

***REVISED 12/20/23 – Eligible applicant criteria in Section C1 was updated for SBIR/STTR applicants and recipients. ***

***REVISED 4/9/24 – Total funding available increased from \$25M to \$30M. ***

***REVISED 7/3/24 – Updated submission timing requirement, merit review criteria weight, and funding recommendation requirements. ***

***REVISED 9/19/24 – Updated performance period, goals, & measures, and scoring criteria. ***

***REVISED 12/10/24 – Total funding available increased from \$30M to \$40M. Updated eligible applicants. ***

***REVISED 4/03/25 – Updated Cost Sharing definitions and eligibility. ***

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 to set forth the requirements of the Department’s Federal Grant Support program. The Department administers grant programs designed to promote and enhance economic development as specified by the Department’s Fiscal Year 2023 budget Public Act 102-0698 enacted by the Illinois General Assembly.

The intent of this program is to increase the amount of federal funding received by Illinois-based organizations applying for competitive federal grants that align with the State’s economic development objectives.

Program Description

The State of Illinois benefits economically when federal funds are invested in Illinois. However, Illinois receives less funding in federal grants per person¹ (or per capita) than the average state as well as states similar in population size².

Federal grant funding is distributed by formula and non-formula (or competitive) grants. Competitive federal grants typically require a **match**, which is the non-federal share of the project costs that a grantee must contribute to achieve the purposes of the award. In some instances where there is no formal matching requirement, the percentage of the match provided by the grantee is used as a metric for evaluating the competitiveness of an application.

The Department's **Federal Grant Support Program will make up to \$25 \$30 \$40 million available to Illinois-based businesses and organizations seeking competitive federal grants.** The Department may provide a grant up to \$2,000,000 that entails up to a 1:1 match of the applicant's cash contribution towards the project. This matching grant program is intended to encourage more Illinois-based applicants to apply for federal grant opportunities, provide critical assistance to meet the minimum match eligibility requirements, increase the competitiveness of applications, and provide the State of Illinois with an opportunity to make a firm commitment and demonstration of support for projects that are well aligned with the State's economic development goals and priorities.

Projects not aligned with the State's economic development goals and projects with the primary purpose of transportation, parks, social services, or housing are not eligible. An exception will be made for projects with the primary purpose of transportation, parks, social services, or housing seeking funding from the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA).

The Department's Federal Grant Support Program will also make up to \$10 million available to only Illinois-based U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) designated Tech Hubs seeking competitive EDA Tech Hub Phase II funding. The Department may provide a grant to Tech Hub Designees of up to \$5,000,000 that entails up to a 1:1 match of the applicant's cash contribution towards the project.

Eligible applicants will apply for this program while they are preparing an application for a federal grant. The Department Anticipates sending an award decision three (3) weeks after the application is received. 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. Eligible applicants will apply for this program while they are preparing an application for a federal grant and at least three (3) weeks prior to the associated federal program submission deadline. **Applications received less than three (3) weeks prior to the associated federal program submission deadline will not be considered.** The Department anticipates sending an award decision three (3) weeks after the application is received. 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.

Performance Goals and Measures

Award recipients will be required to report quarterly on performance measures that align with the goals, priorities, and performance measures identified in the State's economic development plan: 1) **lay the foundation for long-term growth** focus on high growth sectors and continue overall business climate improvements; 2) **reduce the equity gap; and/or advance comprehensive economic development efforts for business growth and attraction;** 3) **attract more workers and businesses to Illinois** promote equitable growth by empowering workers, entrepreneurs and communities; and/or 4) build out the New Clean Energy Economy. All projects will be required to report on the following details:

- Funds and investment either contributing directly to the project or raised as a result of the project, by source (e.g. local government, private equity, or venture capital, etc.)

¹ https://ffis.org/sites/default/files/public/publications/2020/percapita2019/fy_2019_per_capita_-_illinois.pdf

² Rockefeller Institute of Government. Who Gives and Who Gets? Explore the Balance of Payments between States and the Federal Government. March 2022. - <https://rockinst.org/issue-areas/fiscal-analysis/balance-of-payments-portal/>

- Number of Illinois residents directly employed due to the project, either as permanent staff for an ongoing initiative and/or as temporary jobs for a capital or pilot project
- Completion of key milestones/deliverables

In addition, the following performance measures will be required, when applicable.

- Illinois residents, companies, or organizations receiving services, by type of service (e.g. training, business support services)
- R&D spending
- Startups created, and associated number of jobs
- Patents
- Total exports
- Other, as warranted

B. Funding Information

This grant program is utilizing state funds appropriated by the Illinois General Assembly. Total amount of funding expected to be awarded through this NOFO is ~~\$25,000,000~~ ~~\$30,000,000~~ ~~\$40,000,000~~. Awards will be up to \$2,000,000, but awards for EDA Tech Hub designees will be up to \$5,000,000. The Department expects to make 10 to 100 awards for through this NOFO.

~~Anticipated start date for awards is June 1, 2023. The period of performance is expected to be July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2025.~~ The period of performance for this program is expected to be two years.

Eligible projects may include capital and non-capital costs. We ask that applicants specify in their application if a proposed project is a capital-only project.

A portion of grants provided for this program may originate from Rebuild Illinois capital funds that are subject to Bondability Guidelines (see guidelines at the same webpage where this NOFO is posted).

Eligible expenses for Rebuild Illinois Capital 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.

The Department's award is contingent upon receiving the federal award associated with the applicant's proposal.

Applicants will be required to notify the Department of their federal award and provide supporting documentation within a specified timeframe in order to receive their award:

- If awarded, applicants will receive a commitment letter from the Department stating that they will receive an award, contingent upon receiving the federal award associated with their application. This letter may be included in the applicant's proposal to the federal government.
- Upon receiving the federal award, grantees shall notify the Department and provide proof of the federal award including the full application that was approved, and the Department will enter into a grant agreement with the grantee.
- Applicants should notify the Department if they do not receive the federal award or if there is a change in the grant status, such as a delay in the federal government's review and selection process.
- Initial commitments are good for up to 120 days from the date of the Department's approval letter – at the end of 120 days, grantees must have notified the Department that they received the federal award to start the grant agreement process. Failure to notify the Department and receive confirmation from the Department regarding next steps to process a grant agreement or receive an extension may result in termination of the Department's commitment to provide an award.

- The Department's commitment may be extended once for an additional 120 days under certain circumstances (e.g., the federal government has not made an award decision) – applicants must have submitted an extension request to the Department within the initial 120-day commitment period and received an approved extension from the Department.

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.

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/individuals/international-taxpayers/taxpayer-identification-numbers-tin#:~:text=You%20can%20use%20the%20IRS%27s,for%20Individual%20Taxpayer%20Identification%20Number>);
- Has a valid UEI number (<https://sam.gov>);
- Has a current SAM.gov registration (<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.cyberdriveillinois.com/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>).

Marking SAM.gov registrations as “public” will allow the GATA Grantee Portal to expedite the review of the federal information. Making the SAM.gov registration “private” will not prevent the review; however, it will slow down the review process.

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:

- Local Governments,
- Nonprofit Organizations,
- For-Profit Organizations,
- Small Businesses, and
- Educational Organizations

Eligible applicants include eligible entities that also meet the following guidelines:

1. Applicant must be the primary applicant on the federal award application.
2. If applicant is an Illinois-based organization or business³ or commits to becoming an Illinois-based organization or business upon receiving the federal award, at least 51% of the total project must consist of activities that occur in Illinois.
3. If applicant is NOT an Illinois-based organization or business and does NOT commit to becoming an Illinois-based organization or business upon receiving the federal award, at least 90% of the total project must consist of activities that occur in Illinois.
4. Project must be eligible for a specified federal grant program, for which the applicant intends to apply within 120 days of applying to this state program.
5. Applicant must commit to providing a financial contribution (cash) towards the project, which will be used to determine the State's eligible matching award.

Projects not aligned with the State's economic development goals and projects with the primary purpose of transportation, parks, social services, or housing are not eligible. An exception will be made for projects with the primary purpose of transportation, parks, social services, or housing seeking funding from the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA).

Applicants for federal Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) Phase I awards are ineligible for this funding opportunity. Please reference Department's separate Phase I SBIR/STTR Matching Grant Program. Applicants for Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) initial Phase II awards are ineligible for this funding opportunity.

Applicants for federally funded opportunities offered by institutes within the Manufacturing USA network are eligible 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.

The applicant must:

1. Provide a financial contribution (cash) towards the project, which will be used to determine the State's eligible matching award. In-kind contributions will not be used to determine the State's eligible matching award.
2. The state's award will be up to a 1:1 match of the applicant's cash contribution, but cannot exceed the federal award amount.
3. The applicant must provide letters or other documentation stating the amount, contributing entity, and source of the applicant's cash contributions towards the project. An authorized representative from each entity providing a cash contribution towards the applicant's matching requirement must provide a signed letter confirming their commitment, identifying their source of the funds, and certifying their ability to make the financial contribution to the project.

Any reduction in the applicant's cash contributions to the project after receiving the federal award may result in a reduction in the Department's award.

For the purposes of this program, the applicant's required cash contribution must be associated with expenditures specific to the proposed project. These cash contributions may include, but are

³ An "Illinois-based organization or business," for the purposes of this NOFO, is defined as an organization or business whose principal place of business is Illinois, or whose officers direct, control, and coordinate the organization's activities from Illinois.

not limited to new personnel costs, fringe costs, supply and equipment costs, indirect costs, and other direct costs. Third party in-kind contributions will not be counted as part of the applicant match and encompass contributions to the project that do not involve a payment or represent donated services such as those of already salaried personnel.

Applicants are directed to 2 CFR § 200.306 for standard definitions related to cost sharing and matching requirements.

To further illustrate some examples of cost sharing requirements, see below.

- If a federal match is required:
 - Ex. The federal grant requires a 25% match, and the total project is \$1 million. Therefore, the federal government may fund up to \$750,000, and the applicant must provide matching funds of at least \$250,000. The applicant intends to provide the minimum match amount (\$250,000). The applicant will provide \$125,000, and the State of Illinois' matching grant may be up to \$125,000, or 50% of the applicant's total cash match.
 - Ex. The federal grant requires a 20% match, and the total project is \$1 million. Therefore, the federal government may fund up to \$800,000, and the applicant must provide matching funds of at least \$200,000. However, the applicant is proposing to contribute \$400,000 towards the project (40%) to make the application more competitive. The applicant will contribute \$200,000, and the State of Illinois' matching grant may be up to \$200,000, or 50% of the total match.
 - Ex. The federal grant requires a 50% match, and the total project is \$14 million. This makes the total required match \$7 million. The maximum award amount from the State of Illinois' matching grant is \$2 million. Therefore, the total amount that the grantee must contribute is \$5 million to fully fund the project, and Illinois may provide a matching grant of up to \$2 million.
- If a federal match is not required:
 - Ex. The applicant's total project is \$1 million, and the applicant would like to provide a total of \$400,000 towards the project. The applicant will provide \$200,000 in cash, and the State of Illinois' matching grant may be up to \$200,000, or a 1:1 match of the applicant's cash contributions.
 - Ex. The applicant's total project is \$10 million. The maximum federal award amount is \$4 million, and the grantee's remaining portion is \$6 million. The State of Illinois' matching grant may be up to \$2 million, and the applicant must be able to contribute the rest (\$4 million).

3. Indirect Cost Rate.

For grants that allow indirect costs – In order to charge indirect costs to a grant, the applicant organization must have an annually negotiated indirect cost rate agreement (NICRA). There are three types of NICRAs:

a) Federally Negotiated Rate. Organizations that receive direct federal funding, may have an indirect cost rate that was negotiated with the Federal Cognizant Agency. Illinois will accept the federally negotiated rate. The organization must provide a copy of the federally NICRA.

b) State Negotiated Rate. The organization may negotiate an indirect cost rate with the State of Illinois if they do not have a Federally Negotiated Rate. If an organization has not previously established an indirect cost rate, an indirect cost rate proposal must be submitted through State of Illinois' centralized indirect cost rate system no later than three months after receipt of a Notice of State Award (NOSA). If an organization previously established an indirect cost rate, the organization must annually submit a new indirect cost proposal through CARS within six to nine months after the close of the grantee's fiscal year, depending on the grantee's audit type requirements.

c) De Minimis Rate. An organization may elect a de minimis rate of 10% of modified total direct cost (MTDC). Once established, the De Minimis Rate may be used indefinitely. The State of Illinois must verify the calculation of the MTDC annually in order to accept the De Minimis Rate.

All grantees must complete an indirect cost rate negotiation or elect the De Minimis Rate to claim indirect costs. Indirect costs claimed without a negotiated rate or a De Minimis Rate election on record in the State of Illinois' centralized indirect cost rate system may be subject to disallowance.

Grantees have discretion and can elect to waive payment for indirect costs. Grantees that elect to waive payments for indirect costs cannot be reimbursed for indirect costs. The organization must record an election to "Waive Indirect Costs" into the State of Illinois' centralized indirect cost rate system.

State Universities may request an indirect cost rate of 10% due to the State of Illinois' continuous funding of a portion of facility and administrative costs.

Indirect costs must comply with all applicable federal and state laws and regulations. For example, the maximum amount allowable under a limitation cannot exceed the total amount under the organization's NICRA.

4. Other, if applicable.

Applicants may submit multiple applications for 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:

Chad Phillips
Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity
555 W. Monroe St., Suite 12, Chicago, IL 60661
Tele: (312) 209-9764
Email: ceo.fedgrantmatch@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 Budgets 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. Applicants should use the capital or operating (non-capital) budget template based on how state funds will be used on the project.
 - ☐ Conflict of Interest Disclosure
 - ☐ Mandatory Disclosures
 - ☐ Project Narrative
- The project narrative should include:
- Project summary
 - Overview on each proposed activity
 - Project partner(s)

- Role(s) of project partner(s)
 - Whether or not the project is exclusively a capital project.
 - Demonstrate that the activity(ies) and outcome(s) of the project are aligned with the State's economic development goals, priorities, performance measures, and foundational principles, as outlined in the economic development plan⁴. Applicants do not need to state how their proposal aligns with every goal, priority, performance measure, and foundational principle, but should clearly demonstrate which aspects of the State's economic development plan their project supports.
 - Demonstrate the applicant's ability to perform proposed activities and complete the proposed project given their experience, knowledge and expertise, staffing, organizational capacity, equipment, facilities, partnerships, project budget, resources, etc.
 - A list of performance measures that will be used to track the success of the project, as described in "Performance Goals and Measures" on page 2. Applicants receiving an award will be required to regularly report on these measures.
- ☐ Budget Narrative
- Estimated overall project budget including any applicable breakdown by activity or project
 - Proposed funding sources for project budget
 - Amount of spending per activity/project, including a percentage of the total federal grant supporting activities that occur in Illinois
- ☐ Federal Grant Overview
- The overview should provide information on the specific federal grant opportunity that the applicant is applying to, including but not limited to the federal agency, award amounts, cost-share/matching requirements, requirements or limitations on public sector or state-specific support (if applicable), application deadline, the applicant's preferred date for receiving a Department commitment response, the latest date for which the Department can provide a commitment response, and the alignment of the federal program objectives with the state's economic development goals, priorities, performance measures, and foundational principles as described in the economic development plan.
 - Applicants do not need to state how the federal program and its objectives align with every goal, priority, performance measure, and foundational principle, but should clearly demonstrate which aspects of the State's economic development plan the federal program supports.
- ☐ Demonstration of need for Department support
- The applicant should state if a cost-share/match is required by the federal program, whether or not a public sector or state match is required by the federal program, and how Department financial support will be leveraged to make the application more competitive.

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 the System for Award Management (SAM) before submitting its application. To establish a SAM registration, go to www.SAM.gov and/or utilize this instructional link: [How to Register in SAM from the www.grants.illinois.gov Resource Links tab](#). Please note,

⁴ Applicants should reference State's economic development plan for alignment with goals, priorities, performance measures, and foundational principles:
<https://dceo.illinois.gov/content/dam/soi/en/web/dceo/aboutdceo/reportsrequiredbystatute/illinoiseconomicplan2019-10-9-2019.pdf>

making SAM.gov registrations “public” will expedite the GATA Grantee Portal pre-qualification process.

- (ii) Provide a valid UEI number in its application, which matches the UEI number used in both the applicant entity’s SAM registration and 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 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.

Applications will be accepted and reviewed on a rolling basis until available funds are depleted.

Application materials must be submitted to the Department via electronic form at <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/18bab21b477b4172a329e334c7024354>.

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 not allow reimbursement of pre-award costs. Other restrictions can be found in Sections B. and C.3.

7. Other Submission Requirements.

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

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. DCEO shall consider the following criteria when evaluating the application submittal: Need, Capacity, and Quality.

Need (35 30 points)- The applicant demonstrates that a state grant is required, without which the project would not occur, and/or would significantly increase the competitiveness of the applicant’s federal proposal.

The federal grant requires a cost-share/matching component	5
The federal grant requires a cost-share/match specifically from a public sector entity or the State	40 5
Applicant demonstrates that the project will likely not occur, or the applicant will not be able to submit the proposal without Department support	5
Applicant demonstrates that Department support will significantly increase the competitiveness of the federal proposal	5
The project is located in, or its impacts will be concentrated in, an underserved area or low-income community.	10
Capacity (40 25 points)- The applicant demonstrates the ability to successfully complete the project and comply with grant requirements.	
Applicant demonstrates that the applicant and any necessary partners are committed to the project	5
Applicant demonstrates that the applicant and any necessary partners have the experience, knowledge, and expertise required to successfully complete the project	40 5
Applicant demonstrates that the applicant and any necessary partners have the staffing and organizational capacity to successfully complete the project	5
Applicant demonstrates access to the necessary equipment and facilities required to successfully complete the project	5
Applicant's budget and backing documentation show that the applicant and partners have the resources required to successfully meet funding commitments for the project	45 5
Quality (25 45 points)- The applicant's proposal clearly identifies strong alignment with the State's economic development plan, and the proposed project has the potential to have a significant and durable impact on economic development in Illinois.	
<p>The project is clearly aligned with one or more of the State's economic goals, as laid out in the five-year economic plan (https://dceo.illinois.gov/content/dam/soi/en/web/dceo/documents/ilinois-2024-economic-growth-plan.pdf):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to Lay the Foundation for Long-Term Growth, which may include investing in and fostering research, entrepreneurship, and innovation. • to Reduce the Equity Gap, which may include investing in, providing support to, and taking down barriers for economically disadvantaged populations. • to Attract More Workers and Businesses to Illinois, which may include attracting investment, businesses, or workers. • to Focus on High Growth Sectors and Continue Overall Business Climate Improvements • to Advance Comprehensive Economic Development Efforts for Business Growth and Attraction. • to Promote Equitable Growth by Empowering Workers, Entrepreneurs and Communities • to Build Out the New Clean Energy Economy. 	40 25

The project has the potential to have a significant and durable impact on economic development in Illinois . Examples for factors that will be considered include the quantity and quality of projected outcomes (e.g., amount of federal and/or private investment, exports, patents, business creation, job creation and/or retention, average wages or wage growth, etc.); impact on one or more of the State's Key Industries, as outlined in the five-year plan; significant alignment with State economic development legislation and/or activities (e.g., CEJA, REV, MICRO, etc.); significant impact on underserved populations or communities; and R&D or start-up ecosystem activities in areas that are defined as a national critical and emerging technology areas ⁵ .	45 20
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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 twice per month to review applications. All applicants with a merit review score that exceeds 60 70 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. The Evaluation Committee may also prioritize issuing awards based on: awards that require a match; awards that require a match specifically from a public sector entity or the State; the number of awards an entity has already received under this program (i.e., an entity that has not received any awards may be prioritized over an entity which has already received 1 or more awards); geographic dispersion of awardees; and location in an underserved area.⁶

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/meritappealreview.html>.

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

The Department anticipates sending a decision and any associated commitment letter three (3) weeks after the application is received.

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.

⁵ The current National Science and Technology Council list can be found at: Critical and Emerging Technologies List Update (whitehouse.gov) - <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/02-2022-Critical-and-Emerging-Technologies-List-Update.pdf>

⁶ For a map of underserved areas, see <https://dceo.illinois.gov/expandrelocate/incentives/underservedareas.html>

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 and the Capital Development Board 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 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

H. Other Information, if applicable

N/A