

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

Awarding Agency Name	Commerce And Econ Opp
Agency Contact	Shivani Chokshi (CEO.InnovationVouchers@illinois.gov)
Announcement Type	Initial
Type of Assistance Instrument	Grant
Funding Opportunity Number	FY27-1
Funding Opportunity Title	Innovation Vouchers Program
CSFA Number	420-35-3126
CSFA Popular Name	Innovation Vouchers Program
Anticipated Number of Awards	1
Estimated Total Program Funding	\$3,000,000
Award Range	Not Applicable
Source of Funding	State
Cost Sharing or Matching Requirements	No
Indirect Costs Allowed	Yes
Restrictions on Indirect Costs	No
Posted Date	10/07/2026
Application Date Range	10/07/2026 - 11/06/2026 : 5:00 PM
Grant Application Link	Please select the entire address below and paste it into the browser... https://dceo.illinois.gov/aboutdceo/grantopportunities/3126-4346.html
Technical Assistance Session	Offered : Yes Mandatory : No Date : 10/27/2026 : 1:30 PM Registration link : https://illinois.webex.com/weblink/register/rbe3b972ad3bf99d0f59656775efe4f8c

Agency-specific Content for the Notice of Funding Opportunity

Innovation Vouchers Program

NOFO ID: 3126-4346

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

A. Program Description

1. 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 acquire the services of a qualified administrator to run the state’s Innovation Vouchers Program. The applicant selected to serve as the Innovation Vouchers Program administrator will receive a grant for approximately \$3 million. This amount will cover both the grantee’s administrative costs and the value of innovation vouchers to program beneficiaries.

2. Program History

Research and Development (R&D) is a key driver of new products, services, and technologies and plays a vital role in long-term economic growth. Although Illinois is home to globally recognized universities, national laboratories, federal research centers, and leading innovative companies, the state’s overall R&D activity has lagged behind many peer states and national trends.

To strengthen Illinois’ innovation ecosystem and better leverage its world-class research assets, the Illinois General Assembly established the Innovation Voucher Program (20 ILCS 605/605-1060) in 2024, which Governor Pritzker signed into law. The program was created to incentivize industry-academic R&D partnerships, enhance the competitiveness of Illinois companies, and spur commercialization and economic activity across the state.

DCEO engaged a grantee to deliver vouchers that enable companies to conduct research in collaboration with qualifying Illinois institutions of higher education.

The Illinois Voucher Program will continue under this NOFO pursuant to 20 ILCS 605/605-1060. Innovation Vouchers will continue to support projects that promote the sharing of technologies, knowledge, facilities, and equipment. These partnerships are intended to increase Illinois-based production of goods and services, deepen the state’s research capacity, and stimulate economic growth driven by innovation.

3. Program Description

Innovation Vouchers will provide vouchers for companies to engage in research projects in partnership with an Illinois institute of higher education. This will facilitate the sharing of technologies, knowledge, facilities, and equipment, and ultimately lead to the production of more Illinois-based goods and services and spur economic growth in the state. DCEO anticipates that the Innovation Vouchers programming will be structured as follows:

- Company eligibility
 - The business must be an Illinois-based business. For the purposes of this Section, “Illinois-based business” means a business that has its principal place of business in this

- State or that employs at least 100 full-time employees, as defined under Section 5-5 of the Economic Development for a Growing Economy Tax Credit Act, in this State;
- the business must remain in this State for the duration of research engagement; and
- the partnering institution of higher education must be an Illinois-based institution of higher education and non-profit. For the purposes of this Section, "Illinois-based institution of higher education" means an institution of higher education that has its main physical campus in this State.
- Businesses that operate in key industries, including agribusiness and ag tech; energy; information technology; life sciences and healthcare; manufacturing; and transportation and logistics.
- Scope of eligible projects
 - R&D leading to the creation of new products and services that can be marketed by Illinois businesses;
 - The partnering institution must be an Illinois-based, non-profit institution of higher education;
 - Diverse geographic and economic areas, including urban, suburban, and rural areas of the State;
 - Participation among small and mid-sized businesses.
- The Department may award matching funds in the form of innovation vouchers up to 75% of the cost of the research engagement not to exceed \$75,000. Each business would be limited to one voucher per fiscal year.

This Notice of Funding Opportunity is intended to procure the services of a qualified grantee to run the Innovation Vouchers Program on behalf of DCEO. The grantee's responsibilities will include:

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- Accepting applications for Innovation Voucher benefits;
- Reviewing Innovation Voucher applications for eligibility;
- Evaluating the merits of applications for Innovation Vouchers;
- Submitting proposed awards to the Department for review;
- Issuing and administering Innovation Voucher awards;
- Overseeing awards to ensure project success;
- Providing regular programmatic reporting to the Department, including program outcomes and any recommendations for improving the program.

4. Cost Sharing or Matching

Cost sharing or matching is not required for this opportunity.

5. Allowable and Unallowable Activities

These activities are allowed under the Illinois Voucher Program:

- Administrative tasks necessary for the delivery, tracking, and completion of voucher-supported services;
- Activities conducted within the established grant period and consistent with the grantee's approved budget and work plan.

Any activities or costs not expressly authorized in the NOFO, grant agreement, or approved project plan are not permitted under this NOFO.

6. Allowable and Unallowable Costs

Applicants must ensure that all proposed costs align with the Illinois Voucher Program requirements and support the approved scope of work.

Allowable Costs

Allowable costs include expenses that directly advance the goals and activities outlined in this NOFO and the grantee's approved work plan. These may include:

- The value of the voucher issued to participating companies;
- Administrative costs necessary to manage, document, and report voucher-supported activities;
- Costs incurred within the grant period and consistent with the approved budget.

Unallowable Costs

Unallowable costs are those that do not support the program's objectives or fall outside the scope of this NOFO. These include, but are not limited to:

- Any expense not specifically authorized in the NOFO or grant agreement;
- Personal or organizational expenses unrelated to the voucher-funded project;
- Pre-award or post-performance costs incurred outside the grant period;
- Equipment purchases, capital improvements, or unrelated operational expenses unless explicitly permitted;
- Costs that replace existing organizational obligations or expenditures.

7. Prior Incurred Costs

Allowable costs incurred from the date the Notice of State Award acceptance through the period of performance start date are allowed to be charged to the grant as long as they meet the requirements specified in 2 CFR 200 Uniform Administrative Requirements, Costs Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards ("2 CFR 200"), the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (30 ILCS 708/1 et seq.) ("GATA") and this NOFO.

8. Payment Methodology

This opportunity allows for advance payment requests for the disbursement of vouchers issued to participating companies. Whenever possible, advance payment requests by the grantee must be consolidated to cover anticipated cash needs for all vouchers distributed to the participating companies (2 CFR 200.305 -- Federal payment:

<https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/subtitle-A/chapter-II/part-200/subpart-D/section-200.305>).

The recipient are authorized to submit payment requests as often as necessary when electronic fund transfers are used or at least monthly when electronic transfers are not used. See Electronic Fund Transfer Act

(15 U.S.C. 1693-1693r:

<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/USCODE-2024-title15/pdf/USCODE-2024-title15-chap41-subchapVI-sec1693.pdf>).

9. Performance Goals and Measures

The grantee will be required to submit performance data to the Department on a quarterly basis. Performance reporting will encompass both the performance of projects supported by innovation vouchers and administrative requirements for the grantee.

Administrative performance will be measured by meeting the agreed upon timeline that includes, but not limited to, application intake, application review, submission of recommended awards to the Department, execution of subagreements, fund disbursement of subawards and receipt of reports from subawardees.

The grantee will be expected to assist in determining appropriate metrics regarding the performance of projects supported by innovation vouchers. Potential metrics may include the number of projects successfully completed, investment leveraged, the number of new products or services created, and the value of production for new products and services created.

The grantee will also be required to submit performance measures data and document timely submission of project deliverables related to administration of the grant agreement with DCEO. This will include but not necessarily be limited to deliverables such as draft innovation voucher application templates, innovation voucher submission evaluations and rankings, and distributions to innovation voucher recipients.

B. Funding Information

This grant program is utilizing state general revenue funds and other funds appropriated by Public Act 104-0464. The total amount of funding expected to be awarded through this NOFO is \$3,000,000. The awardee pursuant to this NOFO will be eligible for two (2) one-year extensions, subject to appropriation.

The Department expects to make 1 award through this NOFO.

The period of performance is expected to be December 1, 2026 through November 30, 2027.

1. Indirect Cost Rate

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 15% 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.

The following State University Facilities & Administration Rate and Base will apply to all State

issued awards that contain either Federal pass-through funding or State funding.

RATE:

20% Rate for awards or programs administered On-Campus*
10% Rate for awards or programs administered Off-Campus*

BASE:

Base approved in the State Universities' current Federally Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA)

*Criteria for utilization of the On/Off campus rate is located within the general terms and conditions of Federal NICRA for each State University. If not clearly defined, State awarding agencies and officers will make final determination based upon the purposes of the grant scope.

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 (<https://sam.gov>)
- Is in Good Standing with the Illinois Secretary of State, as applicable (https://www.ilsos.gov/departments/business_services/corp.html)
- Is not on the Illinois Stop Payment list
- 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).

Currently, 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.

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. Eligible Applicants include:

Nonprofit Organizations. Applicants that do not meet this criterion are ineligible.

Viable applicants will demonstrate expertise in commercializing new products and services, experience in providing support services to businesses, strong connections to university research programs, and the capacity to administer state grant programs from programmatic and fiscal perspectives.

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

Each applicant (unless the applicant is exempt from those requirements under 2 CFR 25.110 or has an exception approved by the State) must:

- Be registered in SAM.gov. SAM.gov registrations must be set to “public.”
- Provide a valid UEI number in the GATA Grantee Portal registration.
- Continue to maintain an active SAM.gov registration with current information at all times during which it has an active Federal, Federal pass-through or State award. DCEO 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 DCEO is ready to make a Federal pass-through or State award, the DCEO 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.

2. Other

Applicants may submit 1 application 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:

Shivani Chokshi
Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity
555 W Monroe St, 12th Floor
Chicago, IL 60661
Email: CEO.InnovationVouchers@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 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
 - o Can be printed, signed, and scanned
 - o Can be signed digitally
- ☐ Conflict of Interest Disclosure
 - Conflict of Interest Disclosure must be signed by the authorized signatory before submission
 - o Can be printed, signed, and scanned
 - o Can be signed digitally
- ☐ Mandatory Disclosure
 - Mandatory Disclosure must be signed by the authorized signatory before submission
 - o Can be printed, signed, and scanned
 - o Can be signed digitally

This Notice of Funding Opportunity also requires the submission of the following other programmatic specific items as part of a program application:

- ☐ Project Narrative, including the following information that can be found on the program application:
 1. Summary of the structure of the applicant organization, including (1) identification of the organization's leadership team and a description of their responsibilities, (2) a summary of the organization's core skills and competencies, (3) identification of relevant experience and skills sets of staff who will be assigned responsibility over the program, and (4) other factors that make the application organization well-suited for overseeing a program to support and disburse Innovation Vouchers to promote development of new products and services.
 2. An assessment of the applicant's technical capacity to run the Innovation Vouchers program, including (1) expertise in modern technology and promoting commercialization of new products and services, and (2) expertise in collaborating with researchers in higher education.
 3. An assessment of the applicant's administrative capacity to run the Innovation Vouchers program in a manner consistent with the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act, including (1) the organization's experience providing technical assistance promoting commercialization of new products and services, and (2) a demonstration the applicant has a good understanding of grant program management requirements and will commit resources necessary to successfully complete responsibilities.
 4. A demonstration of need for the Innovation Vouchers program, including (1) identification of the types of small and medium-sized businesses facing obstacles to commercialization of new products and services, and (2) identification of relevant expertise, procedures, and services that could be provided through the Innovation Vouchers program.
 5. A description of the intended outreach program and the applicant's plan to reach a diverse pool of potential program participants
 6. An overview of the applicant's proposed process for selecting and administering vouchers, including a proposed application template and schedule, recommended program guidelines

to enhance the quality of voucher applications, and procedures to prevent “self-dealing” by the applicant

7. A description of the applicant’s plan for evaluating and selecting the most promising applications for innovation vouchers, including proposed evaluation criteria
8. A description of the applicant’s plan to provide assistance and support to voucher recipients to complete successful projects
9. A description of the applicant’s plans for identifying and evaluating meaningful metrics for project and program success, including a proposed reporting template for voucher recipients
10. A description of the applicant’s plans for collecting and maintaining supporting documentation regarding voucher recipient performance, how subgrantee records and documentation will be shared with DCEO, and how the grantee will oversee program participants’ consistency with program guidelines

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.

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

3. Submission Dates and Times

Applications for this opportunity must be submitted by November 6th, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. CST

Application materials must be submitted to the Department via electronic form at

<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/b1bcb0833f3b4a209c860226e44b6cd4>.

The Department has 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.

4. Other Submission Requirements

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.

5. 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.

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.

Need- Identification of stakeholders, facts, and evidence that demonstrate the proposal supports the grant program purpose	
Demonstration that applicant understands market barriers to innovation and commercialization (High points will be awarded to applicants demonstrating understanding of the obstacles to commercialization of new products and services facing small and medium-sized companies and how best to address those barriers.)	6
Demonstration that applicant understands barriers companies face in forging relationships with researchers at institutions of higher education. (High points will be awarded to applicants demonstrating understanding of the obstacles to obtaining research assistance from experts at institutions of higher education facing small and medium-sized companies and how best to address those barriers.)	5
Quality of plan to effectively target and assist potentially eligible companies. (High scores will be awarded to applicants providing a plan to effectively target and assist potentially eligible companies. Fewer points will be awarded if plans are vague and/or applicant demonstrates little understanding of the needs of these companies.)	5
Simplicity of process and application for prospective participants. (High scoring applicants will demonstrate that process can be straightforward and streamlined from the program participant's perspective. Clunky, vague, or over-engineered processes will receive lower scores.)	4
Quality of plans to conduct outreach to minority-owned, women-owned, and veteran-owned businesses. (High scores will be awarded to applicants providing a plan to conduct outreach to these businesses. Fewer points will be awarded if plans are vague and/or applicant demonstrates little understanding of these companies' needs.)	5
Capacity- The ability of the applicant to execute the project according to requirements of the grant program	
Applicant organization experience administering comparable grants. (High scores will be awarded to applicants have administered grants of comparable scale and scope.)	8
Viability of applicant, including tenure and range of resources and skill sets. (High scores will be awarded to applicants who have been in operation for a substantial period and possess the range of resources required to run a program of this nature in accordance with state grant management standards.)	8
Expertise in technology and commercialization of new products and services. (High points will be awarded to applicants who demonstrate command of modern technologies, processes, innovation, and commercialization of new technologies. Experience and expertise of individuals assigned to the project will be weighted more heavily than the experience and expertise of the organization.)	6
Expertise and familiarity with research conducted at Illinois higher education institutions. (High points will be awarded to applicants who demonstrate understanding of the research capabilities of Illinois higher education institutions pertinent to commercialization of new products and services in target industries. Experience and extent of professional relationships of individuals assigned to the project should be weighted more heavily than the experience and relationships of the organization.)	6

Capacity to conduct outreach to small and medium sized businesses. (High points will be awarded if applicant demonstrates relevant experience and systems for conducting outreach to small- to mid-sized Illinois companies per the applicant's proposed scope of work.)	7
Quality- The totality of features and characteristics of the project that indicate its ability to satisfy the requirements of the grant program	
Value of programmatic guidance/framework provided by applicant. (High points will be awarded if applicant provides useful content that will help to inform decisions regarding program parameters and oversight strategies. Fewer points will be awarded if applicant demonstrates little command of programmatic priorities or tradeoffs.)	5
Quality of program outreach plan. (High points will be awarded to applicants providing an overall outreach plan that is coherent and consistent with program objectives. Fewer points will be awarded to plans that are vague, poorly scaled to need, or fail to conform to program objectives.)	5
Viability of plan to determine eligibility and awards. (High points will be awarded to applicants who provided a coherent, viable plan to determine eligibility and awards consistent with program guidelines, including a draft voucher application template.)	5
Viability of plan to conduct voucher oversight and reporting functions. (High points will be awarded to applicants who provide a coherent, viable plan for conducting voucher oversight and reporting functions, including relevant draft templates.)	5
Viability of plan to track and report program metrics and performance. (High points will be awarded if applicant provides detailed plan to identify and report project milestones and metrics aligned with program objectives. Fewer points will be awarded if plan is vague, incoherent, or inconsistent.)	5
Budget clarity, reasonableness, and ties to programmatic objectives. (High points will be awarded if budget is clear, detailed, reasonable, and effectively tied to program activities and milestones. Fewer points will be awarded if budget is vague, excessive, or poorly tied to program activities and milestones.)	15

2. Feedback

Applicants are responsible for ensuring that all required documents and information are complete and accurate at the time of submission. DCEO will not request or accept corrections, updates, or additional materials after the submission deadline. All applications will be evaluated based solely on the materials received by the deadline.

3. 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. A grant will be awarded to the highest scoring applicant.

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.

4. Anticipated Announcement and State Award Dates

After the application period is closed, the Department will conduct a merit 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 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.

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

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

H. Other Information

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

Please visit the following website for instructional videos that guide applicants through each step of applying for and administering a grant:

(<https://dceo.illinois.gov/aboutdceo/grantopportunities/learning-library.html>)