

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

|                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Awarding Agency Name                  | Commerce And Econ Opp                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Agency Contact                        | Damilola Oluwemimo (damilola.oluwemimo@illinois.gov)                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Announcement Type                     | Initial                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Type of Assistance Instrument         | Grant                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Funding Opportunity Number            | FY27-1                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Funding Opportunity Title             | Strategic Economic Development Program                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| CSFA Number                           | 420-45-3219                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| CSFA Popular Name                     | Strategic Economic Development Program                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Anticipated Number of Awards          | 1                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Estimated Total Program Funding       | \$5,000,000                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Award Range                           | Not Applicable                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Source of Funding                     | State                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Cost Sharing or Matching Requirements | No                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Indirect Costs Allowed                | No                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 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...<br><a href="https://dceo.illinois.gov/aboutdceo/grantopportunities/3219-4347.html">https://dceo.illinois.gov/aboutdceo/grantopportunities/3219-4347.html</a> |
| Technical Assistance Session          | No                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |

# **Agency-specific Content for the Notice of Funding Opportunity**

## **Relocation and Establishment of Research & Development North American Headquarters**

**NOFO ID: 3219-4347**

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 support capital building improvements, infrastructure cost, and acquisition of machinery and equipment for the relocation of a company to the City of Chicago; along with the establishment of its research and development North American headquarters. The grant will result in the creation of an internal career development program.

#### **2. Program History**

N/A.

#### **3. Program Description**

The purpose of this grant is to support the relocation of a leading global manufacturer of high-precision machine tools, including the establishment of its research and development North American headquarters to the City of Chicago. The approved grantee will also create an internal career development program. Eligible applicants must have an existing Tier 1 Economic Development for a Growing Economy (EDGE) program executed with DCEO. The company will expand its engineering research capacity with the federal government with the lease of an advanced manufacturing space in Chicago. This grant will utilize funds from the Build Illinois Bond Funds.

#### **4. Cost Sharing or Matching**

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.

Cost sharing or matching is not required for this opportunity.

#### **5. Allowable and Unallowable Activities**

Eligible projects may include new construction and revocation of an industrial or facility, including infrastructure improvements and the purchase and installation of durable equipment.

#### **6. Allowable and Unallowable Costs**

This grant originates from the Build Illinois Bond Funds, so expenditures of these funds are subject to Bondability Guidelines:

<https://dceo.illinois.gov/content/dam/soi/en/web/dceo/aboutdceo/grantopportunities/support-docs/bondability-guidelines-rebuild-il.pdf>

Eligible expenses from 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.

## **7. Prior Incurred Costs**

Pre-award costs are allowed back to the grantees Tier 1 EDGE Agreement date.

## **8. Payment Methodology**

Once a finalized grant agreement has been executed, the funds will be dispersed in increments based on documented spending of grant funds. DCEO will reimburse approved capital expenditures as they are incurred and reported. Final reimbursement will occur once the grantee shows that all capital expenditures have been expended.

## **9. Relevant Program-Specific Rules and Regulations**

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.).

## **10. Performance Goals and Measures**

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.

## **B. Funding Information**

This grant program is utilizing state funds appropriated by Public Act 104-0464. The total amount of funding expected to be awarded through this NOFO is \$5,000,000. Awards amount will be \$5,000,000. The Department expects to make one (1) award through this NOFO.

The period of performance is expected to be October 15, 2026 through June 30, 2028.

### 1. Indirect Cost Rate

The grant will not compensate for indirect costs, overhead or administrative expenses associated with the execution of the program.

## 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](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.).

### 1. Eligible Applicants include:

Eligible applicants include:

- For-profit company
  - Relocating to the City of Chicago
  - Establishing its research and development North American headquarters

- Company will create an internal career development program
- Company will make a capital investment minimum of \$40,000,000
- Company is holder of an executed Tier 1 EDGE tax credit program agreement
- Company will hire fifty-five (55) new full-time employees and retain a minimum of sixteen (16) full-time employees.

Applicants that do not meet these criteria are ineligible.

## **2. 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.

## **3. Other**

Applicants may submit one (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:

Joy Wolfe  
Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity  
1 West Old State Capitol Plaza  
Springfield, IL 62701  
Tele: (217) 558-2474  
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 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:

- ☐ Program Application
- ☐ Project summary - minimum of 500-word summary of the project goals and objectives
- ☐ A detailed description of the building improvements, infrastructure cost and acquisition of machinery and equipment investment and what the machinery and equipment are utilized for.
- ☐ Describe how this investment can increase economic development in Illinois
- ☐ IRS letter
- ☐ W9

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.

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 6<sup>th</sup>, 2026 at 5:00 PM.

Application materials must be submitted to the Department via electronic form at <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/3be3adc08d5d43f786d2ec130b7fe179>.

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% scale. The Department shall consider the following criteria when evaluating the application submittal: Need, Capacity, and Quality.

| <b>Need- Identification of stakeholders, facts, and evidence that demonstrate the proposal supports the grant program’s purpose</b>                                                                                                                                                     |    |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Applicant is a corporate entity relocating to Chicago, IL                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | 5  |
| Applicant is creating a Research & Development North American headquarters.                                                                                                                                                                                                             | 10 |
| Applicant holds an executed Tier 1 Economic Development for a Growing Economy (EDGE) agreement.                                                                                                                                                                                         | 5  |
| Applicant provided detail as to why grant funds are needed for the project to be successful.                                                                                                                                                                                            | 20 |
| <b>Capacity- The ability of the applicant to execute the project according to requirements of the grant program</b>                                                                                                                                                                     |    |
| The applicant has demonstrated capacity to successfully complete the project tasks and achieve the projected activities and outcomes within the proposed grant period including milestones that ensure the project will be completed by the end of the grant term provided in the NOFO. | 15 |

|                                                                                                                                                                                               |    |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Applicants have clearly demonstrated how this project is necessary for the expansion of capital investments in Chicago and will benefit the state of Illinois.                                | 15 |
| <b>Quality- The totality of features and characteristics of the project that indicate its ability to satisfy the requirements of the grant program</b>                                        |    |
| The applicant provided a comprehensive scope of work, including a detailed description of planned activities, timelines, and details specific to the design and construction of the facility. | 15 |
| The applicant provided a detailed budget, including a breakdown of design and construction expenses necessary for the project.                                                                | 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. Grants 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.

**Environmental Review Requirements:** Capital grants will be reviewed to determine environmental review requirements. Based on the scope of the project, the grantees may be required to complete additional environmental approvals before a grant agreement can be initiated.

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

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

**Employment of Illinois Workers on Public Works Act (30 ILCS 570/0.01 *et seq.*):** All grantees will be required to comply with the Employment of Illinois Workers on Public Works Act (30 ILCS 570/0.01 *et*

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

### **3. Reporting.**

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

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

#### **Monitoring**

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

#### **Audit**

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

#### **Report Name**

In addition to the Periodic Financial Report (PFR) and the Periodic Performance Report (PPR), which will both be due quarterly, the awarded grantee will be provided a Ledger by the DCEO Business Development staff. This Ledger will need to be submitted with the quarterly reports, and will detail out the specific items grant funds were utilized for.

### **G. State Awarding Agency Contact**

DCEO Grant Help Desk  
Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity  
Email: [CEO.GrantHelp@illinois.gov](mailto: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>)**