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

Awarding Agency Name	Commerce And Econ Opp
Agency Contact	Matthew Swaine (CEO.CEJACommTransition@illinois.gov)
Announcement Type	Initial
Type of Assistance Instrument	Grant
Funding Opportunity Number	FY27-1
Funding Opportunity Title	Energy Transition Community Grant Program
CSFA Number	420-35-3071
CSFA Popular Name	Energy Transition Community Grant Program
Anticipated Number of Awards	100
Estimated Total Program Funding	$40,000,000
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	11/13/2026
Application Date Range	11/13/2026 - 01/04/2027 : 5:00 PM
Grant Application Link	Please select the entire address below and paste it into the browser... https://dceo.illinois.gov/aboutdceo/grantopportunities/3071-4353.html
Technical Assistance Session	Offered : Yes Mandatory : No Date : 11/19/2026 : 12:00pm Registration link : https://illinois.webex.com/weblink/register/r2dc2d441d89a1e1aa06e7a79fcdd23d8

Agency-specific Content for the Notice of Funding Opportunity

Energy Transition Community Grant Program
NOFO ID: 3071-4353

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

A. Program Description

Notice of Funding Opportunity Intent

The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (the "Department" or "DCEO") is issuing this Notice of Funding Opportunity ("NOFO") to continue the Energy Transition Community Grant Program (ETCG), which provides grants to support economic development in communities impacted by a closure or reduced operation of a fossil fuel or nuclear power plant. Funding awards are based on a formula: $50,000 + the "job loss" factor + the "revenue loss" factor (see Section D).

The Energy Transition Community Grant Program was created by the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act (CEJA, P.A. 102-0662), signed into law by Governor Pritzker on September 15, 2021. Under current law and subject to appropriation, new funding opportunities for this program will be available annually through the year 2045.

Program Description

The Energy Transition Community Grant Program provides funding to support economic development in communities impacted by the closure or reduced operation of fossil fuel power plants, coal mines, or nuclear facilities. These funds help communities develop new economic opportunities that replace lost revenue, support workforce and business development, and advance the environmental and economic goals established in the CEJA.

ETCG is part of the broader CEJA Ecosystem, a coordinated network of programs administered by DCEO through the Office of Energy & Business Utility (OEBU), the Office of Employment & Training (OET), the Office of Entrepreneurship, Innovation & Technology (OEIT), and other state agencies (Illinois Power Agency, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, Illinois Finance Authority, etc). Together, these programs support clean energy workforce development, contractor development, business growth, and community-driven clean energy projects across Illinois.

Ecosystem Description

Applicants are expected to design projects that align with and leverage the CEJA Ecosystem by coordinating with related programs and partners (IllinoisWorkNet: https://www.illinoisworknet.com/). This ecosystem approach strengthens program outcomes by:

- Expanding access to workforce, contractor, and clean energy development opportunities
- Connecting individuals, businesses, and communities to multiple CEJA resources
- Encouraging collaboration among CEJA-funded organizations and community partners
- Reducing duplication of services and improving program efficiency

Successful applicants must demonstrate how their proposed project will collaborate with, refer participants to, or otherwise leverage CEJA & State clean energy programs where appropriate and if available during the time of submission and/or award. Relevant Ecosystem programs include, but are not limited to:

Workforce Development Programs (OET):

- Illinois Energy Transition Navigator Program: https://dceo.illinois.gov/ceja/workforce-training-programs.html
- Climate Works Pre-Apprenticeship Program: https://dceo.illinois.gov/ceja/workforce-training-programs.html
- Returning Resident Clean Jobs Program: https://dceo.illinois.gov/ceja/workforce-training-programs.html
- Future Energy Jobs Act (FEJA): https://dceo.illinois.gov/ceja/workforce-training-programs.html

Contractor Development Programs (OEIT):

- Clean Energy Contractor Incubator Program: https://dceo.illinois.gov/ceja/ceja-contractor-programs.html
- Clean Energy Primes Contractor Accelerator Program: https://dceo.illinois.gov/climateandequitablejobs/clean-energy-primes-contractor-accelerator-program.html

Clean Energy Project Development Programs (OEBU):

- Equitable Energy Future Grant Program (EEF): https://dceo.illinois.gov/ceja/ceja-program-announcements.html
- Community Solar Energy Sovereignty Grant Program (CSES): https://dceo.illinois.gov/ceja/ceja-program-announcements.html
- Energy Transition Community Grant Program (ETCG): https://dceo.illinois.gov/ceja/ceja-program-announcements.html

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA):

- Energy Codes Training: https://epa.illinois.gov/topics/energy/energy-efficiency/energy-code.html
- EE Trust Fund: https://epa.illinois.gov/topics/energy/energy-efficiency/energy-efficiency-trust-fund-grant.html
- Electric Vehicle Rebate: https://epa.illinois.gov/topics/ceja/electric-vehicle-rebates.html
- Electric School Bus: https://epa.illinois.gov/topics/air-quality/driving-a-cleaner-illinois.html
- Energy Efficiency Assessment Program: https://epa.illinois.gov/topics/energy/energy-efficiency/energy-efficiency-assessment-program.html
- Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant (illinois.gov): https://epa.illinois.gov/topics/energy/energy-efficiency/energy-efficiency-conservation-block-grant.html
- Energy Efficiency Variety: https://epa.illinois.gov/topics/energy/energy-efficiency.html

Illinois Power Agency (IPA):

- Illinois Shines: https://illinoisshines.com/
- IL Solar For All: https://www.illinoissfa.com/
- Energy Equity Portal: https://energyequity.illinois.gov/
- Min. Equity Standard: https://ipa.illinois.gov/diversity-equity-and-inclusion/minimum-equity-standard.html
- Utility Scale Procurement: https://www.ipa-energyrfp.com/

Illinois Finance Authority (IFA):

- C-PACE: https://www.il-fa.com/programs/c-pace
- Clean Energy Planning: https://illinoisclimatebank.com/financing-programs/municipal-cooperative-utilities/clean-energy-planning/
- GRID: Muni. utility/rural coops: https://www.il-fa.com/programs/grid
- State Small Bus. Credit Initiative: https://www.il-fa.com/programs/ssbci
- Charging & Fueling Infra.: https://www.transportation.gov/rural/grant-toolkit/charging-and-fueling-infrastructure-grant-program
- Stretch Building Codes Adoption Support: https://illinoisclimatebank.com/financing-programs/local-governments-nonprofits/stretch-building-code-adoption-support/
- Energy Efficiency Revolving Loan Fund: For commercial buildings. Provides Bridge Loans to cover gaps between project completion and disbursement of tax credits. https://illinoisclimatebank.com/financing-programs/developers-contractors/solar-bridge-loans/
- Small Utility Clean Energy Planning Grant: Funding for municipal and cooperative utilities to support the planning, procurement, and implementation of transitioning to clean energy. https://illinoisclimatebank.com/financing-programs/municipal-cooperative-utilities/clean-energy-planning/
- 40101(d) Grid Resilience Grant: Funding for municipal and cooperative utilities to strengthen power grids and provide reliable grid infrastructure. This can include investments focused on sustainability upgrades to existing infrastructure. https://illinoisclimatebank.com/financing-programs/municipal-cooperative-utilities/40101d-grid-resilience/

Other:

- Energy Efficiency Programs (Ameren) https://amerenillinoiseemarketplace.com/efficiency-programs/
- Incentives and Financing – ComEd Go Electric (ComEd)
- Building Energy Hub (collection of various resources that may be available for public building projects): https://www.buildinghub.energy/nonprofts

Eligible Project Activities

Projects must address the economic and social impacts associated with fossil fuel plant or mine retirement or transition. Eligible activities include, but are not limited to:

Economic Development and Planning

- Economic development planning, feasibility studies, and strategic research in economic development, energy efficiency, and renewable energy technology adoption
- Grant writing support and funding resource development to secure additional federal, state, local, or private funding. Grant writing support and funding resource development to secure additional federal, state, local, or private funding (up to 3% of the award)
- Efforts to attract new development or investment that replaces lost community revenue
- Investment in local or regional economic development capacity, including staffing, planning, and grant development

Workforce Development and Community Support

- Workforce training, upskilling, and reskilling programs aligned with high-demand and high-wage regional industries
- Tuition assistance and wraparound services such as transportation, childcare, and housing stipends
- Financial assistance to support unemployed, underemployed, or low-income residents

Infrastructure and Community Investment

- Investment in clean energy and renewable energy infrastructure, including EV chargers
- Public infrastructure improvements including water, sewer, transportation, drainage, broadband, and public facilities
- Site cleanup and environmental remediation
- Downtown or commercial redevelopment, including improvements to public space, historic buildings, and energy efficiency upgrades
- Marketing and investments to support tourism, recreation, and business development

Business Attraction and Retention

- Incentives to attract or retain businesses, including investments in housing or infrastructure that support economic growth

Community and Public Health

- Public health initiatives and investments in community healthcare facilities

Program History

The Program was created by CEJA and is codified at Section 10-20 of the Energy Community Reinvestment Act (20 ILCS 735/10-20). DCEO's role in CEJA is to help Illinois' workforce prepare for and train for jobs in the clean energy industry, and to provide support to workers and communities facing plant and mine closures. This round will be the fourth round of the ETCG program.

Performance Goals and Measures

Grantees are expected to implement projects that produce measurable economic development, workforce opportunities, environmental benefits, and community well-being.

Applicants should describe how their project will leverage partnerships with CEJA ecosystem programs and how those relationships will support workforce pathways, contractor development opportunities, and/or clean energy project deployment.

Projects are encouraged to develop referral pathways connecting workforce training participants (Equity Eligible People (EEP)) to CEJA contractor development programs or clean energy projects funded through CEJA initiatives such as the Equitable Energy Future Grant Program or the Community Solar Energy Sovereignty Grant Program.

Applicants may also leverage additional federal, state, or local funding sources to support proposed activities.

Applicants must identify proposed performance outcomes and describe how project activities will contribute to measurable CEJA ecosystem impacts. Performance measures may include, but are not limited to, the following (measures marked with * are required):

Program Outputs

Outputs measure the direct activities and services delivered through the project.

- *Number of workforce participants engaged or referred through CEJA ecosystem programs
- *Number of partnerships established with CEJA ecosystem organizations
- *Number of EEC participating in project activities
- Number of local businesses or community entities participating in project activities

- Number of outreach events, training, or engagement activities conducted
- *Number of energy efficiency or renewable energy projects developed or supported

Program Outcomes
Outcomes measure the short- to medium-term results achieved through project implementation.
- *Number of jobs created or retained as a result of project activities
- *Number of Equity Eligible Persons (EEPs) hired or placed into employment pathways
- *Number of Equity Eligible Contractors (EECs) engaged in project development or implementation
- *Number of workforce participants referred to CEJA workforce or contractor programs
- *Number of businesses supported, expanded, or attracted through project activities

Program Impact Metrics
Impact metrics measure broader economic and environmental benefits generated by the project.
- *Estimated total investment value of energy efficiency or renewable energy projects supported
- *Amount of additional funding leveraged from federal, state, local, or private sources
- Long-term job creation potential associated with project development
- *Estimated environmental or clean energy benefits generated through project activities
- *Energy Saving (kWhrs)
- *Emission Reduction/Mitigation (units)

Final performance measures will be established by the Department prior to grant execution and incorporated into the grant agreement.

The Department may prioritize projects that demonstrate clear pathways to economic impact over the life of the ETCG program and projects that include CEJA/FEJA workforce participants and Equity Eligible Contractors.

<u>Other Information</u>
This opportunity will entail a two-phase application process:

- Phase 1: Eligible local governments will submit an initial application to the Department containing basic information about their entity and eligibility. After all Phase 1 applications have been received, DCEO will verify eligibility and calculate each applicant's funding allocation using the formula in Section B, "Funding Information." Phase 1 applications are due by the deadline established in section D.4. Submission Dates and Times.

Phase 2: Applicants that receive an approved funding amount in Phase 1 will be invited to submit a detailed Phase 2 application. This submission must include a project narrative and budget outlining the proposed use of funds. The Phase 2 application deadline will be communicated in the email notifying applicants of their Phase 1 results.

- Applicants must submit Phase 2 applications in the time required by DCEO; failure to submit the materials within the required time may result in the loss of the funding allocation.

  In preparation for submitting a Phase 2 application, applicants must engage in community outreach and consult with a diverse set of stakeholders, including but not limited to: Regional Planning Councils (where applicable), economic development organizations, low income or environmental justice communities, educational institutions, elected and appointed officials, worker representing organizations, and other relevant groups. Documentation of this outreach must be included with the Phase 2 application.

B. Funding Information

This grant program is utilizing state funds appropriated by Public Act 104-0003. Total amount of funding expected to be awarded through this NOFO is $40,000,000, less any funds awarded to taxing authorities for a nuclear plant that was decommissioned but continues storing nuclear waste. Awards will be formula based.

Funding Formula (determined for each eligible applicant following Phase 1)

- Each eligible entity's award will be $50,000 + the "job loss" factor + the "revenue loss" factor
- "Job Loss" factors will be allocated to eligible applicants in the following manner:
    - For each eligible applicant and plant/mine for which they're eligible, multiply the share of the population within 30 miles of the plant/mine that resides within the applicant's jurisdiction by the jobs lost at the plant/mine.[1]
    - Divide 1/3 of funds remaining after allocating $50,000 to all eligible applicants by the sum of all population-job-loss products. Please note, all population-job-loss products are derived across all eligible applicants and plants/coal mines in their area, to estimate a per-job index.
    - Multiply this per-job index by the product of the population and number of jobs lost. This calculation will be done for each eligible applicant and each eligible plant/coal mine in their area.
    - If an applicant is eligible based on more than one plant/mine, add the calculated amount above for all plants/mines for that applicant. These calculations will be what determines the "Job Loss" factors.
- "Revenue Loss" factors will be allocated to eligible applicants in the following manner:
    - Divide 2/3 of funds remaining after allocating $50,000 to all eligible applicants by the aggregate amount of property tax/PILOT revenue lost across all eligible plants/coal mines. Please note, applicants have provided an application to estimate a per-dollar-of-revenue-lost index.[2]
    - Multiply this per-dollar-of-revenue-lost index by the property tax/PILOT revenue lost for each eligible entity that applied.
    - If an applicant is eligible based on more than one plant/mine, add the calculated amount above for all plants/mines for that applicant.
- When more than one government entity is included in an application, the funding amount will be calculated separately for each distinct entity and then aggregated across those entities.
- Award amounts are subject to change each year, due to factors including number of total applicants.

The Department expects to make over 100 awards through this NOFO.

The period of performance is expected to be May 1, 2027 through April 30, 2029.

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[1] "Job loss" will be the reduction in jobs at the closed plant or mine since the beginning of 2016, including anticipated loss at plants or mines that have announced a future reduction in operations or closure. Job loss will be determined by the Department based on the best available information, which may include news reports, statements by the plant or mine operator or owner, WARN notices, and other.

[2] "Revenue loss" will be based on property tax/PILOT revenues from parcels on which the relevant plant or mine operations are located. The loss will be based on the difference between taxes collected in the most recent year available, and the year 6 years prior to the most recent year available. This information will be provided by applicants in their Phase 1 application.

Grants must be used to plan for or address the economic and social impact on the community or region of plant retirement or transition. Grant award amounts are calculated by formula, and actual funding amounts will vary per applicant. Award calculations are based on both employment reduction levels and loss of property tax/PILOT revenues.

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

C. Eligibility Information

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

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

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

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

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

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

1. **Eligible Applicants include:**

Local units of government, including municipalities, counties, school districts, and other taxing districts, within 30 miles of a closed or closing plant/mine.

Communities eligible to receive these grants must meet one or more of the following:

- The area contains a fossil fuel or nuclear power plant that was retired from service or has significantly reduced service within 6 years before the application for designation or will be retired or have service significantly reduced within 6 years following the application for

designation. The date range for eligible fossil fuel or nuclear power plants is 2020 through 2032; OR

- The area contains a coal mine that was closed or had operations significantly reduced within 6 years before the application for designation or is anticipated to be closed or have operations significantly reduced within 6 years following the application for designation. The date range for eligible coal mines is 2020 through 2032.

Additional Eligibility Notes:

- Local units of governments in eligible areas may join with any other local unit of government, economic development organization, local educational institutions, community-based groups, or with any number, or combination thereof, as subgrantees to apply for the Energy Transition Community Grant. An eligible local unit of government must be the lead grantee. Subgrantees need to provide a letter of support to the lead grantee in order to be eligible.
- A change in subgrantees is permitted following Phase 1 and prior to Phase 2. The funding award amounts attributable to each local government entity will be determined following Phase 1 and cannot be altered but may be combined with or separated from other lead/subgrantees if the composition of the coalition applying under the same grant application changes between Phase 1 and Phase 2.
- Each plant/mine has an assigned host city or county as listed in “Other Information” of this NOFO. Host cities/counties receive priority to access grant funds. If an eligible local unit of government is not the host city/county but is seeking a grant through this opportunity they must receive and submit a letter of support from the host city/county. For plants or mines in unincorporated areas, this letter of support must be provided by the county.

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**

Cost sharing or matching is not required.

3. **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:

1. 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.

2. 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 in 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 (Crowe Activity Review System) within six to nine months after the close of the grantee's fiscal year, depending on the grantee's audit type requirements.

3. 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.

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

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

5. **Other, if applicable**

Applicants may submit one application for this opportunity. Only applicants that have received approval following Phase 1 application may submit Phase 2 information for consideration.

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:

Office of Energy & Business Utility
Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity
607 E Adams
Springfield, IL 62701
Email: **CEO.CEJACommTransition@illinois.gov**

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

In Phase 1:
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

☐ Conflict of Interest Disclosure.
- Conflict of Interest Disclosure must be signed by the authorized signatory before submission
  - Can be printed, signed, and scanned
  - Can be signed digitally

☐ Mandatory Disclosure.
- Mandatory Disclosure must be signed by the authorized signatory before submission
  - Can be printed, signed, and scanned
  - Can be signed digitally

☐ Phase 1 Application

☐ Table with parcel and tax revenue information (only if applicable)

☐ Letter(s) of support from host city, village, or county, if applicable. If the applicant is not the host city or village (or in an unincorporated area, host county) for an eligible fossil fuel plant, coal mine, or nuclear plant, the applicant must acquire a letter of support from the host city or village (or in an unincorporated area, host county) for each plant or mine on the list described in Section H below.

In Phase 2:
For applicants whose Phase 1 applications are approved, an invitation will be sent to the grant contact with application details and each of the following items:

☐ Uniform Budget utilizing the template provided by DCEO for this project.
- The entire Excel document with all the tabs included, even if the tabs are not relevant to the grant opportunity, must be submitted.
- Do not send a restricted version of the Uniform Budget.
- Certification page must be signed by the authorized signatory before submission
  - Can be printed, signed, and scanned

- Can be signed digitally

☐ Appendix A: Stakeholder Engagement Form

☐ Phase 2 Application

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

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

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

(i) Be registered in SAM. To establish a SAM registration, go to **https://sam.gov** and/or utilize this instructional link: How to Register in SAM from the **gata.illinois.gov** Resource Library tab. SAM.gov registrations must be "public."

(ii) Provide a valid UEI number in the GATA Grantee Portal registration.

(iii) Continue to maintain an active SAM registration with current information at all times during which it has an active Federal, Federal pass-through or State award or an application or plan under consideration by a Federal or State awarding agency. The 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

Phase I applications for this opportunity must be submitted by January 4th, 2027 at 5:00PM CST. The Phase 2 application deadline will be communicated in the email notifying applicants of their Phase 1 results.

Applications submitted more than 16 days prior to submission due date identified above will be reviewed by program staff to determine if all required documents have been submitted. Applicants that submit an incomplete application will be notified via email of the missing documentation and will have the opportunity to resubmit a completed application package prior to the NOFO closure date.

Applications received 16 days or less prior to the submission due date identified above will NOT be reviewed in advance. These applications will be reviewed upon closure of the NOFO as part of the standard Merit Review Process outlined in Section E. Application Review Information. Applications received less than 16 days prior to the submission due date will not have the opportunity to resubmit.

Application materials must be submitted to the Department via electronic form at **https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/dec60c5b90dc4e59a1ef94b0b13a89b9**.

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

5. Intergovernmental Review, if applicable
N/A

6. Funding Restrictions
This opportunity does allow reimbursement of pre-award costs. Pre-Award costs are allowed starting from the date that the Notice of Funding Opportunity is published. Pre-Award costs are incurred at the recipient's own risk, and DCEO is under no obligation to reimburse them if the award is never issued, delayed, or funded at a lower amount than anticipated. Other restrictions can be found in Sections A., B., and C.

7. Other Submission Requirements
Documents stored in Google Docs or other cloud-based servers are not allowed.

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

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

E. Application Review Information

1. **Criteria**

Phase 1 Criteria**:**

- Lead applicant is a local government that meets eligibility requirements outlined in Section C.1. Eligible Applicants.
- All required Phase 1 application materials (Uniform Grant Application, Conflict of Interest Disclosure, Mandatory Disclosure, and Phase 1 Application) are submitted and are complete and sufficiently detailed.
- If applicant is not the host city or village for the plant or mine (or host county, in an unincorporated area), Phase 1 application includes a letter of support from the host city or village (or host county, in an unincorporated area).

Phase 2 Criteria**:**

- The Phase 2 Application is submitted and is complete and sufficiently detailed.
- Stakeholder Engagement Form is completed and submitted.
- The applicant has undertaken a stakeholder process to identify proposed use of grant funds, as required by CEJA.
- Metrics to assess the impact of the project and associated goals for each metric were included.
- Uniform Budget Template is submitted and is complete and sufficiently detailed.
    - The proposed project is eligible for funding because it entails planning for or addressing the economic and social impact on the community or region of plant or mine retirement or transition.

2. Review and Selection Process
All eligible Phase 1 applications meeting the criteria set forth in Section E.1 will receive notification of funding allocation decisions and guidance on next steps for Phase 2 participation

The Phase 1 determination 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 they are notified of the determination.

3. Anticipated Announcement and State Award Dates, if applicable

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).

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

The table below is the list of eligible power plants and coal mines that have closed or significantly reduced operations within the past six years, or are expected to close or significantly reduce operations within the next six years, and their corresponding host cities and counties.

Applicants that are not the host city or county may be eligible to apply if all other program requirements are met. Such applicants must include a letter of support from the applicable host city or county as part of their Phase 1 application. For facilities located in unincorporated areas, the letter of support must be issued by the county.

Name of Plant/Mine	Host City or County	Year when operations ceased or reduced
Shay #1 Mine	Macoupin County	2020
Eagle River #1 Mine	Saline County	2020

E.D. Edwards Power Plant	Peoria County	2022
Joppa Steam Plant	Massac County	2022
Waukegan Power Plant	Waukegan	2022
Will County Power Plant	Romeoville	2022
Midwest Electric Power Inc	Massac County	2022
Joliet Generating Power Plant	Will County	2023
Grand Tower Energy Center	Jackson County	2023
Sunrise Coal	Lawrence County	2024
Viper Mine	Logan County	2024
SIPC – Lake of Egypt	Williamson County	2020 (significant reduction, not closure)
City Water, Light & Power	Springfield	2021 (significant reduction, not closure)
Friendsville Mine	Wabash County	2024 (significant reduction, not closure)
Hawkeye Mine	Randolph County	2024 (significant reduction, not closure)
MC #1 Mine	Franklin County	2024 (significant reduction, not closure)
Newon Power Plant	Randolph County	Announced retirement 2027
Kincaid Generation	Christian County	Announced retirement 2027
Baldwin Generating Center	Jasper County	Announced retirement 2028
Powerton Station	Tazewell County	Announced retirement 2029

Note: This list is based on the best information available to the Department at the time of publishing this NOFO. If you believe your community qualifies based on a plant or mine closure or anticipated closure that is not on this list, you may still provide a Phase 1 application for review.