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

Awarding Agency Name	Commerce And Econ Opp
Agency Contact	Joy Wolfe (ceo.obd@illinois.gov)
Announcement Type	Initial
Type of Assistance Instrument	Grant
Funding Opportunity Number	FY27-1
Funding Opportunity Title	Business Attraction Prime Sites
CSFA Number	420-45-2608
CSFA Popular Name	Business Attraction Prime Sites
Anticipated Number of Awards	1
Estimated Total Program Funding	$3,500,000
Award Range	Not Applicable
Source of Funding	State
Cost Sharing or Matching Requirements	Yes
Indirect Costs Allowed	No
Restrictions on Indirect Costs	No
Posted Date	11/13/2026
Application Date Range	11/13/2026 - 12/14/2026 : 5:00 PM
Grant Application Link	Please select the entire address below and paste it into the browser... https://dceo.illinois.gov/aboutdceo/grantopportunities/2608-4357.html
Technical Assistance Session	No

Agency-specific Content for the Notice of Funding Opportunity

Strategic Business Attraction Prime Sites for Equipment and Employee Retention

NOFO ID: 2608-4357

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 assist a company, located in Peoria, Illinois, with a large-scale capital investment project that commits to significant job retention for Illinois residents as they upgrade operations within Illinois. This grant will encompass capital equipment purchases that will result in job retention in the state of Illinois.

2. Program History

The Business Attraction Prime Sites grant Notice of Funding Opportunity was first published in September 2021. This NOFO was created as a subset of the Business Attraction Prime Sites NOFO.

3. Program Description

This Prime Sites grant is for a large manufacturing company, located in Peoria, Illinois, making a minimum capital investment of $40,000,000 and will be utilizing grant funds for capital equipment purchases that will result in job retention of 700 full-time employees in Peoria, Illinois.

Award amounts for eligible projects will be formula based. An applicant must have an executed Tier 2 EDGE agreement and may apply for a grant of up to $5,000 per retained job.

If the grantee fails to complete the minimum capital investment by the placed in-service date that is found in the tax credit agreement or retain the number of jobs committed in the Tier 2 EDGE tax credit agreement, DCEO may claw back a portion or all the grant funds that have been disbursed.

Agreements and budgets with contractors must be pre-approved by and on file with DCEO. Contractors 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 contractors.

4. Cost Sharing or Matching

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

5. Allowable and Unallowable Activities

Eligible projects may include purchase and installation of durable equipment.

6. Allowable and Unallowable Costs

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.

The funding for this opportunity originates from Rebuild Illinois capital funds, so expenditures for 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 for these funds include 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 allowable back to the effective date of the tax credit agreement that was required for eligibility into this program.

8. Payment Methodology
Once a finalized grant agreement has been executed, the funds will be dispersed in increments based on documented spending of both grant and matching funds. DCEO will reimburse approved capital expenditures as they are incurred and reported, provided that grant and match funds are being expended at an equal rate. Final reimbursement will occur once the grantee shows that all capital expenditures - including required match funds - have been expended. DCEO anticipates that the final reimbursement will occur within two years of executing the grant agreement, with the option for a one-year extension. Longer timelines may be authorized when project schedules require additional time to meet expenditure thresholds.

9. Relevant Program-Specific Rules and Regulations
N/A

10. Performance Goals and Measures
N/A

11. Other Information
The awarded grantee will be required to report not only on the grant and match funds, but also on the overall capital investment of the project. The grantee is also required to provide an AUP for the qualifying tax credit program. A copy of this AUP will verify the capital investment as well as the number of employees retained at the project location.

B. Funding Information
This grant program is utilizing state capital funds appropriated by the Illinois General Assembly. appropriated by Public Act 104-0464. The total amount of funding expected to be awarded through this NOFO is $3,500,000.. The Department expects to make NONE award through this NOFO.

The period of performance is expected to be January 15, 2027, through June 30, 2030.

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**)
- 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 a for-profit business that:

- is located in Peoria, Illinois;
- is expanding operations in Illinois;

- received confirmation of eligibility for a Tier 2 EDGE credit or has a pending application for the Tier 2 EDGE program that is ultimately approved;
- is making a minimum investment of $40 million;
- will retain a minimum of 700 full-time employees at the Project location;
- are operating in one of the following industries of focus from the 2024 Illinois' Economic Growth Plan:
    - Life Sciences
    - Quantum Computing, AI, and Microelectronics
    - Clean Energy Production and Manufacturing
    - Advanced Manufacturing
    - Next Generation Agriculture, Ag Tech, and Food Processing
    - Transportation, Distribution, and Logistics (TDL)

Applicants that do not meet these criteria are ineligible.

The Department complies with all applicable provisions of state and federal laws and regulations pertaining to nondiscrimination, sexual harassment and equal employment opportunity including, but not limited to: The Illinois Human Rights Act (775 ILCS 5/1-101 et seq.), The Public Works Employment Discrimination Act (775 ILCS 10/1 et seq.), The United States Civil Rights Act of 1964 (as amended) (42 USC 2000a-and 2000H-6), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 USC 794), The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 USC 12101 et seq.), and The Age Discrimination Act (42 USC 6101 et seq.).

2. 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.

Applicants must be awarded one of the qualifying tax credit programs to be eligible to receive a Business Attraction Prime Sites grant. Applications that are submitted without receiving approval from one of the qualifying tax credit programs will not be reviewed and will not be eligible to receive grant funds.

D. Application and Submission Information

1. Address to Request Application Package.
Grant application forms are available at the web link provided in the "Grant Application Link" field of this announcement or by contacting the Program Manager:

Joy Wolfe
Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity
1 W. Old State Capitol Plz
Springfield, IL 62701
Tele: 217-558-2474
Email: 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
  - 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

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

☐ Program Application - Program Narrative (in the template provided)

☐ Authorized Designee form (optional)

☐ IRS Letter

☐ W9

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 December 14th, 2026 at 5:00 PM.

Application materials must be submitted to the Department via electronic form athttps://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/d1d964615856448c97c857dcbbf4d8e2.

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.

Need- Identification of stakeholders, facts, and evidence that demonstrate the proposal supports the grant program's purpose	
Is the project in one of the following industries: • Life Sciences; • Quantum Computing, AI, & Microelectronics; • Clean Energy Production & Manufacturing; • Advanced Manufacturing; • Next Generation Agriculture, Ag Tech, & Food Processing; or • Transportation, Distribution, & Logistics	10
Does the applicant compellingly explain why grant funds are needed for the project to happen in Illinois?	15
Does the applicant and its affiliates have multiple national established locations? Or multiple global locations? Multiple national locations may be in multiple separate locations in Illinois.	15

Capacity- The ability of the applicant to execute the project according to requirements of the grant program	
Awareness of needs and necessary steps and plan to execute entire project, including planning, proper zoning/environmental approvals, construction and renovation, necessary equipment needs, and other required steps,	10
Did the applicant provide a detailed budget, including breakdown of categories so that the reviewer understands the costs associated with the project?	10
Explanation of any potential risks to project and proposed mitigations.	5
Quality- The totality of features and characteristics of the project that indicate its ability to satisfy the requirements of the grant program	
Project narrative complete and sufficiently detailed, including all tables filled with backing documentation	10
Does the applicant show source of all matching funds and credible plans to completely fund the project?	10
The applicant provided a clear timeline of the capital project and necessary tasks to complete the project?	5
Economic Impact - The applicant's operations and nature of the project will result in a durable impact on Illinois resident jobs and earnings.	
The average trainee wage compared to average county wage as defined by DCEO.	10

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 score 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. Appeals must be submitted through the Merit Review Appeal Request Form (**https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/6444bed39ef140c589f002f53b9bc092**) within 14 calendar days of the date the denial letter is sent to the applicant or the date the grant award notice is published, whichever occurs first.

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).

Corporate Accountability

Grantees funded through this NOFO are required to report employment numbers and wage information identical to that required by Public Act 93-552 (https://www.ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/ilcs3.asp?ActID=2441&ChapAct=20%26nbsp%3BILCS%26nbsp%3B715%2F&ChapterID=5&ChapterName=EXECUTIVE+BRANCH&ActName=Corporate+Accountability+for+Tax+Expenditures+Act%2E), the Corporate Accountability for Tax Expenditures Act. A jobs created and retained report, including average wage per job classification, will be necessary to receive the full amount of funding requested under this program.

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**)