

Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA):

(As of 6/30/2022)

<https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/agr/Pages/default.aspx> This is the Agency Homepage.

<https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/agr/Resources/LandWater/Documents/agrsitereview.pdf> is the DCEO specific form. You will check “CDBG” as the funding source, and (starting Spring 2017) please include a copy of USDA Web Soil Survey (WSS) search results of your project site when sending to IDOA. Both the IDOA clearance letter and the USDA WSS will be included in your stack of CEST or EA form supporting docs. when submitting your entire environmental record review (ERR) to DCEO for approval.

<https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/agr/Resources/FarmlandProtection/Pages/default.aspx> outlines additional efforts for Farmland Protection and provides additional forms and programs if needed.

May also have to obtain an AD-1006 from USDA for IDOA if farmland is to be disturbed or converted to a non-ag use (http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb1045394.pdf). The “Federal Agency Involved” may be stated as “HUD through Illinois DCEO”.

If questions, please call either John Lohse at 217-785-4389; Jeff Evers at 217-785-5594; or Michelle Curby at 217-785-4458.

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA):

(As of April 2023)

Starting April 2023, you must contact Ms. Sara Powless of IEPA’s Office of the Director (217-782-0547; sara.powless@illinois.gov) for IEPA’s environmental review of pending DCEO CDBG projects. Sara prefers the CDBG project review info. for IEPA (i.e., the request letter and attachments) to be scanned and e-mailed to her. That way she can e-mail you a copy of their letter when she mails the hard copy. She has also provided the most recent version of the IEPA Environmental Review Project Information form that is posted to the DCEO OCD Environmental Materials website. Note that almost all of its questions seem to relate to Economic Development (ED) projects, as that has been the historical focus of DCEO as a whole. Sara’s predecessors have said the form doesn’t need to be included if the questions are answered in your letter of submission.

United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA):

(as of 06/30/2022)

To disseminate copies of Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) publication or posting templates for an Environmental Assessment (EA-ER) level review only, on or before the date of FONSI publication or posting:

US EPA Region 5
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604 *or*

Kenney.thomas@epa.gov *or* Westlake.kenneth@epa.gov

Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) for State consultation for Endangered Species & Wetlands Protection:

(as of 06/30/2022)

<http://dnr.illinois.gov/EcoPublic/>

Please note that State of Illinois CDBG is Federally-funded through a State agency, so the EcoCAT review fee does not apply to your CDBG project (for now). Please note that DNR has indicated they may start charging grantees of State agencies (such as DCEO) for the service. Our projects are currently exempt from that fee, but if they change the policy, your community would have to pay.

Note: For every “Project Number” assigned by DNR for their review purposes, each Project Number must have both its Endangered Species Protection and Natural Areas Preservation (Part 1075) and Wetland Review (Part 1090) consultations “terminated”, either on the initial EcoCat search results page, or on a subsequent letter from DNR. If review is noted as being done “For information only”, it will be rejected by DCEO, and you will be directed back to DNR to obtain the termination(s) of their consultation(s). **Note: You must also separately consult with the appropriate United State Fish & Wildlife Service (USF&WS) web sites for Federal Endangered Species and Wetlands Protection reviews.**

IDNR Office of Water Resources (OWR) Regulatory Consultation if your CDBG Project Involves Levee or Floodwall Improvements:

If your CDBG project may involve levee or floodwall improvement, please contact IDNR Office of Water Resources (OWR) at 217-782-0900 to determine what is required for IDNR’s regulatory compliance. You should ask for the OWR Regional Regulatory Engineer covering your project’s county. You may consult with OWR at time of application or grant award.

Historic Preservation Division of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), which is the State’s SHPO under Federal law:

<https://www2.illinois.gov/iHPA/Preserve/Pages/Resource-Protection.aspx> Please make sure to note to IDNR Historic Preservation Division that your CDBG project is Federally-funded to ensure IDNR-HP performs its review under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. If the IDNR-HP clearance letter states it is a review under State law, it will be rejected by DCEO, and you will be referred to IDNR-HP to obtain a Section 106 Federal clearance letter. And yes, DCEO is still accepting Section 106 clearance letters issued under the IHPA letterhead, so long as they are less than 2 years old at the time of Environmental Assessment or CEST signature.

HUD Tribal Directory Assessment Tool:

If your CDBG project’s HUD level of review is Environmental Assessment or Categorical Exclusion (subject to 58.5), but cannot convert to Exempt, a formal HUD Request for Release of Funds (RROF) publication, local and State 15-day public comment periods and HUD RROF form are required. If so, Federal law may require you to perform a “tribal consultation” with any Federally-recognized tribes that have expressed an interest in HUD-funded projects in your project’s county. Please complete a HUD Tribal Consultation Section 106 Checklist to first determine if a tribe may be interested in being consulted.

Basically, you need to send a mailed, e-mailed or faxed letter, **on the Grantee’s governmental letterhead and signed by the respective chief elected official**, to each tribal contact for your project’s county listed on HUD’s TDAT system (<https://egis.hud.gov/tdat/>), and wait either for (a) their response, or (b) 30 full days for faxed or e-mailed requests (35 for mailed) and no response (whichever comes first). (c) If a tribe’s e-mail address is no longer working, or the letter is returned as undeliverable by the US Postal Service, then that tribe’s 30 (or 35) day period ends with the failure to reach them by the information they provided to the Federal government. **The letters may be transmitted by the grant’s administrator or application writer but must be signed by the chief elected official of the Grantee, on the Grantee’s official letterhead. Failure to do so will result in having to do another tribal consultation process, followed by re-publication or re-posting of the NOI/RROF or FONSI/NOI/RROF.**

Within the TDAT, there are tools for creating the letters/e-mails. You’ll attach copies of your tribal correspondence, your proof of transmission (i.e., envelope copies, fax and/or e-mail confirmation sheets), and tribal releases (if any) behind the IHPA Section 106 release letter, and list them with the IHPA letter under the “Historic Preservation” box of the HUD CEST or EA environmental review form.

Note: Tribal consultation is not required if your project’s HUD level of environmental review is either simply Exempt or CENST, but those are rare.