

# Rebuild Downtowns & Main Streets/RISE Implementation Grants

PDPR



**Illinois**  
**Department of Commerce**  
& Economic Opportunity

JB Pritzker, Governor

# Overview

- DCEO has issued a joint application for the Rebuild Downtowns & Main Streets (RDMS) and RISE Implementation programs.
- RDMS will facilitate investment to revitalize commercial corridors and downtown areas in Illinois, offering capital grants to support improvements in communities that have experienced disinvestment.
- RISE Implementation Grants will fund economic development projects or initiatives identified by RISE Local and Regional Planning (RISE Planning) grants.



# RDMS Programming

- Projects must be located in a commercial corridor or downtown area in close proximity to multiple public-facing business establishments.
- Projects should address barriers to economic growth and/or provide stimulus to stoke economic growth
- Capital only
- Anticipated project types include new construction or rehabilitation of roads, parking, sidewalks, transit, pedestrian or bicycle infrastructure, broadband infrastructure, water/sewer infrastructure, public spaces, and investment in structures.



# RISE Implementation Programming

- RISE Implementation projects must align with initiatives identified through a RISE planning grant and aim to accelerate economic recovery following COVID-19 pandemic.
- May include capital and non-capital elements
- Anticipated project types include water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure, investment in affordable housing, local workforce development programming, retrofitting or renovating facilities and buildings, investment in site readiness for business development, and tourism promotion programming.



# Funding

- Funding Source: State funds
- Total NOFO amount: \$30 million
  - RDMS: \$20 million
  - RISE: \$10 million
- Award Range: \$250,000 to \$2,000,000
- Matching Requirements:
  - 25% (1:3) for local units of government
  - 50% (1:1) for all others
- Pre-Award Costs Allowed: No
- Indirect Allowed: Non-capital elements only



# Eligibility

- Eligible Applicants for RDMS and RISE:
  - Economic development organizations (EDOs)
  - General purpose local units of government (municipalities, counties, townships)
  - Private Businesses
- Construction or renovation of buildings, or portions thereof, used predominantly for the general conduct of government are not eligible.
- RDMS Projects must be located in a commercial corridor or downtown area.
- RISE Implementation Projects must be aligned with RISE Planning Grant recovery plan.
- Application Limitations: 1 per applicant



# Submitting Applications

- The deadline is July 22 at 5:00 p.m.
- Applicants must be properly registered in GATA portal and SAM.gov prior to application deadline.
- Applicants may submit one application
- Application documents must be submitted to the Department electronically (Link be found in Section D4 of the Notice of Funding Opportunity Supplement)
- Documents stored in Google Docs or other cloud-based servers are not allowed.



# Required Application Documents

- Uniform Application
- Conflict of Interest Disclosure
- Mandatory Disclosures
- **Budget Template**
- **Program Application**
- Letters of Support





# Selected Program Application Requirements

- Project Summary
- Which program(s) you are applying for
- State of economic distress in community/region
- How project will stoke economic growth and recovery
- Describe scope of work, timeline
- Alignment with local and regional economic development plans
- Experience and expertise of project team
- Availability of matching funds



# Awardee Selection Process

## 1 – Vet for eligibility

- Entity
- Project

## 2 - Conduct merit review

- Common scoresheet for both programs
- DCEO could depart from merit review ranking to ensure balance across multiple dimensions
  - By EDR
  - By Urban/Suburban/Rural locations
  - Adequate representation of underserved communities



# Merit Review Criteria (Need)

- Project or initiative is located in an area that is experiencing economic disinvestment, job loss, or other form of particular economic hardship
- Applicant demonstrates consistency with applicable local/regional economic development plans
- Applicant provides letters of support from elected officials and other community stakeholders



# Merit Review Criteria (Capacity)

- Applicant demonstrates relevant experience with and ability to manage grants of this nature
- Applicant demonstrates relevant experience and ability to execute project or initiative of this nature
- Applicant provides detailed plan to fully fund the project, including status of commitments for matching funds



# Merit Review Criteria (Quality)

- Description of the project or initiative
- Clear scope of work aligned with purpose of project
- Clear timeline for the project and necessary tasks to successfully complete it
- Budget is reasonable, aligned with scope of work and supported by evidence
- Project or initiative will address an existing barrier to robust economic development
- Project will promote economic development in the project area.
- Project will leverage investment in the area



# Important Dates

- Application Deadline: July 22 5:00 p.m.
- Anticipated Award Start Date: Autumn 2024
- Anticipated Award End Date: 2025-2027



# General Advice on Submitting Successful Applications

- Review all application documents carefully, especially the NOFO Supplement.
- Address eligibility criteria explicitly
- Address all scoring criteria as completely as possible
- Projects without strong economic development focus may be eligible, but they are highly unlikely to be funded
- Deadlines are firm
- Be aware grants are reimbursement-based



# Grant Opportunity Information

## DCEO Website

- [Main Grant Opportunity Page](#)
- [RDMS/RISE Grant Opportunity Page](#)

## Contact emails for questions

- [CEO.RDMS@illinois.gov](mailto:CEO.RDMS@illinois.gov)
- [CEO.RISEImplementation@illinois.gov](mailto:CEO.RISEImplementation@illinois.gov)
- [CEO.GrantHelp@illinois.gov](mailto:CEO.GrantHelp@illinois.gov)





# Questions?

# Thank You!

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