

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

Awarding Agency Name	Commerce And Econ Opp
Agency Contact	Greg Mihalich (greg.mihalich@illinois.gov)
Announcement Type	Initial
Type of Assistance Instrument	Grant
Funding Opportunity Number	Round 2
Funding Opportunity Title	Route 66 Grant Program
CSFA Number	420-25-2758
CSFA Popular Name	Route 66 Grant Program
Anticipated Number of Awards	5
Estimated Total Program Funding	\$3,703,827
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	12/21/2022
Application Date Range	12/21/2022 - 01/31/2023 : 5:00PM
Grant Application Link	Please select the entire address below and paste it into the browser... <a href="https://dceo.illinois.gov/aboutdceo/grantopportunities/2758-2453.html">https://dceo.illinois.gov/aboutdceo/grantopportunities/2758-2453.html</a>
Technical Assistance Session	No

# Agency-specific Content for the Notice of Funding Opportunity

## Route 66 Grant Program

**NOFO ID: 2758-2453**

For your application to be considered, your entity must be pre-qualified. For more information on pre-qualification, please visit <https://dceo.illinois.gov/aboutdceo/grantopportunities/granteeresources.html>.

### A. Program Description

#### Notice of Funding Opportunity Intent

The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (the "Department") is issuing this Notice of Funding Opportunity to award grants to certified convention and visitors bureaus for the development of tourism, education, preservation and promotion of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Route 66 in 2026. The Route 66 grant program is made possible by funds appropriated in Public Act 102-0698.

#### Program Description

Since 1926, Route 66 defined a remarkable era in our nation's history and it lives today in Illinois' many Route 66 roadside attractions, museums and restaurants.

Route 66 is one of the most famous roads in America. Generations of travelers have romanticized this highway as a symbol of unlimited mobility and freedom of the road. Its iconic status is enhanced by the unprecedented volume of music, books, films and other art forms that depict it as the essence of America's highway culture.

It was born in 1926 as part of the new numbered highway network and quickly grew to be the preferred road west for a nation on the move. US Highway 66 was not as old or as long as some other transcontinental routes like the Yellowstone or the Lincoln Highway, but it quickly gained fame as the shortest, year-round route between the Midwest and the coast as it passed through the fabled landscape of the American Southwest. The construction of this thin, ribbon of road helped to transform the American West from an isolated frontier to an economically vital region of the country and made it accessible to anyone with a car.

Part of the charm of Route 66 is its idiosyncratic personality. Like a giant carnival Midway, this corridor of neon signs and gaudy roadside attractions was embraced by the traveling public as an exciting diversion from ordinary life. A trip on Route 66 promised an exhilarating pilgrimage where one might discover the unknown and experience the unusual. Route 66 is synonymous with fun and adventure.

Route 66 is also synonymous with endless opportunity. As our transportation sector evolves and electrifies, more drivers will be choosing electric vehicles (EV's) to traverse our state's roads and highways. Embracing future tourism trends like electrified transportation and promoting the state's tourism areas as EV destinations will unlock all Route 66 has to offer for EV drivers who want to shop, dine, and explore Route 66's local attractions.

In Illinois we have over 300 miles of Route 66 to travel from its starting point in Chicago to the Chain of Rocks Bridge.

This funding opportunity provides the certified convention and visitors bureaus along the route to partner and develop projects which will enhance the Route 66 experience in Illinois.

Preference will be given to projects that:

## NOFO ID: 2758-2453

- Develop new or enhance existing attractions that elevate the Route 66 experience in Illinois by adding new Route 66 tourism attractions and visitor services along the Route
- Support improved wayfinding for visitors traveling Route 66
- Strengthen future tourism trends that includes electrified transportation (i.e., electric vehicles)
- Provide statewide marketing efforts by the convention and visitors bureaus working together to promote the entire Illinois portion

The successful grantee will be required to report on the expenditure of funds and the successful performance measure outcomes using the periodic financial and performance reporting templates.

### Program History

This is a limited grant opportunity to provide funding to certified convention and visitors bureaus to complete projects related to celebrating the 100 year anniversary of Route 66. This is the second year of funding for these projects.

### Performance Goals and Measures

The goal of the program is to increase visitation to sites and communities along the Illinois section of Route 66 and create awareness of the Illinois portion of Route 66 to celebrate its Centennial in 2026.

Performance measures may include:

1. Visitor numbers to sites within the grantee's service area
2. Increased hotel revenue in the grantee's service area
3. Increased length of stay in the grantee's service area

## **B. Funding Information**

This grant program is utilizing state funds appropriated by Public Act 102-0698. Total amount of funding expected to be awarded through this NOFO is \$3,703,827 to certified convention and visitors bureaus.

Anticipated start date for awards is March 1, 2023. The period of performance is expected to be July 1, 2022 through August 1, 2023.

Marketing must be statewide and for the entire route and not be for individual communities or areas. The projects should be for development of new Route 66 experiences or enhance existing ones. The projects should not include regular programming or operating costs.

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.

**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/individuals/international-taxpayers/taxpayer-identification-numbers-tin#:~:text=You%20can%20use%20the%20IRS%27s,for%20Individual%20Taxpayer%20Identification%20Number>);
- Has a valid UEI number (<https://sam.gov>);
- Has a current SAM.gov registration (<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.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/business\\_services/corp.html](https://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/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>).

Marking SAM.gov registrations as “public” will allow the GATA Grantee Portal to expedite the review of the federal information. Making the SAM.gov registration “private” will not prevent the review; however, it will slow down the review process.

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.

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:**

Eligible applicants include:

Certified convention and visitors bureaus by the Department as identified in 20 ILCS 605/705

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.**

No matching funds are required for this program.

### **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:

a) 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.

b) 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 an 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 within six to nine months after the close of the grantee's fiscal year, depending on the grantee's audit type requirements.

c) De Minimis Rate. An organization may elect a de minimis rate of 10% 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.

State Universities may request an indirect cost rate of 10% due to the State of Illinois' continuous funding of a portion of facility and administrative costs.

Indirect costs are now allowed for this program.

**4. Other, if applicable.**

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:

Greg Mihalich  
Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity  
607 E. Adams St  
Springfield 62701  
Email: [Greg.Mihalich@illinois.gov](mailto:Greg.Mihalich@illinois.gov)

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

A standard application package must be submitted to and reviewed by DCEO. Each package must contain the following items:

- ☐ Uniform Grant Application in fillable PDF format. Signature page must be printed, signed, scanned and submitted with application.

## NOFO ID: 2758-2453

- ☐ Uniform Budget utilizing the template provided by DCEO for this project. The entire budget with all worksheets included even if the worksheets are not relevant to the grant opportunity must be submitted with the application materials. Signature page must be printed, signed, scanned and submitted with application.
- ☐ Conflict of Interest Disclosure
- ☐ Mandatory Disclosures

This Notice of Funding Opportunity also requires the submission of the following other programmatic specific items:

- ☐ Program Specific Application which contains a Project Narrative – there is no limit on the number of pages, spacing, font, etc. Each proposal should include a narrative containing the following information:
  - A detailed description of applicant's history of working with projects for tourism, education, preservation and promotion along Route 66 as well as experience and ability with managing state grants and project timelines to complete project within proposed grant period;
  - Project description with clear geographic location and targeted benefits to businesses and attractions on Route 66;
  - Potential tourism economic impact the project will have on communities and businesses located along Route 66;
  - Projects that demonstrate the potential for promoting future tourism trends that includes electrified transportation (i.e., electric vehicles);
  - Detailed timeline and budget for project that align with intent of this opportunity;
  - Plans for feasibility for sustainability of the project beyond the grant period;
  - Demonstration of how the project ties into the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Route 66
  - Performance measures for each project you are proposing in the application and methodologies of how you plan to track performance.

### **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 before submitting its application. To establish a SAM registration, go to [www.SAM.gov](http://www.SAM.gov) and/or utilize this instructional link: [How to Register in SAM from the www.grants.illinois.gov Resource Links tab](#). Please note, making SAM.gov registrations “public” will expedite the GATA Grantee Portal pre-qualification process.
- (ii) Provide a valid UEI number in its application, which matches the UEI number used in both the applicant entity's SAM registration and 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 Department will 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 Department is ready to make a Federal pass-through or State award, the Department 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.**

Applications for this opportunity must be submitted by 5PM on January 31st, 2023.

Application materials must be submitted to the Department via electronic form at <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/4a0b86f4e8e241789efd6e3346b047ab>.

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 allows reimbursement of pre-award costs back to July 1, 2022. Other restrictions can be found in Sections B. and C.3.

**7. Other Submission Requirements.**

Documents stored in Google Docs or other cloud-based servers are not allowed.

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

**E. Application Review Information**

**1. Criteria.**

Grant proposals will be reviewed on a competitive basis. Each proposal will be scored on a 100-point scale (or on a percentage scale). The Department shall consider the following criteria when evaluating the application submittal: Need, Capacity, and Quality.

Quality – 60 Points

Up to 60 points may be awarded for projects that best align with the intent of this opportunity. Points will be based on:

- Applicant provided a timeline and budget that are appropriate for the project and that align with the intent of this opportunity;
- Applicant provided the geographic scope of the services to have the greatest potential to generate increased tourism to the area;
- Applicant demonstrated the tourism impact this project will have on the area;
- Applicant demonstrated the feasibility of the plan for sustainability of the project beyond the grant period;
- Applicant demonstrated how the project will tie into the 100th Anniversary of Route 66;
- Applicant included projects that have the potential for promoting future tourism trends that include electric vehicles and other electrified transportation especially in areas with visitor services travelers can enjoy while charging vehicles.

Capacity – 20 Points

## NOFO ID: 2758-2453

Up to 20 Points will be awarded to the applicant that demonstrates the ability to carry out the services for tourism, education, preservation and promotion of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Route 66. Points will be based on:

- The applicant demonstrated the experience and ability to provide services outlined in the NOFO and successfully complete the project tasks within the proposed grant period;
- The applicant demonstrated the ability to track and measure the performance of the project as well as the quality of systems/methodologies used to track performance;

### Need – 20 Points

Up to 20 points will be awarded to the applicant that can demonstrate the ability and experience to meet the needs for this project. Points will be based on:

- Applicant provided a clear description of the geographic scope of the project and how the targeted area will benefit from the project;
- Applicant clearly demonstrated the potential economic impact the project will have on communities and businesses located along Route 66.

## **2. 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 down the list of scores (starting at the highest score) until all funds are exhausted.

The Merit Based Review process is subject to appeal. 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 in writing to the Department within 14 calendar days after the date that the grant award notice has been published. The written appeal shall include the name and address of the appealing party, the identification of the grant and a statement of reasons for the appeal. To file an appeal, applicants must submit the appeal in writing and in accordance with the Merit-Based Application Review Appeals Process listed on the Grant Opportunities page of the DCEO website:  
<https://dceo.illinois.gov/aboutdceo/grantopportunities/meritappealreview.html>.

## **3. Anticipated Announcement and State Award Dates, if applicable.**

The Department anticipates sending Notices of State Award (NOSA) 4 weeks after the application period is closed.

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-based 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.

**COVID-19 Requirements:** Due to the COVID-19 public health emergency, to be eligible to receive an award, grant applicants are required to adhere to all applicable executive orders issued by the Governor of Illinois, rules issued by an Illinois state agency, or other directives and/or guidance issued by Illinois state agencies related to the prevention of the spread of COVID-19. These same requirements will apply to grantees in carrying out the activities in the award throughout the award term.

**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).

## 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 shall apply (See 30 ILCS 708/65(c)).

**G. State Awarding Agency Contact(s)**

Greg Mihalich  
Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity  
607 E Adams, Springfield IL 62701  
Email: [Greg.Mihalich@illinois.gov](mailto:Greg.Mihalich@illinois.gov)

**H. Other Information, if applicable**