

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

Awarding Agency Name	Commerce And Econ Opp
Agency Contact	Aaron McEvoy (aaron.mcevoy@illinois.gov)
Announcement Type	Initial
Type of Assistance Instrument	Grant
Funding Opportunity Number	FY24-1
Funding Opportunity Title	Equitable Energy Future Grant Program
CSFA Number	420-35-3054
CSFA Popular Name	Equitable Energy Future
Anticipated Number of Awards	40
Estimated Total Program Funding	\$25,500,000
Award Range	\$250000 - \$1000000
Source of Funding	State
Cost Sharing or Matching Requirements	No
Indirect Costs Allowed	No
Restrictions on Indirect Costs	Yes : Funds a legislated for predevelopment/preconstruction expenses directly related to project scope. Indirect costs are not allowable expenses.
Posted Date	11/16/2023
Application Date Range	11/16/2023 - 06/30/2024 : 5:00PM
Grant Application Link	Please select the entire address below and paste it into the browser... https://dceo.illinois.gov/aboutdceo/grantopportunities/3054-2638.html
Technical Assistance Session	Offered : Yes Mandatory : No Date : 11/30/2023 : 12:00PM Registration link : https://illinois.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAvdOGgpzgjH917V7TNdp423D3vXJUUAbi9#/registration

Agency-specific Content for the Notice of Funding Opportunity

Equitable Energy Future Grant Program NOFO ID: 3054-2638

For information about grants 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" or "DCEO") is issuing this Notice of Funding Opportunity to provide seed funding and pre-development funding opportunities to eligible contractors to support the development of renewable energy and energy efficiency projects benefitting businesses, community organizations, and the workforce in historically disadvantaged communities. The grant program is designed to help remove barriers to project, community and business development caused by lack of capital.

Program Description

The Equitable Energy Future Grant Program, established by Public Act 102-0662, is intended to provide grants of up to \$1 million promoting renewable energy¹ and energy efficiency² projects that will accomplish any or all of the following:

- Provide benefits to low-income communities wherein at least 50% of projected energy produced or saved benefits low-income households³ or not-for-profit organizations providing services to low-income households, affordable housing owners, or community-based businesses providing services to low-income households;
- Invest in equity investment eligible communities (defined below);
- Provide on-the-job training;
- Support contractors who are participating in or have demonstrated an intent to participate in the Clean Energy Contractor Incubator Program and the Clean Energy Primes Contractor Accelerator Program (when operational);
- Employ a minimum of 51% of its workforce from graduates or current or former participants of the following Clean and Equitable Jobs Act (CEJA) and Future Energy Jobs Act (FEJA)⁴ workforce programs: the Clean Jobs Workforce Network Program (when operational), the Illinois Climate

¹ According to the Illinois Power Agency Act, "Renewable energy resources" includes energy and its associated renewable energy credit or renewable energy credits from wind, solar thermal energy, photovoltaic cells and panels, biodiesel, anaerobic digestion, crops and untreated and unadulterated organic waste biomass, and hydropower that does not involve new construction or significant expansion of hydropower dams, waste heat to power systems, or qualified combined heat and power systems.

² According to the Illinois Power Agency Act, "Energy efficiency" means measures that reduce the amount of electricity or natural gas consumed in order to achieve a given end use. "Energy efficiency" includes voltage optimization measures that optimize the voltage at points on the electric distribution voltage system and thereby reduce electricity consumption by electric customers' end use devices. "Energy efficiency" also includes measures that reduce the total Btus of electricity, natural gas, and other fuels needed to meet the end use or uses.

³ According to the Energy Community Reinvestment Act (20 ILCS 735/10-10), low-income households are defined as "persons and families whose income does not exceed 80% of area median income, adjusted for family size and revised every 2 years."

⁴ 220 ILCS 5/16-108.12

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- Works Preapprenticeship Program (when operational), the Returning Residents Clean Jobs Training Program (when operational),
- Provide avenues of employment for the workforce training efforts of the previously-established programs created by FEJA, including the Solar Training Pipeline Program and the Multi-cultural Jobs Program.

"Equity investment eligible communities" are defined as geographic areas throughout Illinois which would most benefit from equitable investments by the State designed to combat discrimination. Specifically, the eligible communities are defined as the following areas:

- Restore. Reinvest. Renew (R3) areas as established pursuant to Section 10-40 of the Cannabis Regulation and Tax Act. R3 areas are defined as Illinois communities that have been harmed by violence, excessive incarceration, and economic disinvestment and have been excluded from economic opportunities, including opportunities in the energy sector⁵; and
- Environmental justice communities, as defined by the Illinois Power Agency pursuant to the Illinois Power Agency Act, where residents have historically been subject to disproportionate burdens of pollution, including pollution from the energy sector.⁶

This program will provide upfront funding and seed capital to support the development of renewable energy and energy efficiency projects in these communities.

Grant funds may be used to support a wide array of activities to support the development of renewable energy and energy efficiency projects, including:

- Planning and project development, including costs for professional services such as architecture, design, engineering, auditing, consulting, and developer services
- Project application, deposit, and approval
- Purchasing and leasing of land
- Permitting and zoning
- Interconnection application costs and fees, studies, and expenses
- Equipment and supplies
- Community outreach, marketing, and engagement
- Staff and operations expenses

Funding for these activities may fall under the following two project phases: 1) planning and feasibility phase and 2) pre-development construction phase. The Department will review Phase 1 performance metrics to determine whether the grantee may receive funding for Phase 2 activities. Budget and scope of work modifications may be made at that time. Lists of activities for the different phases can be found in the Program Application.

Program History

The Equitable Energy Future Grant Program is part of a larger strategy to equitably grow the clean energy workforce in Illinois, as specified by the CEJA (Public Act 102-0662). CEJA establishes various new programs and expands existing programs aimed at accelerating the adoption of clean energy sources, electric vehicles, and energy efficiency efforts. The manufacturing, construction, and maintenance activities required to meet these regulations, incentives, and goals will require significant expansion of businesses and well-trained workers. Historically, these workforce investments have not benefited businesses and contractors in underserved communities in Illinois. The Equitable Energy Future Grant Program is one of several programs created by CEJA to rectify these historical inequities by expanding business opportunities for equity eligible contractors. The Equitable Energy Future Program is

⁵ See R3 areas map at this link: <https://r3.illinois.gov/eligibility>

⁶ See environmental justice communities map at this link: <https://www.illinoissfa.com/environmental-justice-communities/>

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one of two components of the Jobs and Environmental Justice Grant Program established in Section 5-60 of Public Act 102-0662.

Performance Goals and Measures

Successful applicants will be required to report and document milestones achieved and other relevant outputs and outcomes of the grant. These metrics may include:

- Planning/development activities completed
- Renewable project(s) successfully completed
- Energy efficiency projects successfully completed
- Installed capacity of completed renewable energy projects
- Projected output of completed renewable energy projects
- Projected annual energy savings of completed energy efficiency projects
- Permanent full-time equivalent jobs created
- Number of trainees entering employment recruited from CEJA or FEJA Workforce Programs
- Expenditures spent with an Equity Eligible Contractor
- Number of low-wage/low-skill trainees receiving a wage/benefit increase
- Investment leveraged

There is a risk that planning and development activities may lead to the conclusion that the project is not feasible, that the project should not advance to Phase 2 or the construction phase, or that the project plan should be significantly altered. Grantees will be required to provide a project narrative detailing how the planning/development activities led to these decisions and how outcomes could be improved in the future.

For projects that do advance to the construction phase, reporting is required during and post project construction and based on project goals and program metrics.

B. Funding Information

This grant program is utilizing state funds appropriated by the Illinois General Assembly under Public Act 102-0017 (<https://www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/102/PDF/102-0017.pdf>). Total amount of funding expected to be awarded through this NOFO is \$25.5M. Awards will range from \$250,000 to \$1 million. The Department expects to make up to 40 awards for though this NOFO.

Grant start dates will be determined after application review. The period of performance is expected to be up to four years from start of the award.

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 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.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/business_services/corp.html);

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- 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.

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:

- a. Equity Eligible Contractors, per the definition in the Illinois Power Agency Act⁷, defined as:
 - i. A business that is majority-owned by equity eligible persons (see definition below)
 - ii. A nonprofit or cooperative that is majority governed by equity eligible persons
 - iii. A natural person that is an equity eligible person offering personal services as an independent contractor.
- b. An Illinois business or nonprofit or cooperative organization that meets the equity building criteria in paragraph (9.5) of subsection (g) of Section 8-103B of the Public Utilities Act.
 - i. Must provide a diversity inclusion and access plan with goals and objectives for subcontractors, vendors, and workforce. Describe your strategy to meet workforce and contractor objectives described in Section A-Program Description.

Equity eligible persons, per the definition in the Illinois Power Agency Act, are:

- Persons who graduate from or are current or former participants in the CEJA or FEJA workforce programs;⁸
- Persons who are graduates of or are currently enrolled in the foster care system;
- Persons who were formerly incarcerated; or
- Persons whose primary residence is in an equity eligible investment community (see the definition in Section A above).

All applicants must demonstrate proof of a historical or future, and persisting, long-term partnership with the community in which the project will be located (especially those within environmental justice (EJ) and/or Restore. Reinvest. Renew. (R3) communities

⁷ 20 ILCS 3855/1-10

⁸ The CEJA and FEJA workforce programs include: the Clean Jobs Workforce Network Program, the Clean Energy Contractor Incubator Program, the Illinois Climate Works Preapprenticeship Program, the Returning Residents Clean Jobs Training Program, the Clean Energy Primes Contractor Accelerator Program, the Solar Training Pipeline Program, and the Multi-cultural Jobs Program.

and/or serving EJ and/or R3 communities) and must demonstrate how the project will benefit that community.

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 for this program. However, applicants for this opportunity are strongly encouraged to leverage other incentive programs or funding sources to improve the cost effectiveness of grant funds. Examples may include the Equitable Energy Upgrade Program, the Clean Energy Jobs and Justice Fund, Illinois Solar for All or the Adjustable Block Program funding, utility energy efficiency program incentives, and more. See the Program Application for other examples.

3. Indirect Cost Rate.

Indirect costs reimbursement is not allowed for this opportunity.

4. Other, if applicable.

Applicants may submit one 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:

Aaron McEvoy
Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity
607 E Adams Street
Springfield, IL 62701
Email: aaron.mcevoy@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.
- 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

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This Notice of Funding Opportunity also requires the submission of:

- Project application utilizing the template provided. The Project application includes the following information:
 - Applicant information – Information about the applicant, including:
 - legal structure (e.g. S corp, sole prop, co-op, etc.),
 - description of parent companies or subsidiaries,
 - annual revenue,
 - number of employees,
 - equity eligible contractor eligibility,
 - connection to the community where the project will be located, and
 - any partner businesses/entities who will be contributing to the project.
 - Location and need – Information about the project location site(s), including ownership and the community needs the project will address.
 - Project description and activities -- Detailed information about the renewable energy and/or energy efficiency elements of the project and the activities for which applicant is requesting funding.
 - Project partners – The partner business or not-for-profit entity that receives the benefit of the completed project. All applicants must demonstrate proof of a historical or future, and persisting, long-term partnership with the community in which the project will be located (especially those within environmental justice (EJ) and/or Restore. Reinvest. Renew. (R3) communities and/or serving EJ and/or R3 communities) and must demonstrate how the project will benefit that community.
 - Project outcomes – Estimated energy saved or produced, projected reduction in utility energy cost, and the beneficiaries of the savings.
 - Any leveraged funding sources or incentive programs that the applicant has applied to or plans to apply to for the project.
 - Estimated total number of months required to complete the project.
 - Staffing – Key staff assigned to the project and their roles.
 - Workforce development -- Description of how the project will promote workforce equity and quality jobs through any of the following:
 - On-the-job training for CEJA or Future Energy Jobs Act (FEJA) training program current participants, former participants, or graduates⁹.
 - Employment of contractors who are:
 - Graduates or current or former participants in the CEJA or FEJA training programs;
 - Persons who participate in similar workforce or contractor programs that serve underrepresented populations in Illinois;
 - Persons who are graduates of or currently enrolled in the foster care system;
 - Persons who were formerly incarcerated; or
 - Persons whose primary residence is in an equity investment eligible community.
 - Number of permanent or temporary jobs that will be created.
- Supplemental documentation (please attach)

⁹ CEJA and FEJA workforce programs include: the Clean Jobs Workforce Network Program (when in operation), the Climate Works Pre-apprenticeship Program (when in operation), the Returning Resident Clean Jobs Training Program (when in operation), the Clean Energy Contractor Incubator Program (when in operation), the Clean Energy Primes Contractor Accelerator Program (when in operation), the Solar Training Pipeline Program, and the Multi-cultural Jobs Program.

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- Documentation of IRS declaration: 501c3, c6, etc.
- Documentation verifying that main applicant is a certified equity eligible contractor (if applicable)¹⁰
- Attestation that applicant is an Equity Eligible Contractor, including, if necessary, proof of participation in the Clean Jobs Workforce Network Program, Clean Energy Contractor Incubator Program, Returning Residents Clean Jobs Training Program, Illinois Climate Works Preapprenticeship Program, or Clean Energy Primes Contractor Accelerator Program (see application forms)
- Property ownership document OR document demonstrating applicant's authority to make site improvements.
- Letter(s) of support from community leaders and stakeholders documenting their support for the project and the community needs it will address (optional but recommended)
- Letter(s) of support from partner CEJA or FEJA workforce program grantee or other workforce program about how the project will help grow the clean energy workforce (optional but recommended)
- For Phase 2 projects: Design or construction documents that provide details of the project, if available (examples: building preliminary schematic, energy audit report, site map). These documents may be provided after Phase 1 activities are completed.
- For Phase 2 projects: Quotes used for budget estimates, if available (examples: preconstruction/construction budget, operating budget, contractor proposals/estimates). These documents may be provided after Phase 1 activities are completed.

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 www.SAM.gov and/or utilize this instructional link: [How to Register in SAM from the www.grants.illinois.gov Resource Links 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 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 will be reviewed until all available funding is exhausted.

¹⁰ Applicants who are Approved Vendors or Designees of the Illinois Shines program are required to provide documentation that they are *certified* Equity Eligible Contractors. To become certified, contractors must submit a form to the Illinois Shines program that attests that they meet one or more of the qualifications listed above. See <https://illinoisshines.com/become-an-equity-eligible-contractor-eec-approved-vendor-or-designee/>.

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Application materials must be submitted to the Department via electronic form at <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/02498a4c763846568c418c486b4d4c1d>.

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 not allow reimbursement of pre-award costs. 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. Proposals that fail to meet equity contractor eligibility criteria as required in project application will not be considered (see Section C.1.). Each proposal will be scored on a percentage scale. The Department shall consider the following criteria when evaluating the application submittal: Need, Capacity, Quality, and Cost Effectiveness.

Documentation of Need (10%)	
The project's location within or serving equity investment eligible communities or populations and suitability for proposed use.	5%
The project's identification of community needs that the project will address.	5%
Applicant Qualifications and Capacity (20%)	
Applicant's capacity to execute the project and the qualifications of those assigned to the project and/or plan to hire or contract with other partners to execute the project.	10%
Applicant's historical or future long-term partnership with the community in which the project will be located.	5%
Extent to which applicant and partners/contractors exceed minimum equity eligibility qualifications (such as equity eligible contractor requirements).	5%
Project Quality	
Quality of plan to save or generate energy through renewable energy projects or energy efficiency improvements and the anticipated outcomes in terms of energy saved, energy generated, reduction in utility energy costs, and non-energy benefits.	15%
Quality of plan to execute project through activities related to project feasibility, project conception, project planning, project development, and implementation.	10%

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Quality of plan for how the energy and cost savings will benefit equity investment eligible communities, low-income households, not-for-profit organizations serving equity investment eligible communities, etc.	10%
Quality of plan to support clean energy workforce and contractor development by hiring equity eligible contractors, including CEJA or FEJA workforce program graduates and/or contractor participants to work on the project and/or offer on-the-job training opportunities to CEJA or FEJA participants.	15%
Cost Effectiveness/Return on Investment (20%)	
The cost efficiency and effectiveness of the planned activities and projected outcomes.	10%
Ability to leverage existing funding sources, incentives, services and partnerships to improve the cost effectiveness and return on investment of the project.	10%

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. Grants will be awarded according to the following process: Applications that meet the NOFO eligibility requirements and receive scores of 75% or above will receive funding, until all available funds are allocated. The final grants will be negotiated by the Department based on the applications’ alignment with the requirements of this NOFO. The purpose of negotiations will be to arrive at acceptable grant terms, including budgetary and scope-of-work provisions, at which time the final decision to make a grant award will be made.

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/meritappreview.html>.

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

After the application period is closed, the Department will conduct a merit based 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-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.

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)

Grant Help Desk
Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity
Email: CEO.GrantHelp@illinois.gov

H. Other Information, if applicable

The Department reserves the right to request additional information from applicants to evaluate applications. Submission of an application confers no right to an award or to a subsequent grant agreement. The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity is not obligated to award any grants under this program, to pay any costs incurred by the applicant in the preparation and submission of an application or pay any grant-related costs incurred prior to the grant's beginning date.

Renewals and Grant Modifications: The Department may authorize the renewal of grant funding for Phase 2 activities after Phase 1 activities have been completed, based on the activities, outcomes and performance of the grantee, as documented in the Periodic Performance Reports, as well as the availability of funds under the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act. The renewal, if granted, would occur after an evaluation of activities and outcomes by the Department. Budget and scope of work modifications may be made at that time, based on results of Phase 1 activities.

Technical Assistance and Professional Development: Grantees must plan on attending group or individual technical assistance and/or training sessions as directed by the Department. Grantees may have the opportunity to garner additional support from a program coach contracted by the Department. Depending on grantee needs and capacity, the Department may require grantees to work with the program coach to support project planning and development.

NOFO Technical Assistance: The Department will provide Technical Assistance (TA) throughout the application process, in the form of webinars, office hours, on-line resources and an FAQ.

- Technical Assistance webinar
- Office Hours: Request a 30-minute virtual technical assistance session by emailing ceo.ceja@illinois.gov.
- If you desire support to complete this application, contact a Clean Energy Contractor Incubator (when in operation), a Small Business Development Center (<https://dceo.illinois.gov/smallbizassistance/beginhere/sbdc.html>), an APEX Accelerator (<https://dceo.illinois.gov/smallbizassistance/beginhere/ptac.html>), or the Illinois Office of Minority Economic Empowerment (<https://dceo.illinois.gov/omee.html>).

Questions and Answers: Applicants may submit questions at ceo.ceja@illinois.gov. Responses will be posted on the Notice of Funding Opportunity webpage.