



Equitable Energy Future Grant Program Bidder's Conference

September 19, 2024



Illinois
Department of Commerce
& Economic Opportunity
JB Pritzker, Governor

Presenters

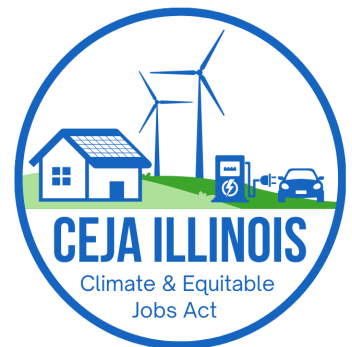
- **Hubert Murray, Program Manager**
DCEO – Office of Energy & Business Utility
- **Aaron McEvoy, Equitable Energy Future Grant Manager**
DCEO - Office of Energy & Business Utility
- **Amber Broughton**
DCEO - Office of Accountability



Items of Note

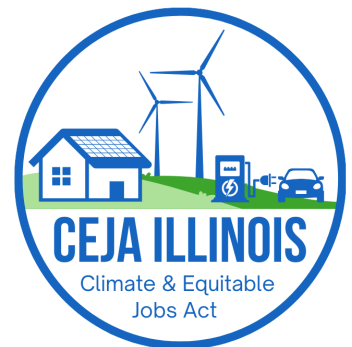


1. This session is being recorded
2. The recording and this slide deck will be made available in a follow-up email to this session and on the NOFO website
3. Please remain muted throughout the session and add questions in the chat with your questions. There will be a Q&A at the end of the session.



Overview

1. Climate & Equitable Jobs Act (CEJA)
2. Equitable Energy Futures Program
3. DCEO Grant Process & Requirements
4. Grant Application & Submission Requirements



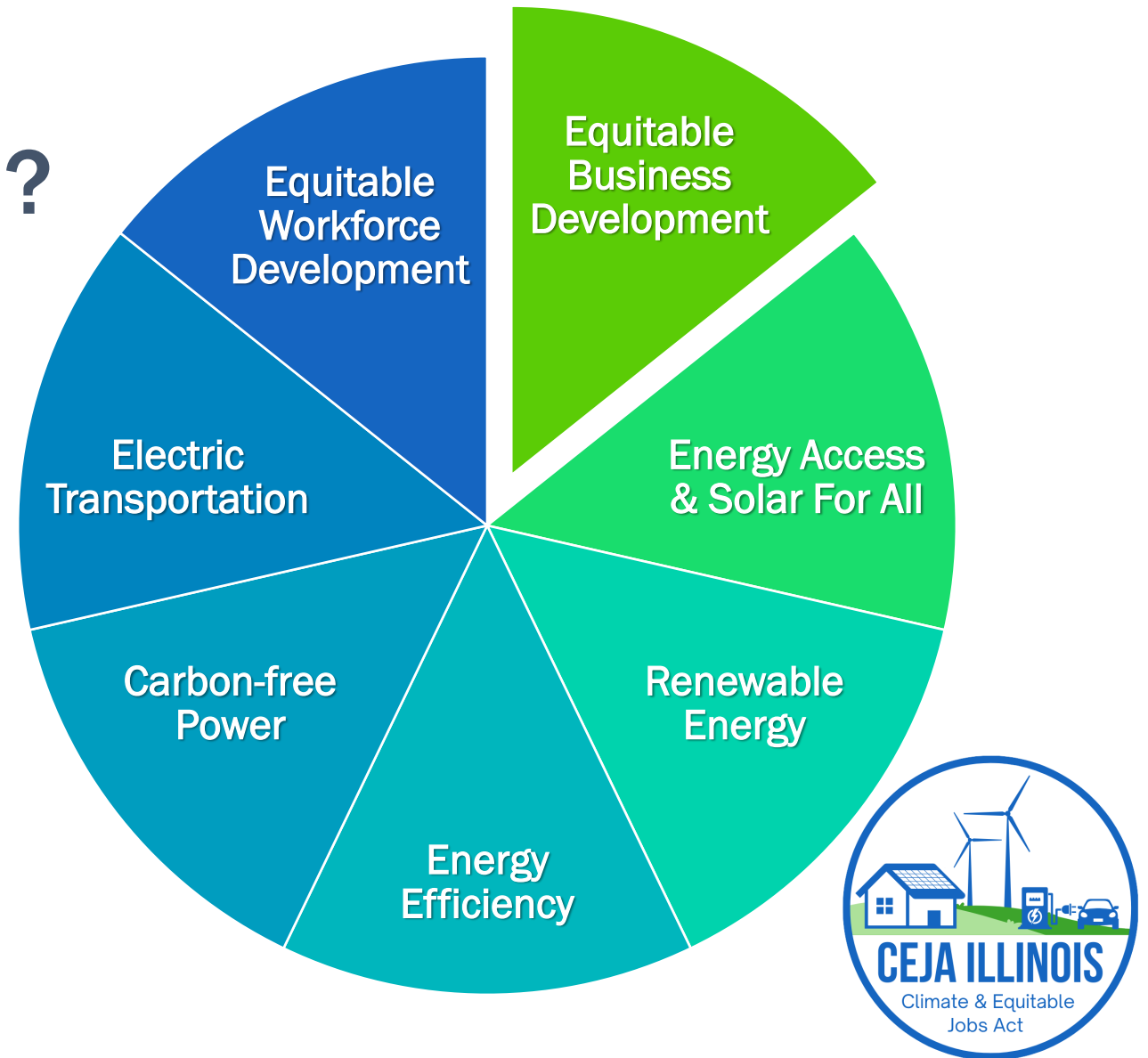


Climate & Equitable Jobs Act (CEJA)



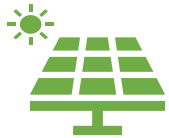
What is the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act (CEJA) ?

Comprehensive energy legislation that centers equity and puts Illinois on track to achieve 100 % clean energy by 2050.



CEJA Workforce and Contractor Programs*

Economic Development Jobs & Environmental Justice (OEBU)



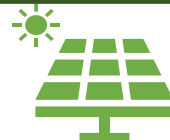
Coal to Solar



Energy Transition
Community Grant
\$40M/yr



Equitable Energy
Future Grant
Up to \$25.5M/yr



Solar Energy
Sovereignty Grant
Up to \$8.5M

\$74M

Workforce training programs (OET)



Clean Jobs
Workforce Network
\$21M/yr.



Climate Works
Pre-apprenticeship
\$9M/yr



Returning Resident
Clean Jobs
\$6M/yr



FEJA
workforce
programs



Energy Transition
Navigators
\$6M/yr.



Energy Transition
Barrier Reduction
\$15M/yr

\$57M+

Contractor support programs (OEIT)



Contractor
Incubator
\$21M/yr.



Contractor
Primes Accelerator
\$9M/yr.

\$30M+

Councils & Boards

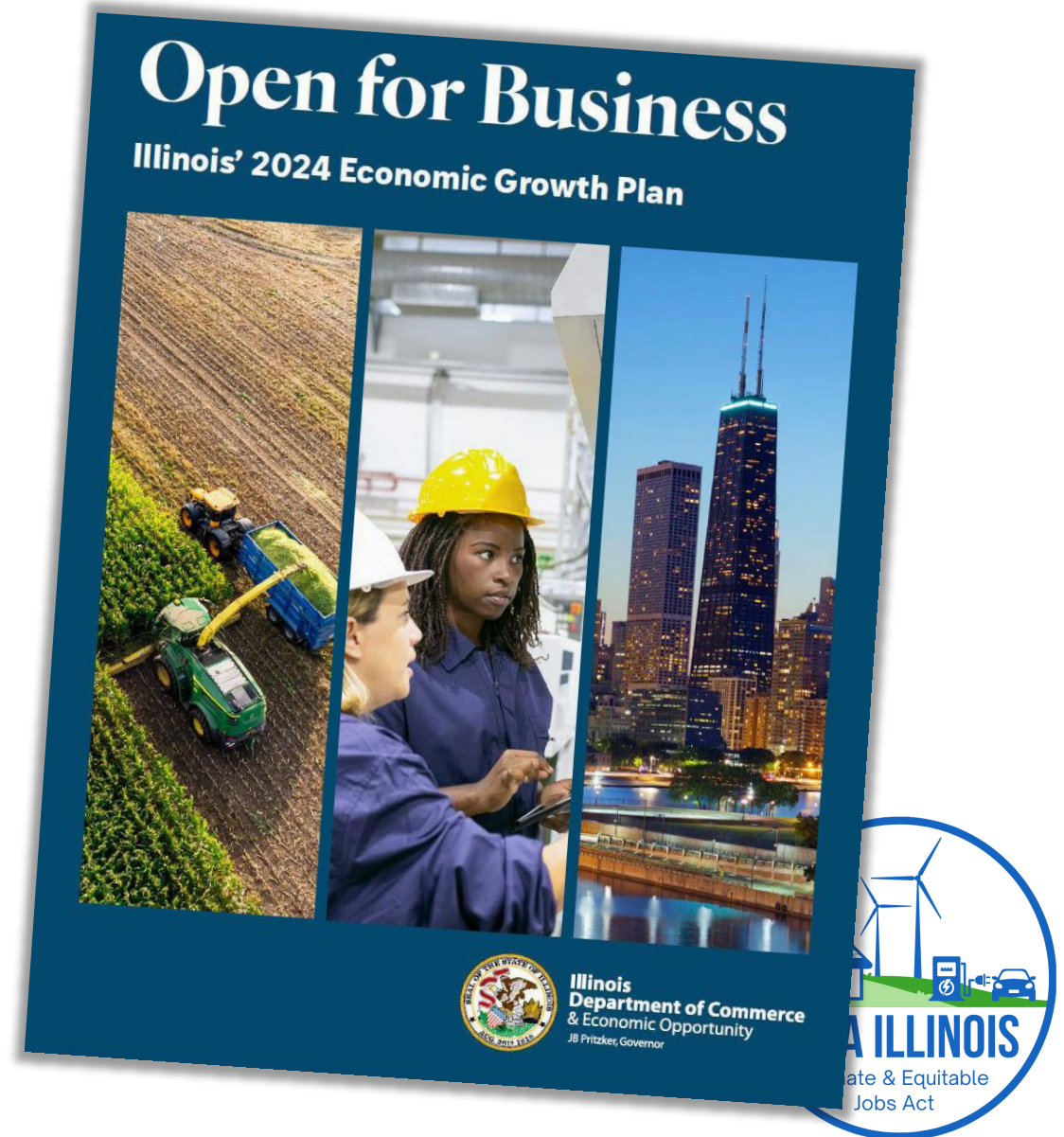
- Energy Workforce Advisory Council
- Clean Energy Jobs and Justice Fund

* Each grant opportunity is awarded annually. Closed grants have awarded all available grants for the year, although some grantees may be open to additional partners. Please note that open grants may only be open for certain areas. Refer to [CEJA Updates & Program Status \(illinois.gov\)](https://illinois.gov/ceja/updates) for currently available grants and open areas.

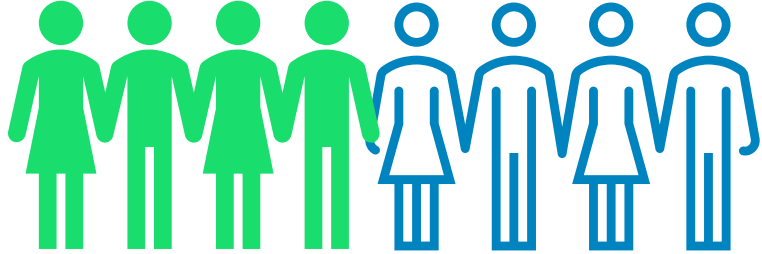


Open for Business: Illinois' 2024 Economic Growth Plan

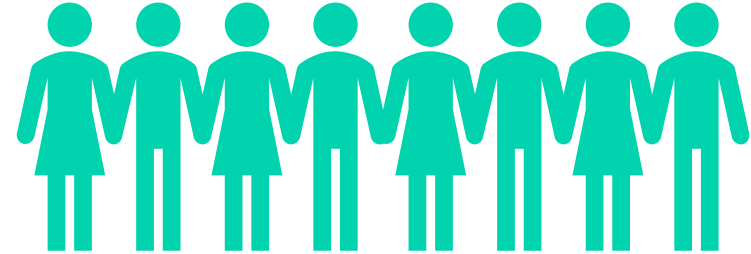
- CEJA legislation and Equitable Energy Future addresses 3 of 4 economic development goals
 - Advance Comprehensive Economic Development
 - Promote Equitable Growth by Empowering Workers, Entrepreneurs, and Communities
 - Build Out the New Clean Energy Economy
- Equity Focused



CEJA Equity Focus



Some groups of people and communities benefit more from clean energy investments while some others suffer more from environmental impacts & community disinvestment.



The benefits of clean energy investments and good-paying clean energy jobs should be distributed equitably.



What is Equity?

Equality



The assumption is that **everyone benefits from the same supports**. This is equal treatment.

Equity



Everyone gets the supports they need (this is the concept of "affirmative action"), thus producing equity.

Justice



All 3 can see the game without supports or accommodations because **the cause(s) of the inequity was addressed**. The systemic barrier has been removed.





Equitable Energy Future Grant Program



NOFO Fundamentals: Equitable Energy Futures



Funding Background & Goal

The Equitable Energy Future Grant Program (EEF) is one of the two grants funded under the Jobs & Environmental Justice Grant Fund

EEF offers pre-development funding to support the development of renewable energy & energy efficiency projects.



Eligible Applicants

The goal of EEF is to remove barriers to project, community & business development caused by lack of capital.

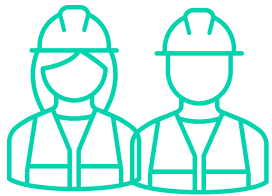


Funding

NOFO Fundamentals: Equitable Energy Futures



Funding Purpose
& Goal



Eligible Applicants



Funding

- **Equity Eligible Contractors**
Must be certified through the Illinois Power Agency's Equity Eligible Contractor program.
- **An Illinois business, non-profit, or cooperative organization that meets equity-building criteria.**

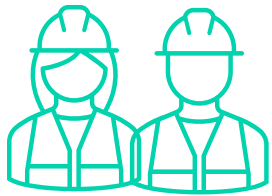
This determination is made at the time of application based on completion of the required Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Access Plan.

Become an EEC: <https://illinoisshines.com/become-an-equity-eligible-contractor-eec-approved-vendor-or-designee/>

NOFO Fundamentals: Equitable Energy Futures



Funding Purpose
& Goal



Eligible Applicants



Funding

Equity Eligible Contractors

At least 50% of ownership/partner/proprietor, board must meet one of the qualifications below:

1. Persons who graduated from or are current or former participants in a CEJA Workforce Development Program, the Solar Training Pipeline, or Multi-Cultural Jobs Program
2. Persons who are graduates of or currently enrolled in the foster care system
3. Persons who were formerly incarcerated
4. Persons whose primary residence is in an equity investment eligible community

NOFO Fundamentals: Equitable Energy Futures



Funding Purpose & Goal

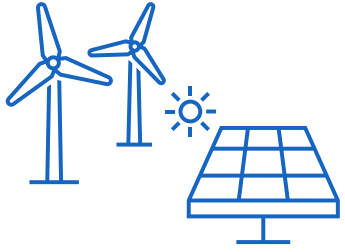


Eligible Applicants



Funding

- **Total Funding:** \$25.5 million per year
- **Per Applicant Award:** \$250,000 - \$1,000,000
- **Estimated Number of Awards:** Up to 40
- **Applicants may apply for multiple projects.** However, applicants will only be approved for a total award amount of funds up to \$3 million between all projects.
- **Applicants may apply for both EEF and CSES.** However, they can only receive a maximum award between EEF and CSES of up to \$3 million.



Sample of Round 1 Funded Projects

Project Description

New build, solar farm on 35+ acres previously used as a landfill. Applicant is partnering with a faith-based organization and the city to develop and launch the program.

Project Type: New build

Renewable/Energy Efficiency Project: Renewable Energy

Project Location: Decatur

Estimated Outcome: Generate 4.4 MW AC

Funded Phases: Phase 1 & 2

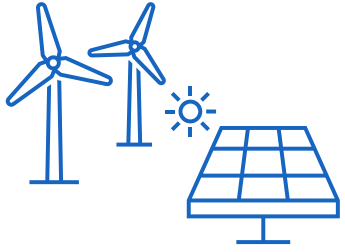
Funded Activities: Testing, Studies, Community Outreach

Applicant Type: Equity Eligible Contractor

Estimated Outcome: Generate 4.4 MW AC

Beneficiaries: Local low income residents (75% of energy generated will go to this population through subscriptions)

Clean Energy Workforce: Plan to employ CEJA/FEJA program graduates (33% of staff)



Sample of Round 2 Funded Projects

Project Description:

30-acre property formerly used as farmland adjacent to brownfield site. Development of a solar array.

Project Type: New build

Renewable/Energy Efficiency Project: Renewable Energy

Project Location: Hanna City

Estimated Outcome: Generate 6.2 MW AC

Funded Phases: Phase 1 & 2

Funded Activities: Interconnection fees, Site Prep and Studies, Down Payments

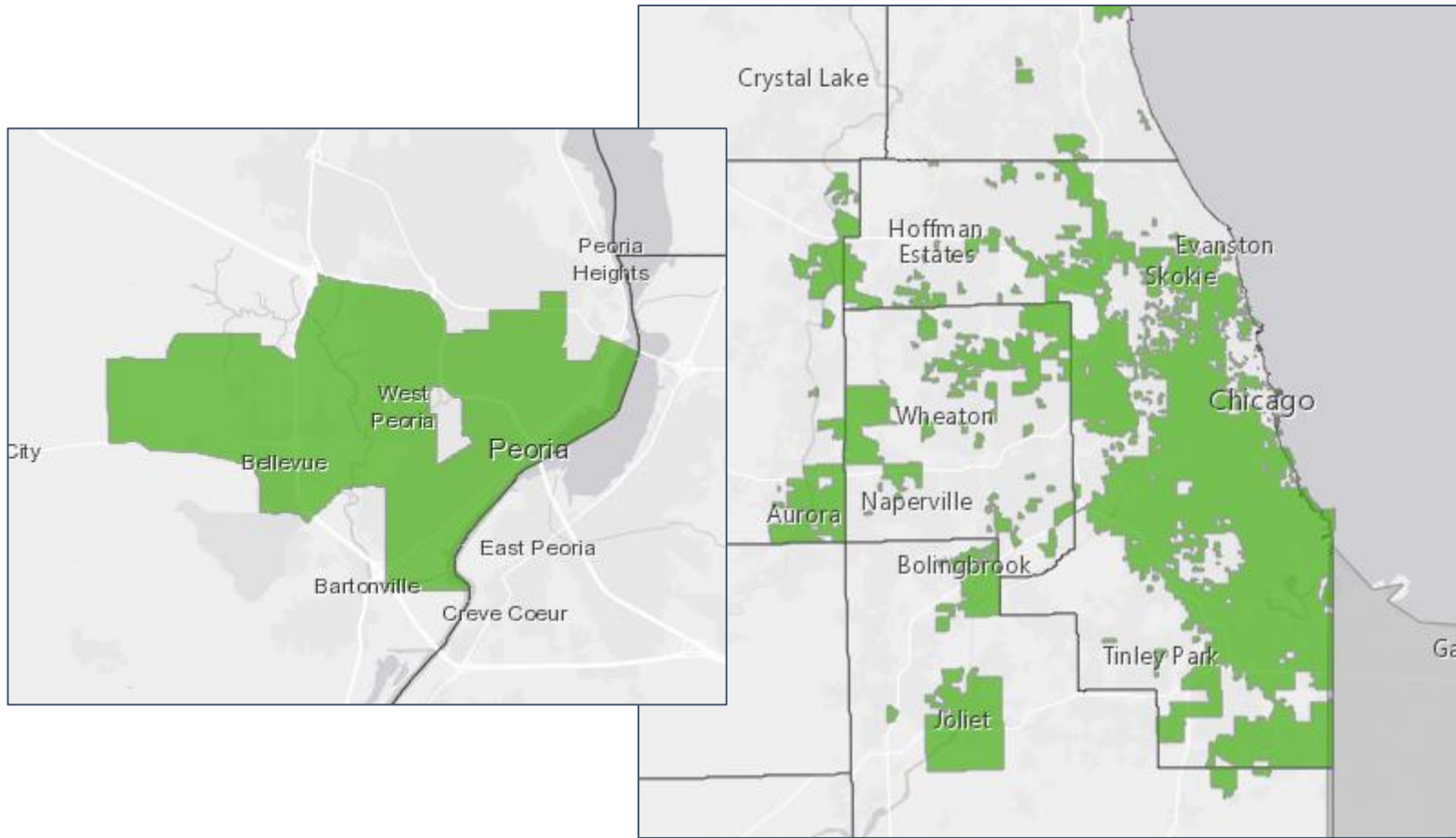
Applicant Type: Equity Eligible Contractor

Beneficiaries: Low-income residents and NFPs that serve the community invited to be a part of program.

Clean Energy Workforce: Commitment recruit and employ CEJA/FEJA program graduates (40%-60% of project staff)

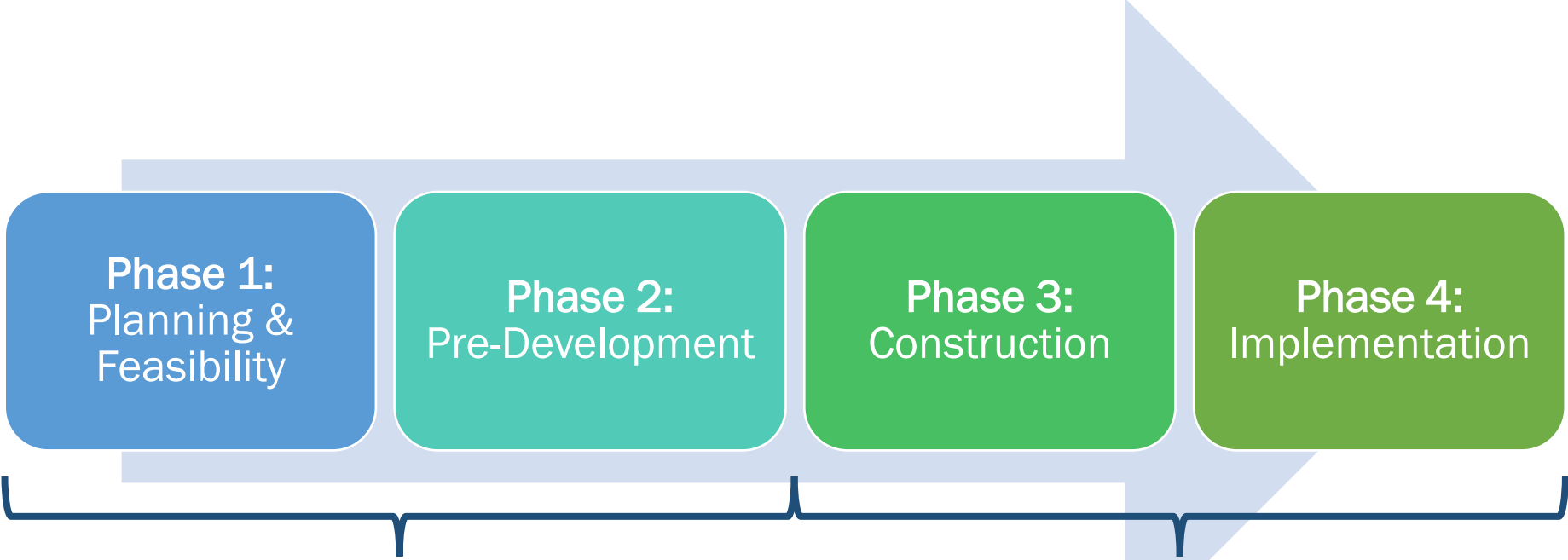
Priority projects are those that are located in or support an equity investment eligible community.

- Environmental Justice communities
- Restore. Reinvest. Renew (R3) communities



<https://energyequity.illinois.gov/resources/equity-investment-eligible-community-map.html>

Project Phases



Activities funded by EEF

Applications can be submitted for
Phase 1 only, Phase 2 only,
or Phase 1 & 2

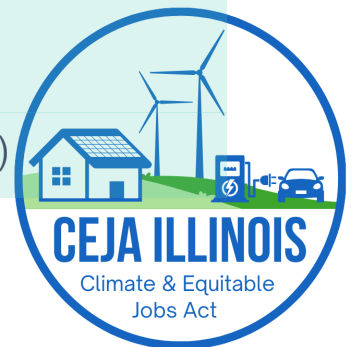
Activities not funded by EEF
(DCEO Reporting Required)

Construction & Implementation costs
are not allowable under EEF



Allowable Activities

Phase 1: Planning and feasibility	Phase 2: Pre-development construction
Market analysis	Selecting contractors/securing contracts
Property due diligence	Project application costs
Community outreach & engagement	Purchasing/leasing land
Architecture, design, engineering services	Permitting/zoning
Auditing, consulting, developer services	Interconnection application costs, studies
Project pro-forma/budget	Equipment & supplies related to pre-development
Site acquisition planning	Employee training and training supplies
Sourcing project funding	Community outreach, marketing, engagement
Project grant writing	Staff & operations expenses
Interconnection application fees	Transmission line development
	Site remediation and clean up (capped funding)



What are the reporting requirements?

Depending on the project, grantees may be required to report on some or all the items below in addition to project specific metrics/deliverables

Planning/development activities completed

Renewable project(s) successfully completed

Energy efficiency projects successfully completed

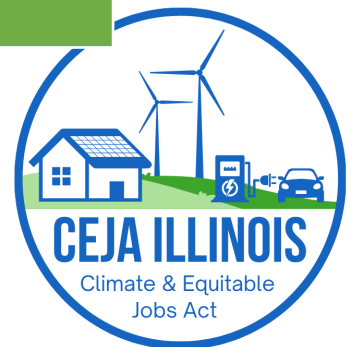
Installed capacity of completed renewable energy projects

Projected output of completed renewable energy projects

Projected annual energy savings of completed energy efficiency projects

Permanent full-time equivalent jobs created

Investment leveraged



Project Funding



- Funds for EEF are disbursed based on milestones determined during the negotiation process.
- Each milestone is connected to a critical decision point in the project.
- An agreed upon percentage of funds will be disbursed upon completion of each milestone until all milestones are completed.



Project Funding Example

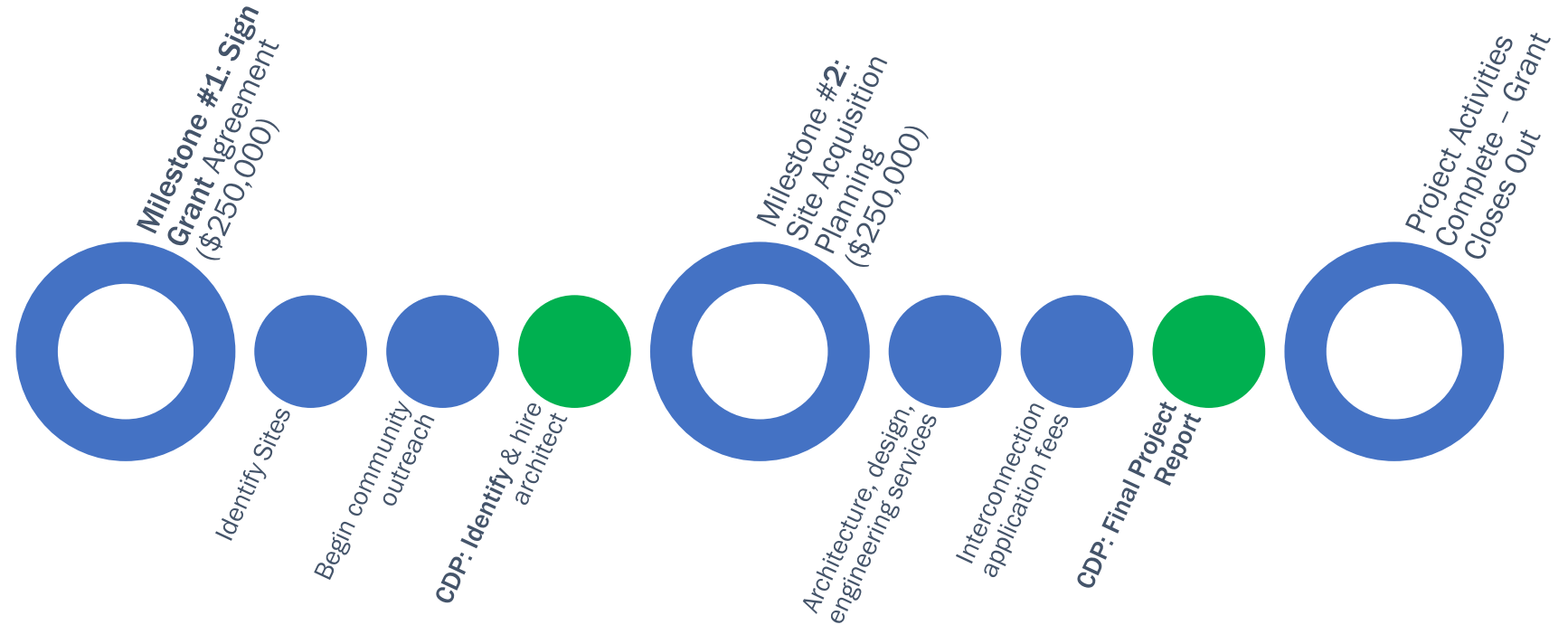
Grantee A

Award Amount: \$500,000

Number of Milestones: 2

Milestone Funding Percentage:
50% of grant funds per milestone

Funded Phase(s): Phase 1

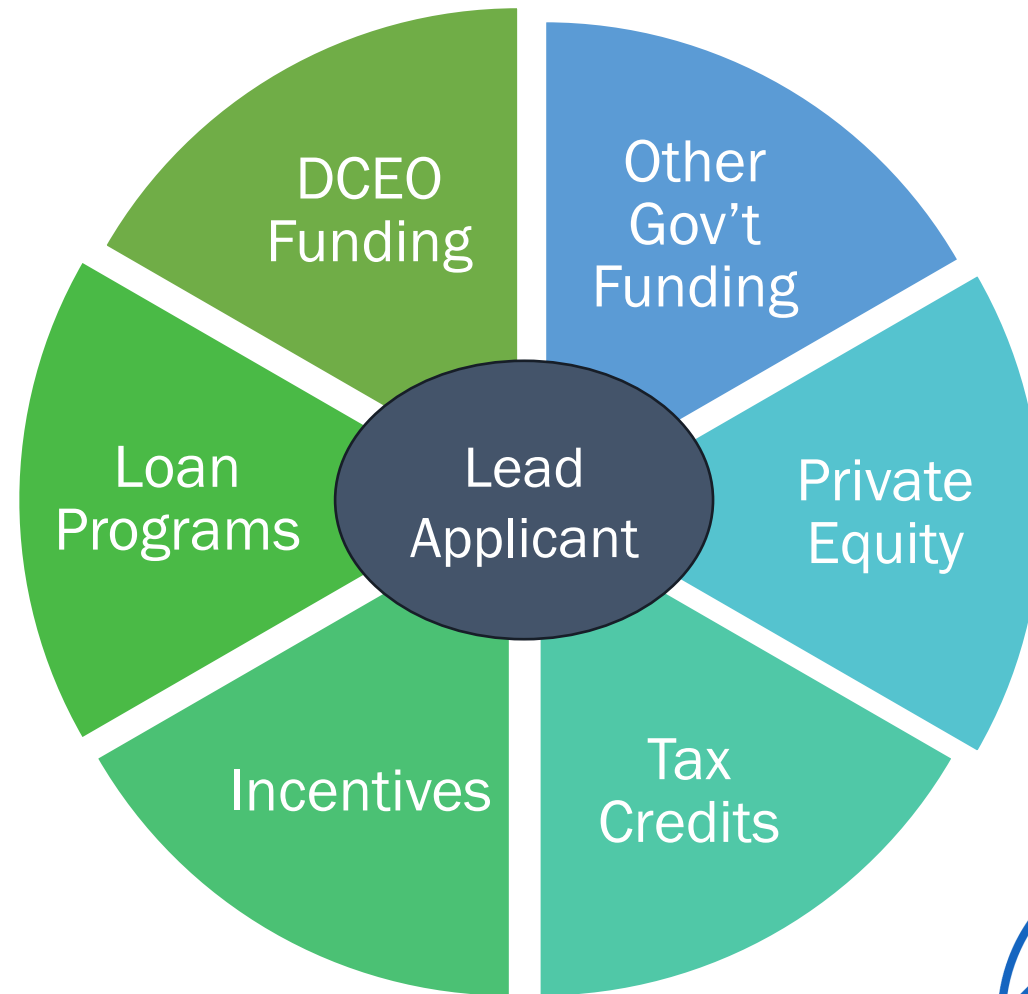


Building the Capital Stack

Applicants must demonstrate how they plan to fund their project.

EEF funds only cover a portion of project funds.

Applicants are encouraged to explore other available funding opportunities through DCEO, other state agencies, federal support, loans, incentives, private equity etc.



Project Scenario: Non-profit organization, Net Zero/Near Net Zero Retrofit, located in and/or serves EJ/R3/DAC, mixed use commercial/residential building with market rate and low-income tenants

IFA

IPA

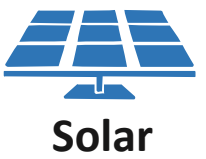
DCEO

IHDA


ICC


FEDS


Local



C-PACE 

Building Electrification 

REC Bridge Loan 

Energy Sovereignty Loan 

Community-Driven Community Solar 

SSBCI 

Working Capital 


Bright Neighborhoods Pilot 

ILSFA IL Shines/ Adjustable Block 


EEP/EEC & Min. Equity Standard 

CEJA Equitable Energy Future Grant 

Community Solar Sovereignty Grant 

CEJA Incubator/ Accelerator 

CEJA Workforce Hub/ Pre-Apprentichip/ On The Job Training 


Jobs and Justice Fund 

Green Resilient Retrofit Program 

Equitable Energy Upgrades 

IRA-Tax Credit 

TIF 

IRA-Tax Credit 

Illinois Renewable/Clean Energy Funding Opportunities

Applicants can also visit the [Clean Energy Funding Sources/Opportunities List](#) for additional funding opportunities

Agency	Programs
Federal Programs	Ride and Drive Electric IRA Justice 40
Illinois Capital Development Board	Stretch Goals
Illinois Commerce Commission	Equitable Energy Upgrade Program
Illinois Community College Board	IAC Program: Clean Energy Build/Manufacturing Workforce
Illinois Dept. of Commerce & Economic Opportunity	CEJA Workforce Training Programs CEJA Contractor Programs Community Economic Development Programs Reimagining Energy and Vehicles in Illinois Act (REV)-Manufacturing
Illinois Dept. of Transportation	National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Program Carbon Reduction Program Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality Competitive Freight-Port Infrastructure
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency	Energy Codes Training EE Trust Fund Electric Vehicle Rebate Electric School Bus Energy Assessments Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant Energy Efficiency Variety EE Contractor Training
Illinois Finance Authority	Illinois Climate Bank C-PACE GRID: muni. utility/rural coops State Small Bus. Credit Initiative Charging & Fueling Infrastructure Greenhouse Gas Reduction Solar For All/Energy Sovereignty Loan
Illinois Housing Authority	Energy Efficiency Program; Green Resilient Retrofit Program
Illinois Power Agency	Illinois Shines IL Solar For All Energy Equity Portal Min. Equity Standard Utility Scale Procurement
U.S. Dept of Energy	Funding and Financing

NOFO Updates

Pre-award Costs

EEC Certification Required

New application documents

Application Updates

Merit Review Scoring Sheet



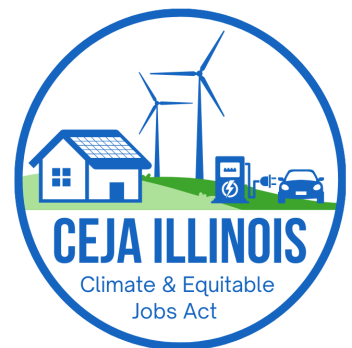


DCEO Grant Process & Requirements

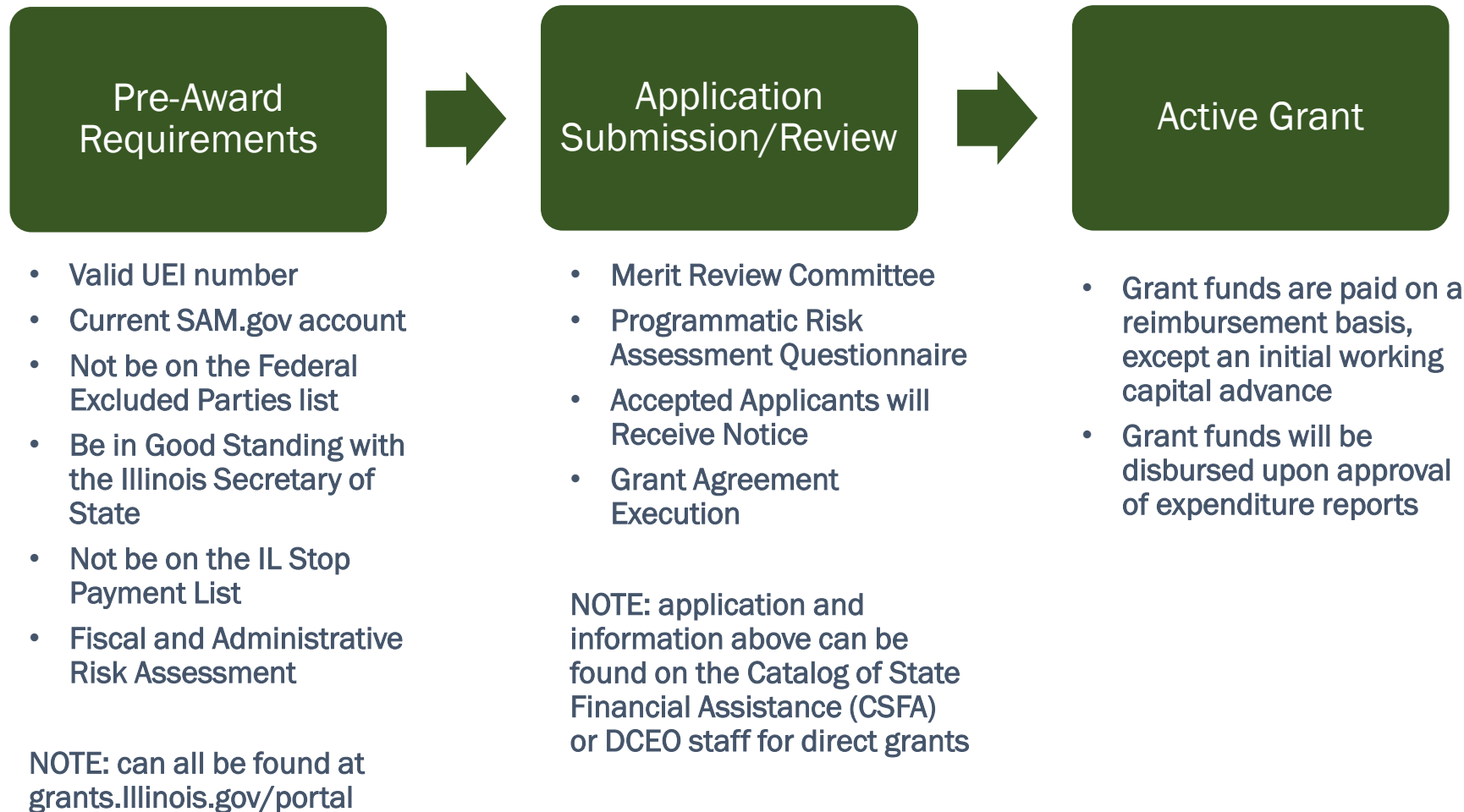


Overview

- Review the DCEO Grant Process
- How to register in the IL GATA Grantee Portal
- Pre-Qualification
- Notice of Funding Opportunity
- What to expect after Grant Award



Competitive Grant Life Cycle



What is GATA?

- GATA - Grant Accountability and Transparency Act
- GATA Goals:
 - Remove duplicative processes
 - Increase accountability and transparency
 - Follow 2 CFR 200



Getting Started in the GATA Grantee Portal

- <https://grants.illinois.gov/portal/>
 - Create Account

Illinois Grant Accountability and Transparency Act
Welcome to the GATA Grantee Portal

Grantee Portal
Sign In

Amplifund
Sign In

Create Account

Public Account
Help

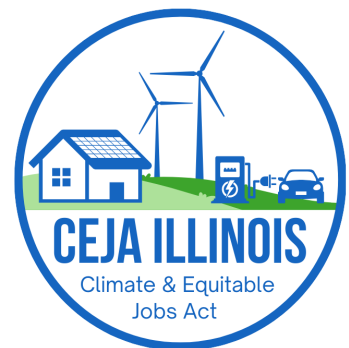
Partner Account
Help

To access the Portal or Amplifund you must have an Illinois.gov account.
To create an account, click the Create Account button.
For Public domain account help, click the Public Account Help button.
For Partner domain account help, click the Partner Account Help button.

Partner account usernames end in "@external.illinois.gov" and are most likely DHS CRV account users.

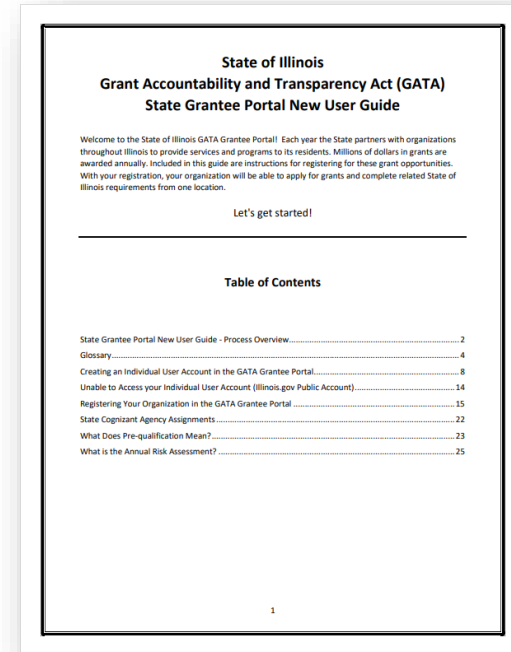
Note: To bookmark this Portal, bookmark this page. Bookmarking the sign in page will cause an error.

[Grantee Portal Frequently Asked Questions](#)



Getting Started in the GATA Grantee Portal

- GATA New User Guide
 - <https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/GATA/Documents/Resource%20Library/GATA%20New%20User%20Guide.pdf>
 - Provides step-by-step GATA Portal instructions
 - For new or current Portal users
- Grant Accountability and Transparency Unit at GOMB
 - <https://gata.illinois.gov/>



Pre-Qualification

- Required
- Maintain compliance
- Meet expectations
- Responsibly manage funds
- Effective Communication

Grantee must be in qualified status by the application review date by the state awarding agency.

PRE-QUALIFICATION INFORMATION	
SAM.gov Account:	Good until 8/5/2023
Federal Employer ID (FEIN):	Good
Federal Excluded Parties List:	Good
Federal Delinquent Debt:	Good
Illinois Secretary of State:	Good
Illinois Stop Payment List:	Good
Illinois DHFS Sanction List:	Good



Pre-Qualification Status

Your organization not in good standing. Items in red require your action.

Items in yellow are being evaluated by the State. Their status could take up to one business day.

Requirement	Status	Remediation
SAM.gov Account	UEI not found	Help
Federal Employer ID (FEIN)	Pending	Help
Federal Excluded Parties List	Good	Help
Illinois Secretary of State	Not Found	Help
Illinois Stop Payment List	Good	Help
Illinois DHFS Sanction List	Good	Help

Your organization must remain in good standing in all pre-qualification requirements. The status of these requirements are validated nightly. Notifications when changes occur to the pre-qualification status can be emailed to Grantee Portal Access users by clicking the "Manage" button below.



SAM.gov Account

- Active registration required
 - Validated annually
- UEI Number
 - Used in the IL GATA Grantee Portal
- Registration should be set to “Public”
- Receiving UEI vs Complete Registration

Requirement
SAM.gov Account
Federal Employer ID (FEIN)
Federal Excluded Parties List
Illinois Secretary of State
Illinois Stop Payment List
Illinois DHFS Sanction List



Federal Employer ID (FEIN)

- Business entity identification
- Used by federal government
- Request from IRS
- Verification confirmed automatically from SAM.gov

Requirement
SAM.gov Account
Federal Employer ID (FEIN)
Federal Excluded Parties List
Illinois Secretary of State
Illinois Stop Payment List
Illinois DHFS Sanction List



Federal Excluded Parties List

- Excluded from receiving Federal contracts
- Suspensions and debarments
- Generated by SAM.gov
- Automatically updated

Requirement
SAM.gov Account
Federal Employer ID (FEIN)
Federal Excluded Parties List
Illinois Secretary of State
Illinois Stop Payment List
Illinois DHFS Sanction List



Illinois Secretary of State

- Certificate of Good Standing
- Business entity exists
- Allowed to conduct business in Illinois
- In compliance with State regulations
- www.ilsos.gov
- Not needed for governmental entities

Requirement
SAM.gov Account
Federal Employer ID (FEIN)
Federal Excluded Parties List
Illinois Secretary of State
Illinois Stop Payment List
Illinois DHFS Sanction List



Illinois Stop Payment List

- Entity has fallen out of compliance.
- View reason in the portal
- For questions, contact your former Grant Manager or your cognizant agency
- For DCEO, contact ceo.granthelp@illinois.gov

Requirement
SAM.gov Account
Federal Employer ID (FEIN)
Federal Excluded Parties List
Illinois Secretary of State
Illinois Stop Payment List
Illinois DHFS Sanction List



Illinois DHFS Sanction List

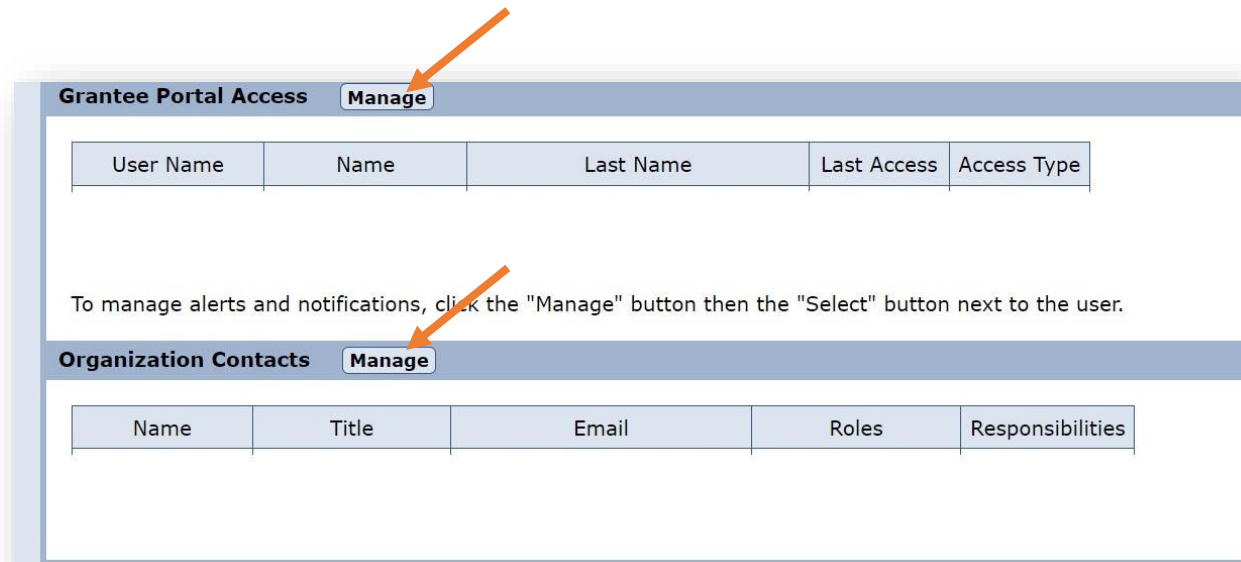
- Not eligible for Medicaid Reimbursement
- Administrative action taken against entity or individual
- Violation of:
 - Administrative Rule
 - Civil Law
 - Criminal Offense

Requirement
SAM.gov Account
Federal Employer ID (FEIN)
Federal Excluded Parties List
Illinois Secretary of State
Illinois Stop Payment List
Illinois DHFS Sanction List



Other GATA Grantee Portal Tips

- Maintain current and accurate contact list
- Ensure fiscal year end date is accurate



The screenshot displays two sections of the GATA Grantee Portal. The top section, titled "Grantee Portal Access", features a "Manage" button highlighted by an orange arrow. Below this is a table with the following headers: "User Name", "Name", "Last Name", "Last Access", and "Access Type". The bottom section, titled "Organization Contacts", also has a "Manage" button highlighted by an orange arrow. Below this is a table with the following headers: "Name", "Title", "Email", "Roles", and "Responsibilities".

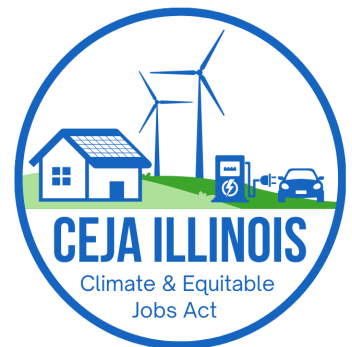
To manage alerts and notifications, click the "Manage" button then the "Select" button next to the user.



Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)

- **Outlines all important details of program and how to apply**
- **NOFO Sections:**
 - Program Description
 - Funding Information
 - Eligibility Information
 - Application and Submission Information
 - Application Review Information
 - Award Administration Information
 - State Awarding Agency Contracts
 - Other Information, if applicable

Other NOFOs
can be found in
the CSFA



Fiscal and Administrative Internal Controls Questionnaire (ICQ)

- Must be completed every State Fiscal Year in the GATA Grantee Portal
- Mitigates risk and builds grantee capacity (not punitive)

Fiscal and Administrative Internal Controls Questionnaire (ICQ)				
ICQ	State FY	Date Started	Date Submitted	Date Accepted
View	2024	03-13-2023		
View	2023	04-22-2022		
View	2022	03-30-2021		
View	2021	04-14-2020		
View	2020	03-06-2019	02-25-2020	
View	2019	06-28-2018		
View	2018	12-19-2017		

An ICQ is required for each state fiscal year your organization does business with the State of Illinois. For example, state FY 2018 which begins on 7/1/2017 and runs through 6/30/2018 requires an FY 2018 ICQ. Notifications when changes occur to an ICQ status can be emailed to Grantee Portal Access users by clicking the "Manage" button below.

Illinois Grant Accountability and Transparency Act FY 2023 Internal Controls Questionnaire		
Return to Main Menu	Print	Submit
When all questions are answered the Submit button will be enabled. After the form is submitted no changes will be allowed. Grantee Portal Access users that have selected "Receive ICQ alerts and notifications" will receive an overnight notification that the status of an ICQ has change.		
Section	Questions	Answered
02 - Quality of Management System	8	0
03 - Financial and Programmatic Reporting	6	0
04 - Ability to Effectively Implement Requirements	29	0
05 - Audit	5	0
All Sections	48	0
Printing the ICQ requires Adobe Acrobat Reader. ICQ Assistance: Commerce And Econ Opp (ceo.gata@illinois.gov)		



Post-Award Requirements

- With Your Grant Manager
 - Periodic Financial Report
 - Periodic Performance Report
- In the GATA Grantee Portal
 - Consolidated Year End Financial Statement and Audit



Audit Types and Submission Deadlines

Total Expenditures of Federal Awards (direct or pass through)	Total Expenditures of State Awards	Not-For Profit and Governmental Grantees	For Profit Grantees	Audit Report Submission Deadline
During the grantee's fiscal year				
\$750,000 or more	N/A	Single Audit	Program-Specific Audit	9 months after grantee fiscal year end
Less than \$750,000	\$500,000 or more	Generally Accepted Governmental Auditing Standards Financial Statement Audit		6 months after grantee fiscal year end
	\$300,000 or more	Generally Accepted Auditing Standards Financial Statement Audit		6 months after grantee fiscal year end
	Less than \$300,000	Submit audit report if audit conducted due to other requirements		6 months after fiscal year end



Resources

Visit: <https://dceo.illinois.gov/dceo-grants.html>

Questions can be sent to
CEO.GrantHelp@Illinois.gov

Scan Here





Grant Application & Submission Requirements



Program Specific Application

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Access (DEIA) Plan

Equitable Energy Future Project Timeline

Illinois Power Agency EEC Certification (Required for EECs)

Letters of Community Support

Memorandum(a) of Understanding (if applicable)

Documentation of IRS Declaration(EIN letter, 501c3 etc.)

Documentation of Property Ownership or Authority to Improve Site

Phase 2 Specific Documents (refer to NOFO Page 6)

Program Specific Documents

Find all NOFO Materials and resources here:

<https://dceo.illinois.gov/aboutdceo/grantopportunities/3054-2878.html>



Program Specific Application

- 1. Applic
- 2. GATA
- 3. Busine
(apply)
- 4. Does
busines
compa
yes, de
entity
- 5. Ann
busine
- 6. Plea
Appro
follow
- 7. If y
contra
pleas
perso
Secti
- 8. Di
the f
appli
- 9. V
- 10. pr
- 11.

- 12. As detailed in NOFO, grant funding intended to accomplish or all the goals. Check all the accomplishments proposed project achieve.
- Ensure achievement selected here described in throughout the (Refer to NOFO)
- 13. Provide length of the include data
- 14. List the proposed p
- 15. Does th
- 16. Explain words).
- 17. List th directly a to 750 w
- 18. Fund 1) planni Please s Program
- 19. Phas and fea are req apply).
- Be pre the bu narrat
- 20. Ph deve which all th
- Be p the nan

- 21. For the pro document
- 22. For incom descri these
- 23. Do
- 23a. If conne 500 w
- 24. T grant sour effect of the prog appli
- For Fin
- 25. Plea app app
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- 26. co w
- 27. e

28. Is the applicant partnering with or subcontracting other businesses or entities on this application? If so, please list the names of vendors, contractors, collaborators below along with their experience working on similar/same type of projects.

Click or tap here to enter text.

Staff Capacity & Clean Energy Workforce Development (NOFO Section A and Section D, Subsection 2)

29. List staff members who will be assigned to this project, their roles, and percentage of time they will spend on the project. Attach brief bios of all key staff members as well as job descriptions for unoccupied roles along with submission of this application. (up to 750 words).

Click or tap here to enter text.

30. How many permanent and/or temporary jobs will be created, if any, from this project?

	Phase 1	Phase 2	Total Project
Temporary Positions	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.
Permanent Positions	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.

31. Do you plan to hire CEJA or FEJA workforce program graduates as contractors for the project?

31a. If yes, what percentage of the workforce for the project will come from these programs or will meet other equity eligible persons criteria? Yes No %

32. Do you plan to provide on-the-job training opportunities for CEJA or FEJA workforce program participants or graduates? Yes No

32a. If yes, what activities or skills will the on-the-job training provide? Yes No

Click or tap here to enter text.

33. Provide the applicant's plan to engage with the local workforce (e.g. contractors, workers etc). This may include CEJA/FEJA/Workforce programs, utility programs, and weatherization/energy efficiency programs in your project.

Click or tap here to enter text.

Supplemental Documentation (NOFO Section D)

Required:

- Uniform Grant Application, Uniform Budget Template, Conflict of Interest Disclosure, Mandatory Disclosures
- Program Specific Application
- Documentation of IRS declaration: EIN letter, 501c3, c6, etc.
- Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Access (DEIA) Plan
- Equitable Energy Future Grant Project Timeline
- Illinois Power Agency (IPA) Certification (Required for EECs)
- Letter(s) of support from community leaders and stakeholders documenting their support for the project and the community needs it will address AND if applicable from partner CEJA or FEJA workforce program grantees or other workforce programs about how your project will help grow clean energy workforce and contractors
- Property ownership document OR document demonstrating applicant's authority to make site improvements. (If applicable for Phase 1, Required for Phase 2)
- Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) with collaborating organizations, or contracts for pre-develop activities with professional service providers, vendors, etc. (if applicable to project)

Required Phase 2 Only Projects:

- Design or construction documents that provide details of the project, if available (examples: building preliminary schematics, energy audit report, site map).
- 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 complete.
- Documentation showing Phase 1 feasibility activities are complete.



Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Access (DEIA) Plan

Accessibility Efforts/Mechanisms

Provide details on the lead applicant's current and/or planned efforts and mechanisms that ensure accessibility for all employees. Specifically, discuss how the applicant has developed financial, technological, and linguistically accessible systems, resources, and services for all employees regardless of disability status. (up to 500 words). If additional documentation is available to outline this plan, please submit those.
(Example: All media materials for prospective and enrolled participants are printed in Spanish & Polish)

Click or tap here to enter text.

What barriers, if any, has the lead applicant experienced regarding access to seed capital and/or pre-development funds? (up to 500 words)

Click or tap here to enter text.

Authorized Signatory Name (Printed): Click or tap here to enter text. **Authorized Signatory Title (Printed):** Click or tap here to enter text.

Date: Click or tap to enter a date. **Authorized Signatory Signature:** Click or tap here to enter text.

Internal Office Use Only

Applicant Eligibility: Equity Eligible Contractor Meets equity building criteria based on DEIA plan

Administrative Review Conducted By: Click or tap here to enter text.

Administrative Review Date: Click or tap to enter a date.



Equitable Energy Future Project Timeline

EQUITABLE ENERGY FUTURES GRANT PROGRAM 2024 PROJECT TIMELINE

Anticipated Project

Anticipated Project

PHASE 1 TIMELINE

Month 1	Month 2	Month 3	Month 4	Month 5	Month 6	Month 7	Month 8	Month 9	Month 10	Month 11	Month 12	Month 13	Month 14	Month 15	Month 16	Month 17	Month 18	Month 19	Month 20	Month 21	Month 22	Month 23	Month 24	Month 25	Month 26	Month 27	Month 28	Month 29	Month 30	Month 31	Month 32	

PHASE 2 TIMELINE

Month 1	Month 2	Month 3	Month 4	Month 5	Month 6	Month 7	Month 8	Month 9	Month 10	Month 11	Month 12	Month 13	Month 14	Month 15	Month 16	Month 17	Month 18	Month 19	Month 20	Month 21	Month 22	Month 23	Month 24	Month 25	Month 26	Month 27	Month 28	Month 29	Month 30	Month 31	Month 32

> **EEF Project Timeline** +



Illinois Power Agency EEC Certification

EEC Approved Vendors as of 9-3-2024

AVs who are currently suspended or who discontinued operations highlighted in ORANGE
AVs who have withdrawn in good standing or have become inactive in the Program highlighted in B

AV ID	Company	Type	Program	Website
2007	22C Development LLC	Community Solar Project Developer; DG Project Developer; SREC Broker/ Aggregator	Illinois Shines, ILSFA	WWW.22C-DEVELC
513	93Energy LLC	DG Installer, DG Project Developer	Illinois Shines	www.93energy.co
2282	ADL KA335 REC LLC	Community Solar Project Developer	Illinois Shines	www.adlsolutionsl
2059	ADL Solutions LLC	DG Installer; Community Solar Project Developer; DG Project Developer	Illinois Shines	adlsolutionllc.com
2288	ADL ST78 REC LLC	Community Solar Project Developer	Illinois Shines	www.adlsolutionsl
		Installer, DG Project Developer, Community Solar Project Developer, SREC Broker/Aggregator	Illinois Shines	AESsolar.com
		Project Developer; DG Installer; Community Solar Project Developer	Illinois Shines	https://alphaelectr
		Community Solar Project Developer	Illinois Shines	
		Installer; DG Project Developer; Community Solar Project Developer; SREC Broker/ Aggregator; Non-	Illinois Shines	https://www.ambr
		Installer, DG Project Developer	Illinois Shines	https://arfsolar.net
		Community Solar Project Developer; Other	Illinois Shines	
		Project Developer; SREC Broker/ Aggregator	Illinois Shines	
		Installer; Community Solar Project Developer; DG Project Developer	Illinois Shines	www.blacktechsolutionscorp.com
		Community Solar Project Developer	Illinois Shines	www.bluesolarone.com
		Project Developer; Community Solar Project Developer	Illinois Shines	BigRockSustainables.com
		Developer	Illinois Shines	https://www.cardinalcommunityenergy.com/
2148	Cardinal Community Energy LLC	Community Solar Project Developer; SREC Broker/ Aggregator	Illinois Shines	dsarlitto@cardinalcommunityenergy.com
626	CC Solar LLC	DG Installer	Illinois Shines	https://cleancommunityllc.com/cc-solar-17
942	Charcera Inc. DBA Williams Enterprises	Community Solar Project Developer	Illinois Shines	http://www.williamstinting.com/
2089	Community Solar LLC	DG Project Developer; Community Solar Project Developer	Illinois Shines	www.communitysolarforall.com
2006	Equity Solar Illinois	DG Project Developer; Community Solar Project Developer; Other	Illinois Shines	http://www.equitysolaril.com/
1017	ESP Solar	Community Solar Project Developer	Illinois Shines	www.electricalserviceplus.com
2219	Evergreen Energy dba Evergreen Energy Solutions	DG Project Developer; Community Solar Project Developer	Illinois Shines	https://evergreenenergy.com/



CERTIFICATION OF QUALIFICATION FOR EQUITY ELIGIBLE CONTRACTOR STATUS

Name: _____ Date: _____

Organization/Entity: _____

Please select the option that best describes your association with the organization/entity:

- Sole Owner
- Joint Owner or Partner
- Independent contractor offering professional services
- Shareholder
- Board member

This certification will be used to determine whether the above-listed individual, organization, or entity qualifies as an equity eligible contractor under Section 1-10 of the Illinois Power Agency Act (20 ILCS 3855/1-10) as amended by Public Act 102-0662. Under this provision, a business that is majority-owned by eligible persons or a non-profit or cooperative organization that is majority-governed by eligible persons qualifies as an equity eligible contractor. Persons identifying as one of the following qualify as an eligible person offering personal services as an independent contractor:



Organization/Business Name

Certified EEC AV



Apply to become an Equity Eligible Contractor: <https://illinoisshines.com/become-an-equity-eligible-contractor-eec-approved-vendor-or-designee/>

Letters of Community Support



- Should be from community organizations or businesses, local municipal support/elected officials etc.
- No requirement on the number of letters.
- Should demonstrate the connection between this project and community.



Additional Required Documents



- Documentation of IRS Declaration (EIN letter, 501c3 etc.)
- Documentation of Property Ownership or Authority to Improve Site
- Phase 2 Specific Documents
 - Design or construction documents that provide project details (if available)
 - Quotes used for budget estimates (if available)
 - Documentation showing Phase 1 feasibility activities are complete

Conflict of Interest Disclosure

Mandatory Disclosure

Uniform Grant Application in
fillable PDF format

Uniform Budget utilizing template
provided by DCEO

DCEO Required Application Documents

Find all NOFO Materials
and resources here:

[https://dceo.illinois.gov
/aboutdceo/grantopportunities/3054-2878.html](https://dceo.illinois.gov/aboutdceo/grantopportunities/3054-2878.html)



Uniform Budget Template

It's a standard DCEO template, with a few sections that are specific to this program. Some sections may not apply to you.

Be careful when inserting new rows. The template uses algorithms that can be deleted or altered.

If seeking funding for Phase 1 & 2, the Phase 2 budget may be renegotiated after Phase 1 is completed.

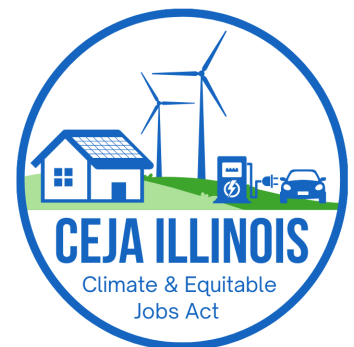
If you are selected for a grant award, DCEO the budget will be reviewed and finalized during the negotiation stage.

STATE OF ILLINOIS		UNIFORM GRANT BUDGET TEMPLATE		Commerce & Economic Opportunity		
Organization Name:		UEI#		NOFO #	3054-2878	
CSFA Number:	420-35-3054	CSFA Description:	Jobs & Environmental Justice-Equitable Energy Grant	Fiscal Year:	2024	
SECTION A -- STATE OF ILLINOIS FUNDS					Grant #	
Revenues					TOTAL REVENUE	
(a). State of Illinois Grant Amount Requested					\$	-
BUDGET SUMMARY STATE OF ILLINOIS FUNDS						
Budget Expenditure Categories		OMB Uniform Guidance Federal Awards Reference 2 CFR 200		TOTAL EXPENDITURES		
1. Phase 1 Personnel (Salaries & Wages)		200.430		\$	-	
1. Phase 2 Personnel (Salaries & Wages)		200.430		\$	-	
2. Phase 1 Fringe Benefits		200.431		\$	-	
2. Phase 2 Fringe Benefits		200.431		\$	-	
4. Phase 1 Equipment		200.439		\$	-	
4. Phase 2 Equipment		200.439		\$	-	
5. Phase 1 Supplies		200.94		\$	-	
5. Phase 2 Supplies		200.94		\$	-	
6. Phase 1 Contractual Services & Subawards		200.318 & 200.92		\$	-	
6. Phase 2 Contractual Services & Subawards		200.318 & 200.92		\$	-	
7. Phase 1 Consultant (Professional Services)		200.459		\$	-	
7. Phase 2 Consultant (Professional Services)		200.459		\$	-	
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> < > <div style="display: flex; gap: 10px;"> General Instructions Section A ICI Certification Phase1Personnel Phase2Personnel Phase </div> </div>						



Let's look at the budget categories in the template. Notice they are separated in phases.

Personnel	Fringe benefits	Equipment
Supplies	Contractual Services & Subawards	Consultant (Professional Services)
Feasibility/Market Analysis (Phase 1)	Site Control Costs (Phase 2)	Permitting & interconnection Costs (Phase 2)



A few budget and grant resources

DCEO Video Training & Resources

<https://dceo.illinois.gov/aboutdceo/grant-opportunities/learning-library.html>

Upcoming Grant Trainings

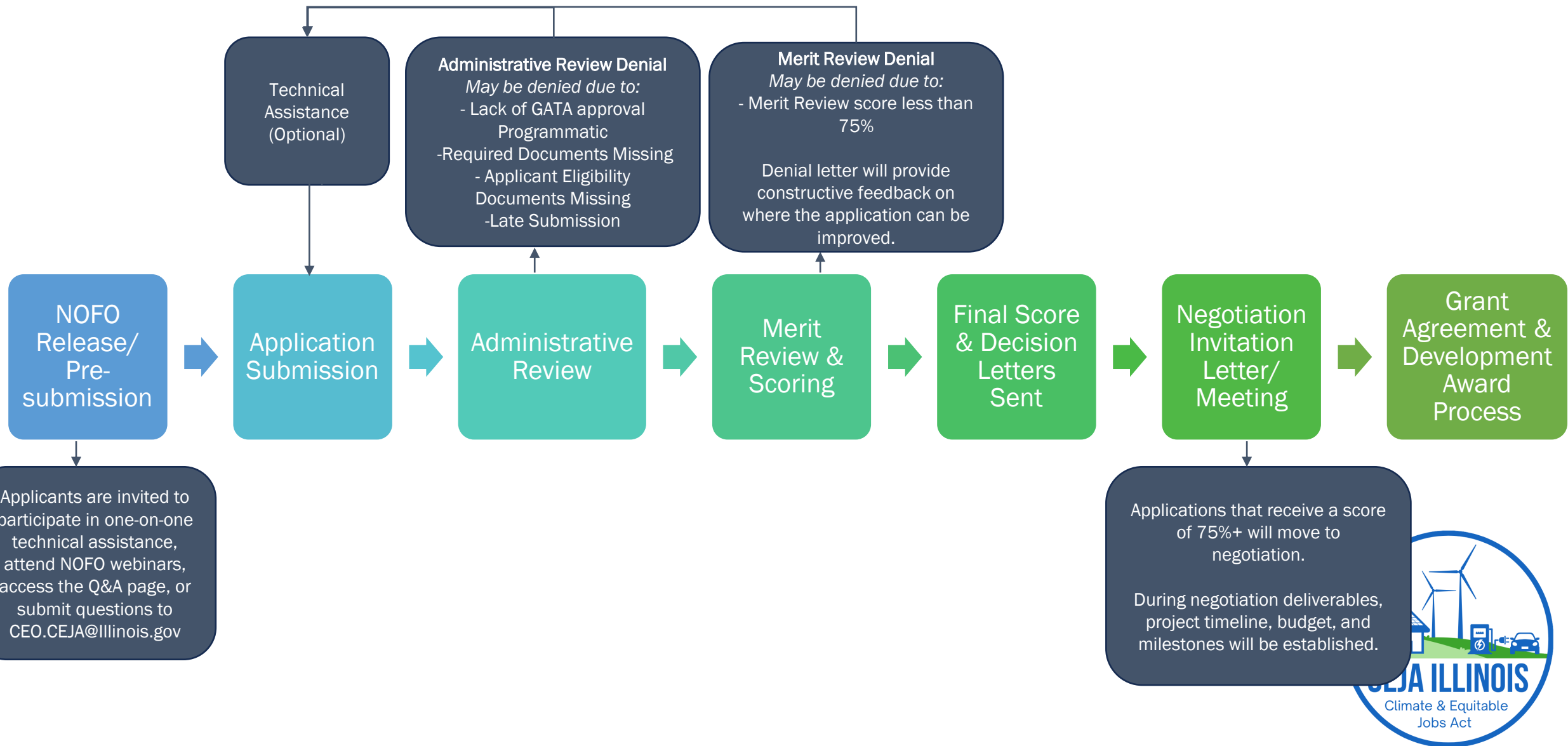
<https://dceo.illinois.gov/aboutdceo/grant-opportunities/upcoming-grant-trainings.html>

Contact the DCEO Grant Help Desk

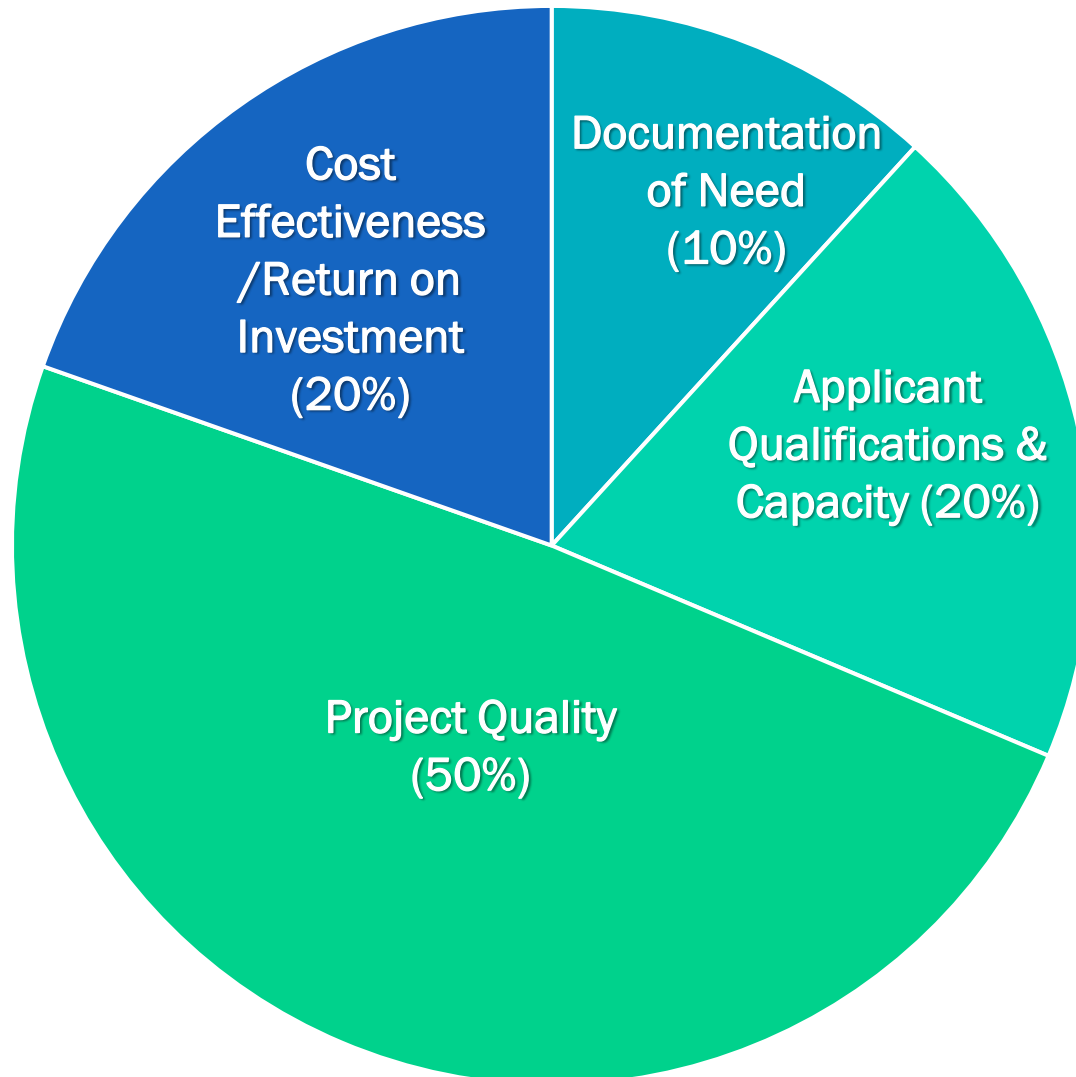
Email: CEO.GrantHelp@illinois.gov



Grant Process



Merit Review Scoring



Proposals will be reviewed on a rolling basis by the Merit Review Team.

Applications scoring 75% or higher will move to negotiation.



Merit Review Scoring Rubric

2024 Equitable Energy Future Grant Program Scoring Form

This document is a tool to help applicants as they prepare to apply for the Equitable Energy Future Grant Program. The content of this document matches that of the scoring sheet completed by the merit review teams during the application review. Please use this document as a guide when completing application documents.

Documentation of Need (10 points)

Q1. Is the project located within or directly serving an equity investment eligibility community? (5 points) (Question 14)

Meets or exceeds standards (5 points): The project is located within an equity investment-eligible community and will directly benefit residents in the equity investment eligible community.	Partially meets standards (3 points): Project is not located within an equity investment eligible community but serves equity investment eligible populations or community members.	Below standards (0-1 points): (0) No listing or description of site location (1) Very limited description of where the project will be located.	Score
Comments:			

Q2. Does the applicant identify the community needs that the project will address? (5 points) (Question 17)

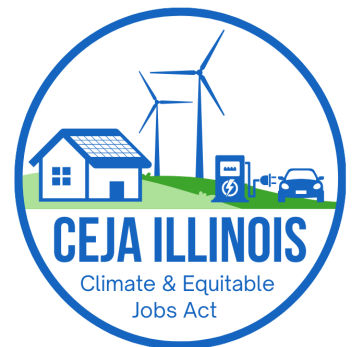
Meets or exceeds standards (4-5 points): Uses data to demonstrate knowledge of community needs (e.g. labor, economic development needs, census data etc) of proposed areas and describes how the project will address these needs.	Partially meets standards (2-3 points): Describes needs with some data (e.g. labor data, economic development, census data, etc.), but does not describe how the project will address those needs identified in the data provided.	Below standards (0-1 points): (0) No description of community needs (1) Limited description of community needs and does not describe how the project will address those needs	Score
Comments:			

Applicant Qualifications & Capacity (20 points)

Q3. Does the applicant have the capacity (or a clear and realistic plan to increase capacity) to execute the project? Capacity includes qualified staff, partners, and financial resources. (5 points) (Questions 29 - 33)

Meets or exceeds standards (7-10 points):	Partially meets standards (4-6 points): The	Below standards (0-3 points): Applicant	
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NOFO Timeline





Seek Applicant Support

1. Sign up for one-on-one technical assistance with a CEJA Program Coach:

Sign up for support here:

<https://forms.office.com/r/4qUkTdgCFY>

2. Submit questions to CEO.CEJA@illinois.gov. Responses to questions will be made publicly available on the CEJA Questions & Answers page.

3. Contact Aaron McEvoy, EEF Grant Manager Aaron.McEvoy@Illinois.gov

One-on-one
technical assistance
sessions will open
on 9/20/2024



Helpful Links

Site	Link
DCEO CEJA Program Status	https://dceo.illinois.gov/ceja/ceja-program-announcements.html
NOFO Page	https://dceo.illinois.gov/aboutdceo/grantopportunities/3054-2878.html
GATA Portal	https://grants.illinois.gov/portal/
DCEO Grant Help Email	ceo.GrantHelp@illinois.gov
DCEO Grant Help Inquiry Form	https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/df9d38efa4e241218ced486c54f3c109
DCEO Grant Resources	https://dceo.illinois.gov/aboutdceo/grantopportunities/learning-library.html
Clean Energy Funding List	https://uofi.app.box.com/v/cleanenergyfunding



Upcoming NOFO Information Session

Date & Time: September 26, 2024 | 12:00 PM – 1:15 PM

Register:

<https://illinois.webex.com/weblink/register/r916a50512d21713eff534cae2804a319>

Session Overview

Step-by-step overview of the required EEF

- Program Application
- Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Access (DEIA) Plan
- Project Timeline
- Budget Template





Questions?

