Presenters

- **Aaron McEvoy, Grant Manager**
  DCEO - Office of Energy & Business Utility

- **Amber Broughton**
  DCEO - Office of Accountability

Support

- **Christine Flynn,** Public Sector Consultant
  Workforce Policy Lab – Northern Illinois University

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. There will be a Q&A at the end of the session.

Overview

1. Climate & Equitable Jobs Act (CEJA)
2. Equitable Energy Futures Program Overview
3. Grant Accountability & Transparency Act (GATA) & Pre-Qualification
4. DCEO Grant Process & Requirements
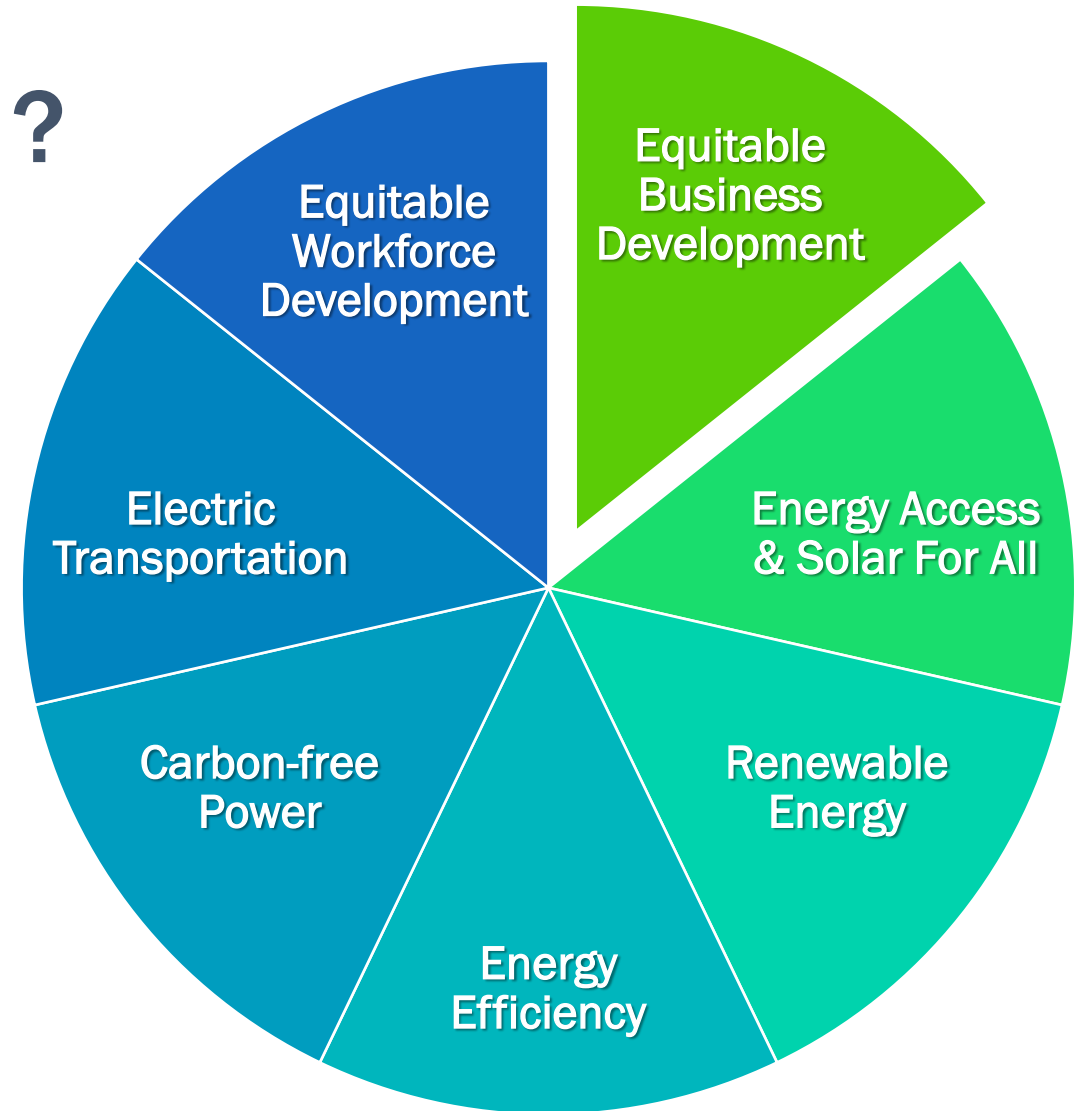5. Grant Application & Submission Requirements

Climate & Equitable Jobs Act (CEJA)

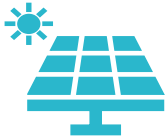# What is the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act (CEJA) ?

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

Twelve state agencies are responsible for implementing CEJA.

DCEO Clean Energy Programs

CEJA Economic & Community Development ($74M)
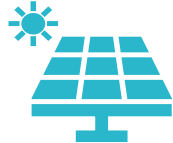### Office of Energy & Business Utility (OEBU)

- 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/yr.

CEJA Workforce Training Programs ($61 M +)
Office of Employment & Training (OET)

- Clean Jobs Workforce Network $21M/yr.
- Climate Works Pre-apprenticeship $9M/yr.
- Energy Transition Navigators $6M/yr.
- Returning Resident Clean Jobs $6M/yr.
- Energy Transition Barrier Reduction $15M/yr.
- Clean Energy Career Pathway Program $4M

CEJA Councils & Boards
Office of Energy & Business Utility (OEBU)

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

CEJA Contractor Support Programs ($30M+)
Office of Entrepreneurship & Innovation Technology(OEIT)

- Contractor Incubator $21M/yr.
- Contractor Primes Accelerator $9M/yr.

Future Energy Jobs Act (FEJA)
### OET

- FEJA Workforce Training Program

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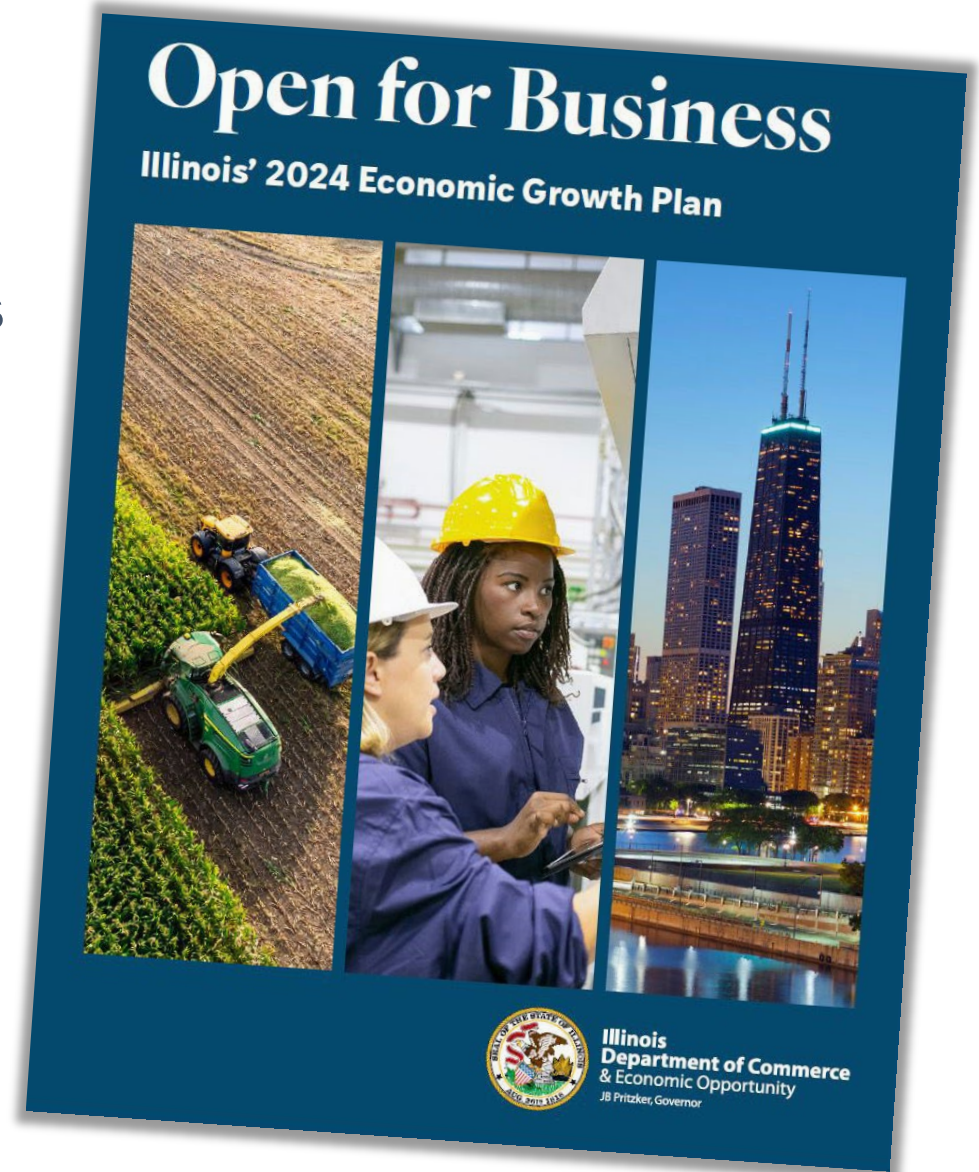
CEJA Equity Focus
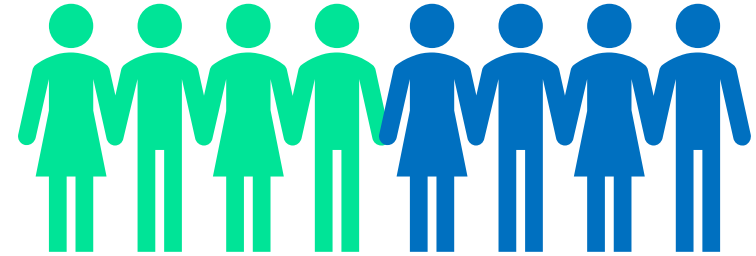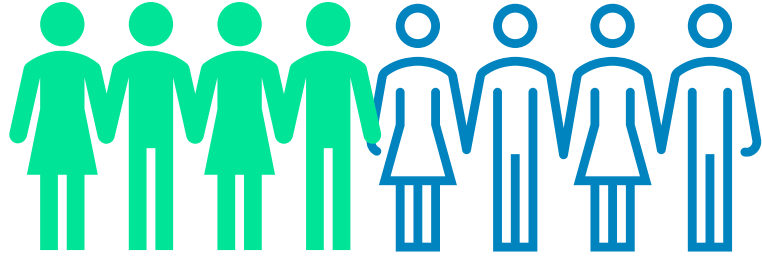
Some groups of people and communities benefit more from clean energy investments while some others suffer more from environmental impacts & community disinvestment.

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

What is Equity?

Equity is when support and resources are deliberately and thoughtfully designed to fit the need of an individual or community.

CEJA was designed with equity at its center to ensure ALL Illinoisians are part of the journey toward a clean energy future.

EQUALITY   EQUITY
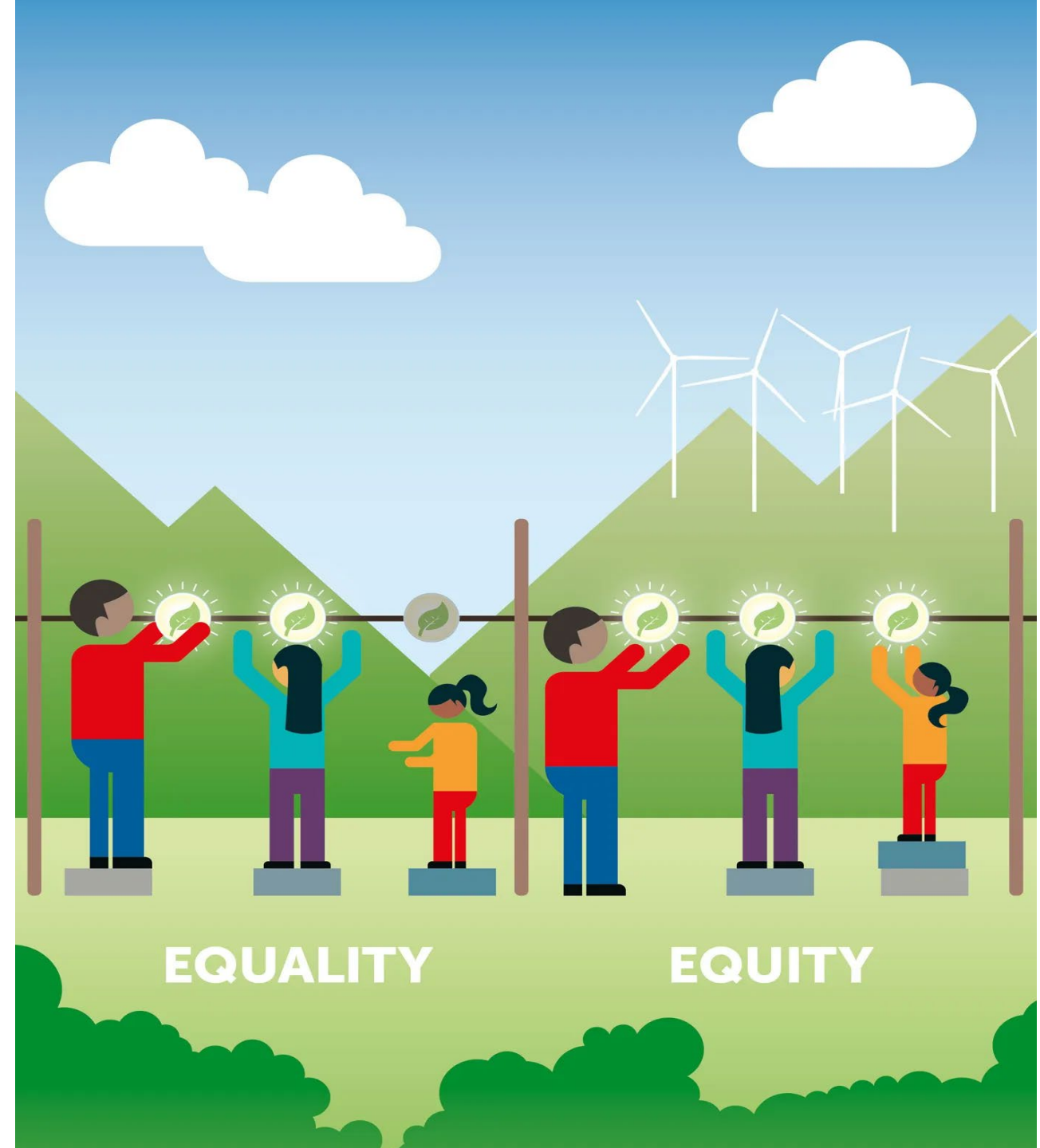
How Can CEJA Help My Community?

- Community takes leadership role in clean energy transition
- Energy transition will bring
  - Economic opportunity
  - Economic growth
  - Job opportunities
  - Better environmental outcomes
  - Better health outcomes
- Can expand economic development efforts
- Clean energy jobs make communities more resilient, combat climate change

How Can CEJA Help My Organization?

- Provide stable funding

- Build capacity
  - Hiring staff
  - Professional development
  - Build new network of partners and providers

- Flexible funding source

- State Funds which can be leveraged with other non-CEJA programs

How Can CEJA Help Employers?

- Access qualified candidates with fundamental clean energy knowledge and skills and essential employability skills.

- Meet minimum equity or supplier diversity requirements

- Grow their businesses to take advantage of clean energy project funding.

- Provide capital for renewable and energy efficiency projects

Equitable Energy Future Grant Program

NOFO Fundamentals: Equitable Energy Futures

Funding Background & Goal

Eligible Applicants

Funding

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.

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

NOFO Fundamentals: Equitable Energy Futures

Funding Purpose & Goal

Eligible Applicants

Funding

o **Equity Eligible Contractors**
Must be certified through the Illinois Power Agency's Equity Eligible Contractor program.

o **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 CEJA Ecosystem Utilization Plan (CEUP)

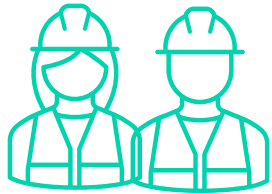Become an EEC: https://illinoisshines.com/become-an-equity-eligible-contractor-eec-approved-vendor-or-designee/

NOFO Fundamentals: Equitable Energy Futures

Funding Purpose & Goal
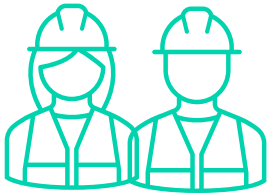
Eligible Applicants

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

o **Total Funding:** $25.5 million per year

o **Per Applicant Award:** $250,000 - $1,000,000

o **Estimated Number of Awards:** Up to 40

o **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.

o **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.

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

- Environmental Justice communities

- Restore. Reinvest. Renew (R3) communities

Project Phases

Phase 1: Planning & Feasibility

Phase 2: Pre-Development

Phase 3: Construction

Phase 4: Implementation

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
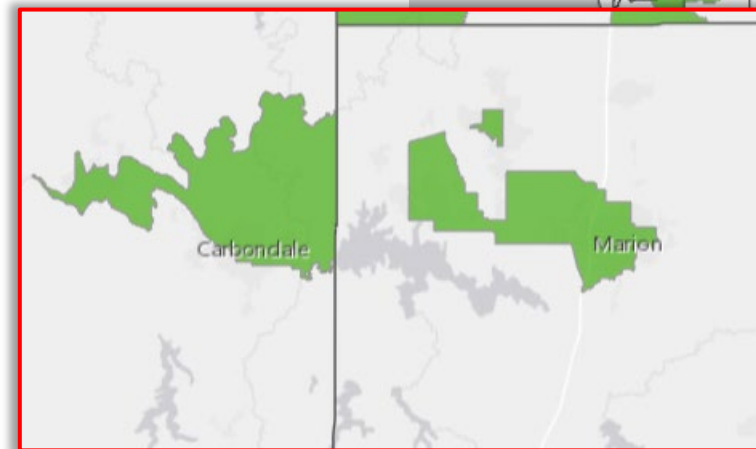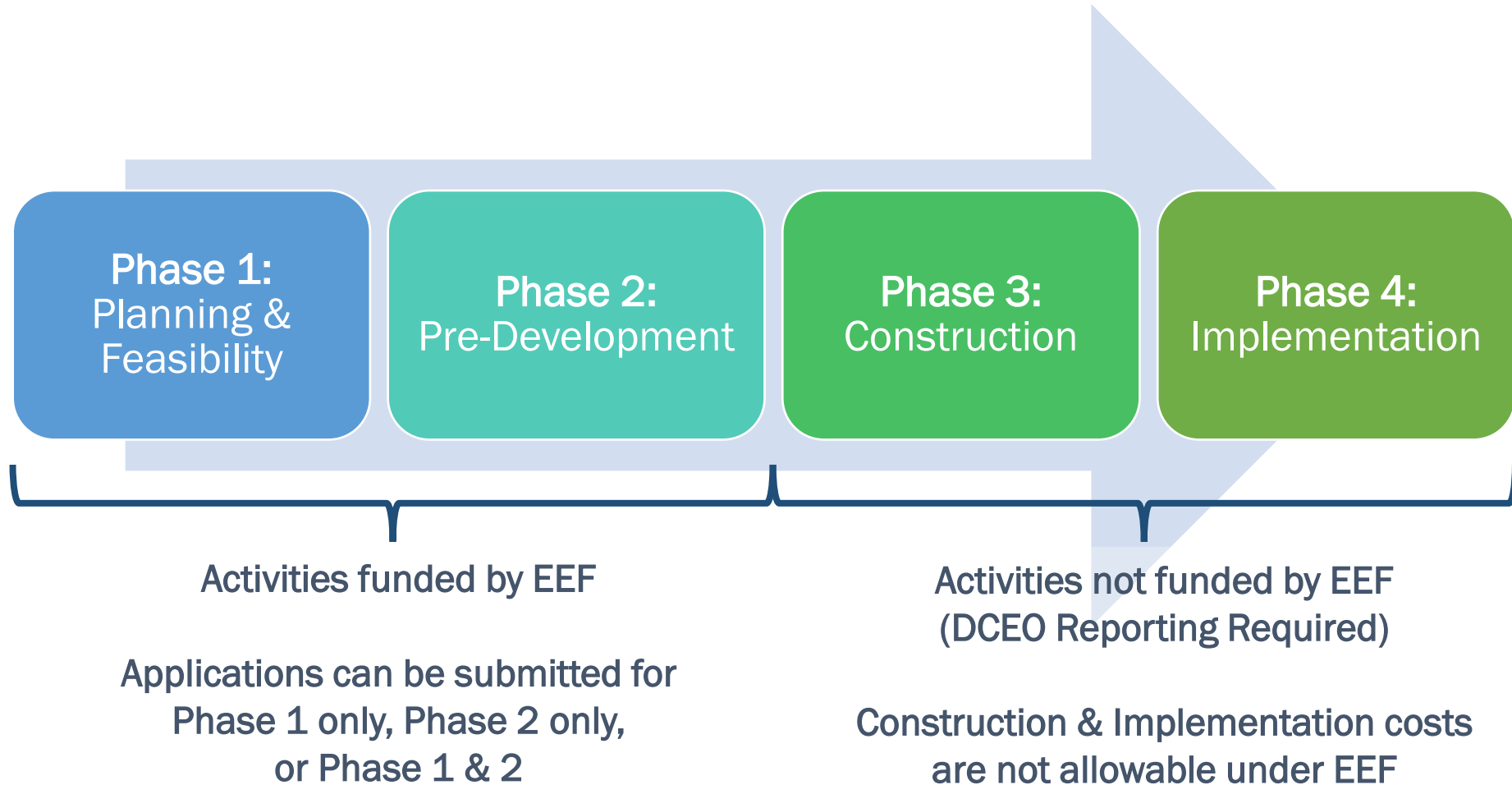
Allowable Activities

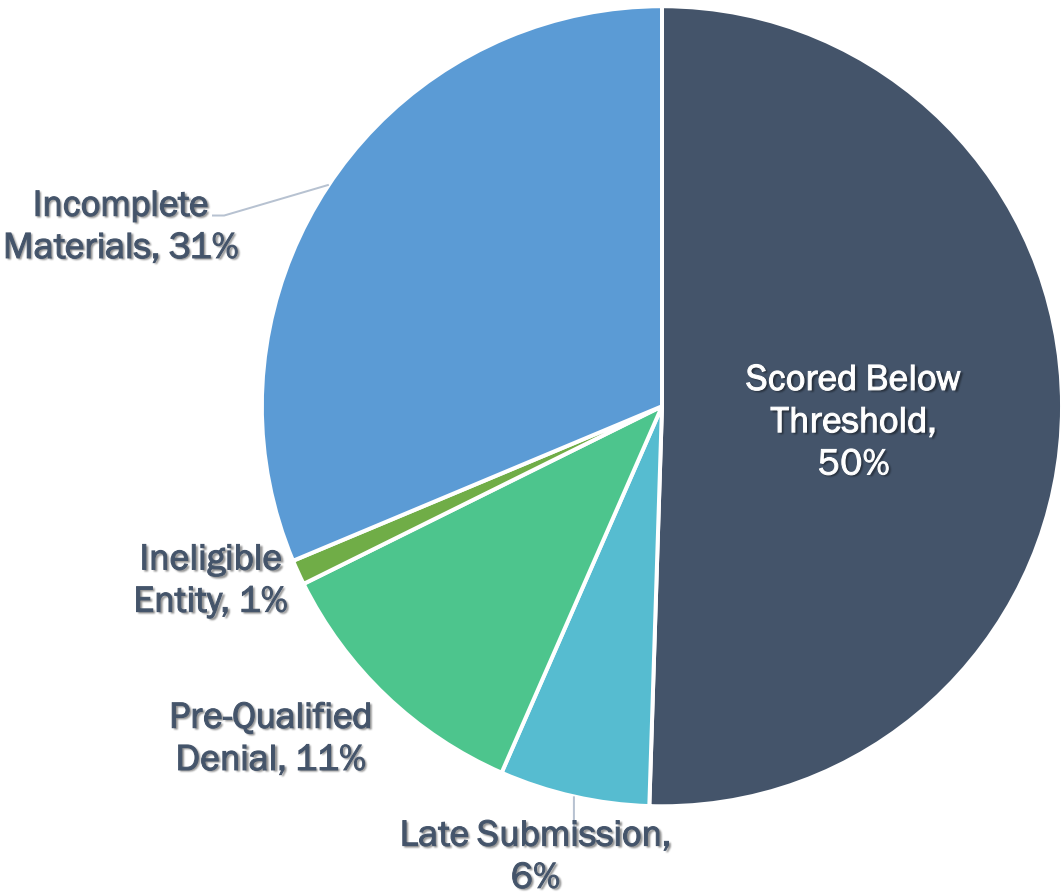| Phase 1: Planning and feasibility	Phase 2: Pre-development construction
Market analysis	Selecting contractors/securing contracts
Property due diligence	Project application costs
Community outreach & engagement	Purchasing/leasing land
Architecture, design, engineering services	Permitting/zoning
Auditing, 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)

Note: This is not an exhaustive list of all allowable costs

Equitable Energy Future – Grant Results

Application Results by Round

Total Amount Awarded (as of 6/3/2025)
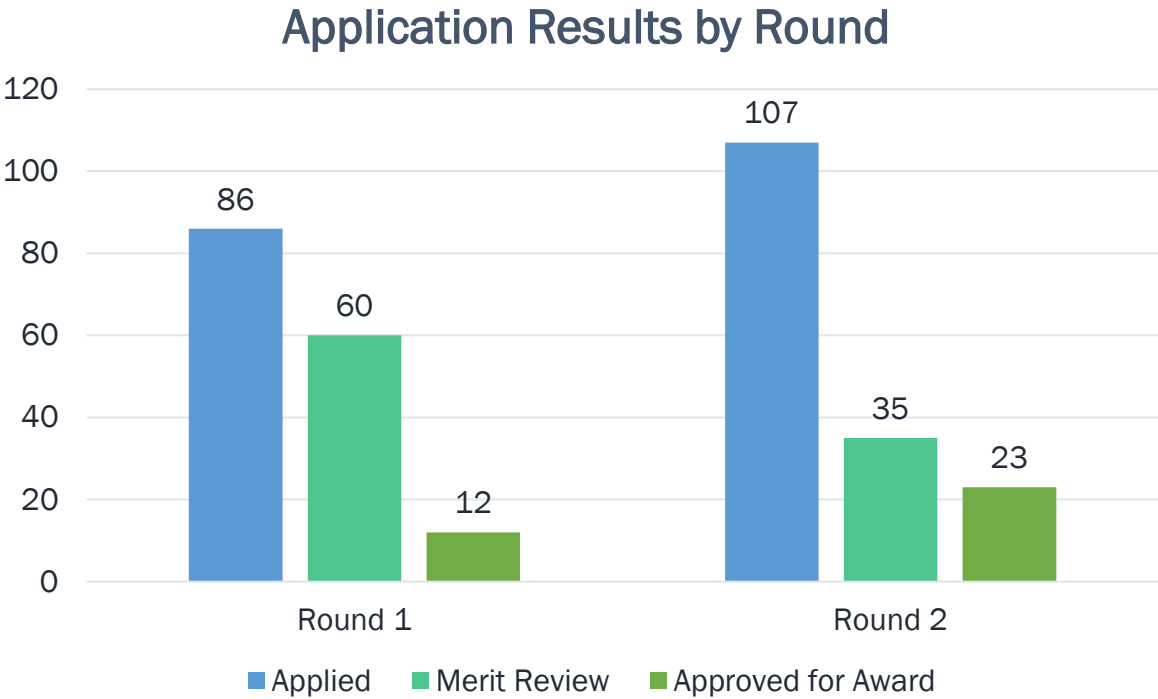
$29,726,94

Breakdown of Application Denials Round 2

Incomplete Materials, 31%

Scored Below Threshold, 50%

Ineligible Entity, 1%

Pre-Qualified Denial, 11%

Late Submission, 6%

*Equitable Energy Future Round 2 is currently being processed. Round 2 numbers are as of 6/3/2025.

Project Funding

- Funds for EEF are disbursed based on project 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

Milestone #1: Sign Grant Agreement ($250,000)

Identify Sites

Begin community outreach

CDP: Identify & hire architect

Milestone #2: Site Acquisition Planning ($250,000)

Architecture, design, engineering services

Interconnection application fees

CDP: Final Project Report

Project Activities Complete – Grant Closes Out
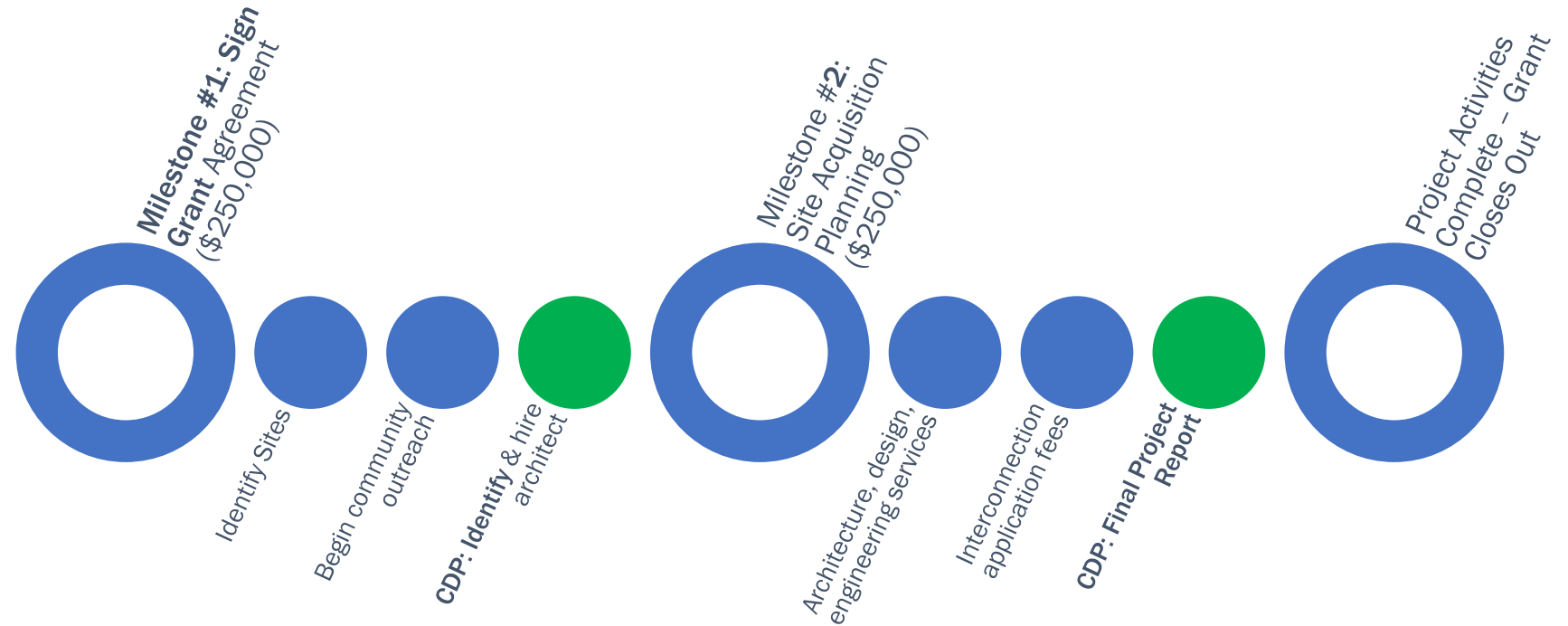
Building the Capital Stack

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.

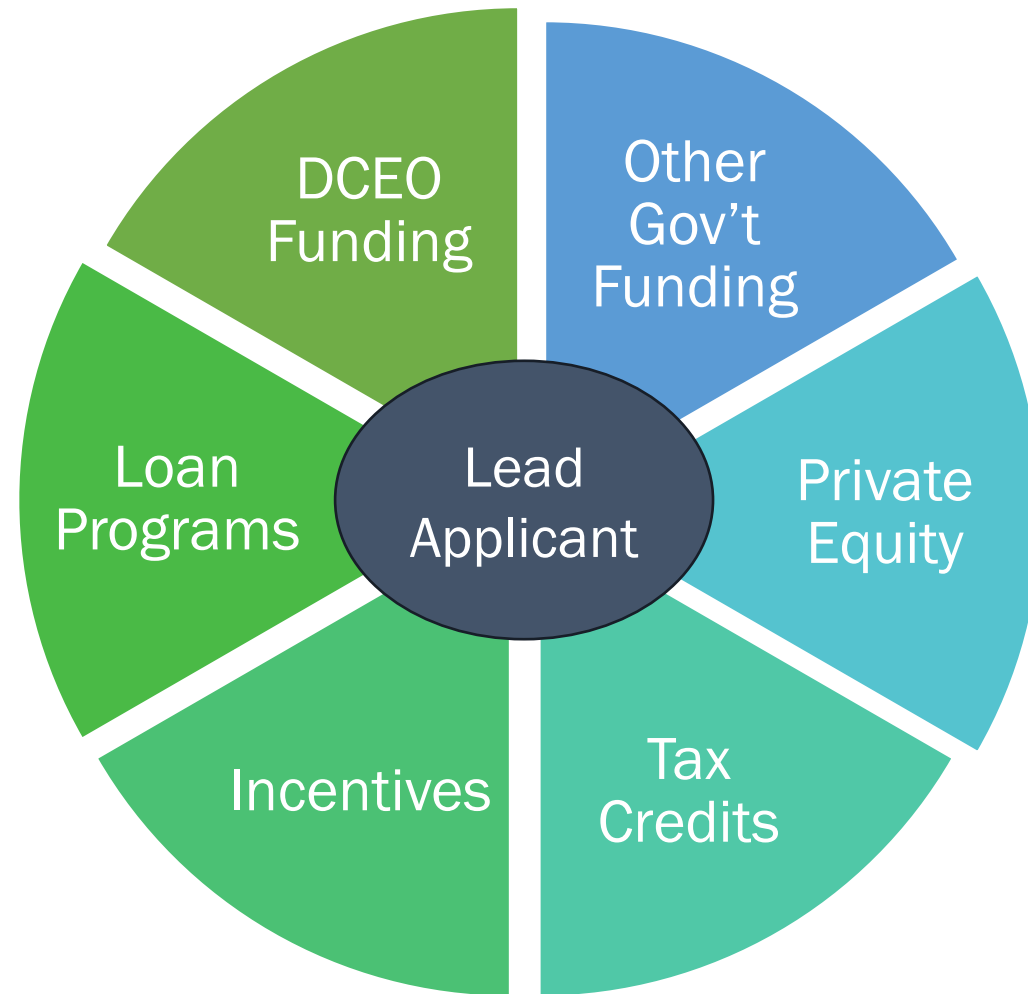**Project Scenario:** Non-profit organization, Net Zero/Near Net Zero Retrofit, located in and/or serves EJ/R3/DAC, mixed use commercial/residential building with market rate and low-income tenants

	IFA	IPA	DCEO	IHDA	ICC	FEDS	Local
Efficiency	C-PACE	Bright Neighborhoods Pilot	CEJA Equitable Energy Future Grant			IRA-Tax Credit	
	Building Electrification						
	REC Bridge Loan						
Solar	Energy Sovereignty Loan	ILSFA IL Shines/ Adjustable Block	Community Solar Sovereignty Grant	Green Resilient Retrofit Program	Equitable Energy Upgrades		TIF
	Community-Driven Community Solar						
Biz/Dev.	SSBCI	EEP/EEC & Min. Equity Standard	CEJA Incubator/ Accelerator			IRA-Tax Credit	
	Working Capital		CEJA Workforce Hub/ Pre-Apprentichip/ On The Job Training				
			Jobs and Justice Fund				

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	IRA
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	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	
Illinois Finance Authority	Illinois Climate Bank	C-PACE	GRID: muni. utility/rural coops	State Small Bus. Credit Initiative	Charging & Fueling Infrastructure	Greenhouse Gas Reduction
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

Note: Due to ongoing changes at the federal level some of these resources or funding opportunities may change.

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

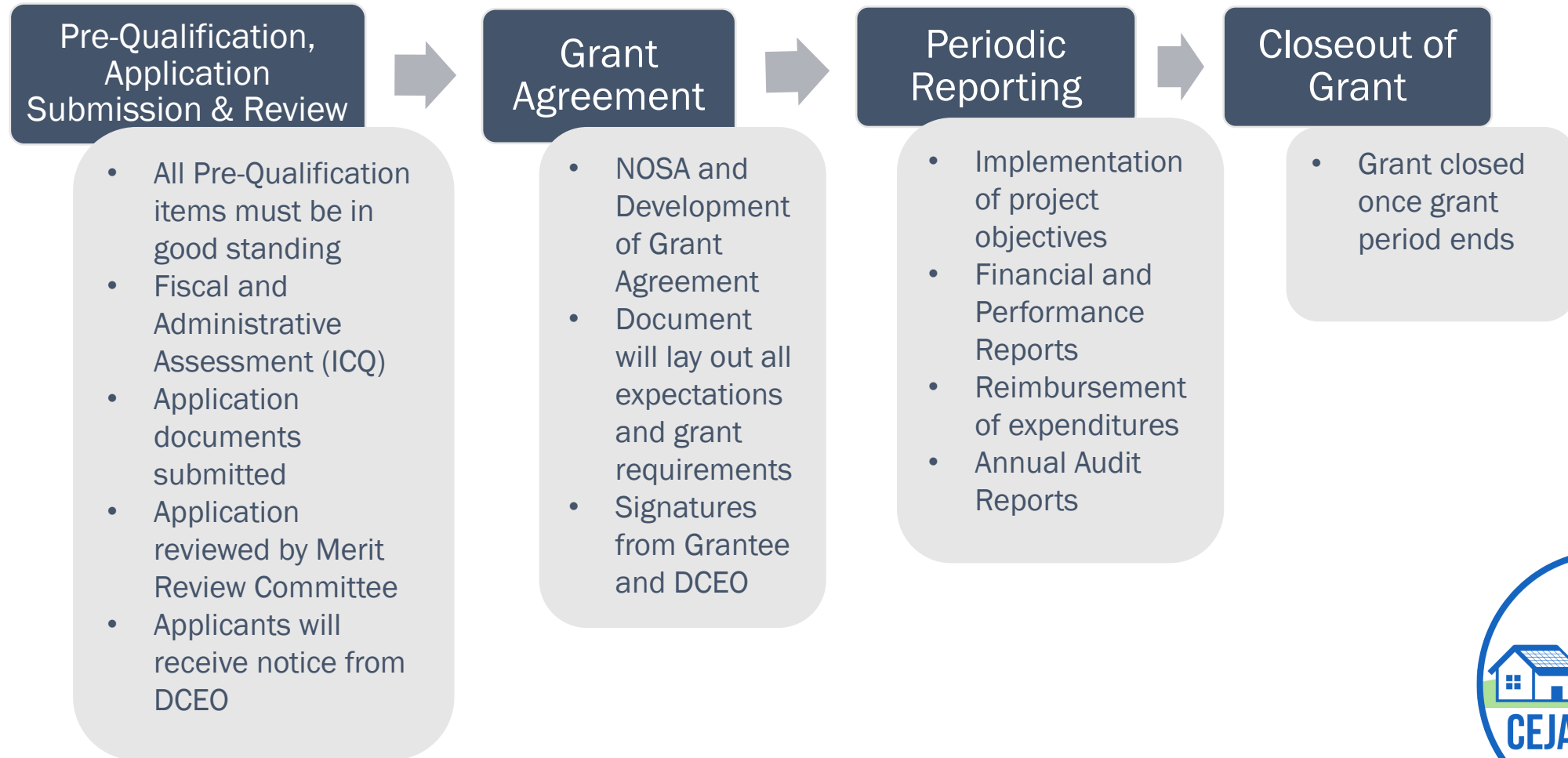|			
Planning/development activities completed	Renewable project(s) successfully completed	Energy efficiency projects successfully completed	Installed capacity of completed renewable energy projects
Projected output of completed renewable energy projects	Projected annual energy savings of completed energy efficiency projects	Permanent full-time equivalent jobs created	Investment leveraged

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

Grants Process

Pre-Qualification, Application Submission & Review

- All Pre-Qualification items must be in good standing
- Fiscal and Administrative Assessment (ICQ)
- Application documents submitted
- Application reviewed by Merit Review Committee
- Applicants will receive notice from DCEO

Grant Agreement

- NOSA and Development of Grant Agreement
- Document will lay out all expectations and grant requirements
- Signatures from Grantee and DCEO

Periodic Reporting

- Implementation of project objectives
- Financial and Performance Reports
- Reimbursement of expenditures
- Annual Audit Reports

Closeout of Grant

- Grant closed once grant period ends

CEJA ILLINOIS
Climate & Equitable Jobs Act

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

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/
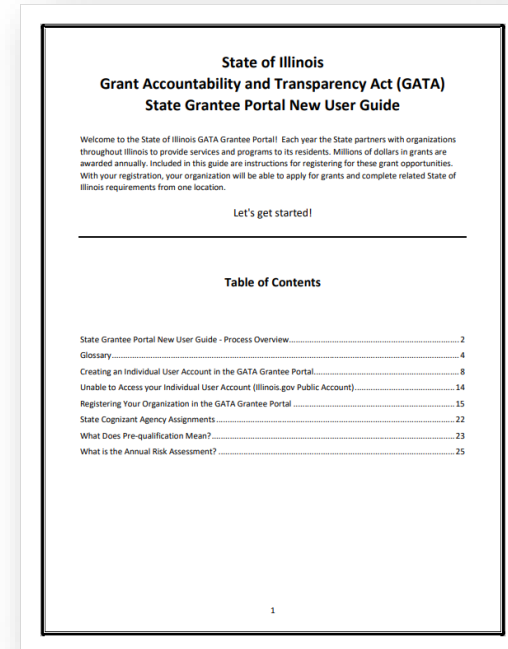
Pre-Qualification

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

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

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

Pre-Qualification in the GATA Grantee Portal

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"
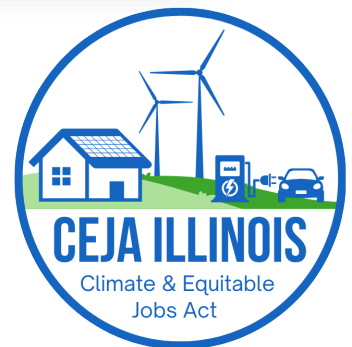- Receiving UEI vs Complete Registration

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

CEJA ILLINOIS
Climate & Equitable Jobs Act

Federal Employer ID (FEIN)

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

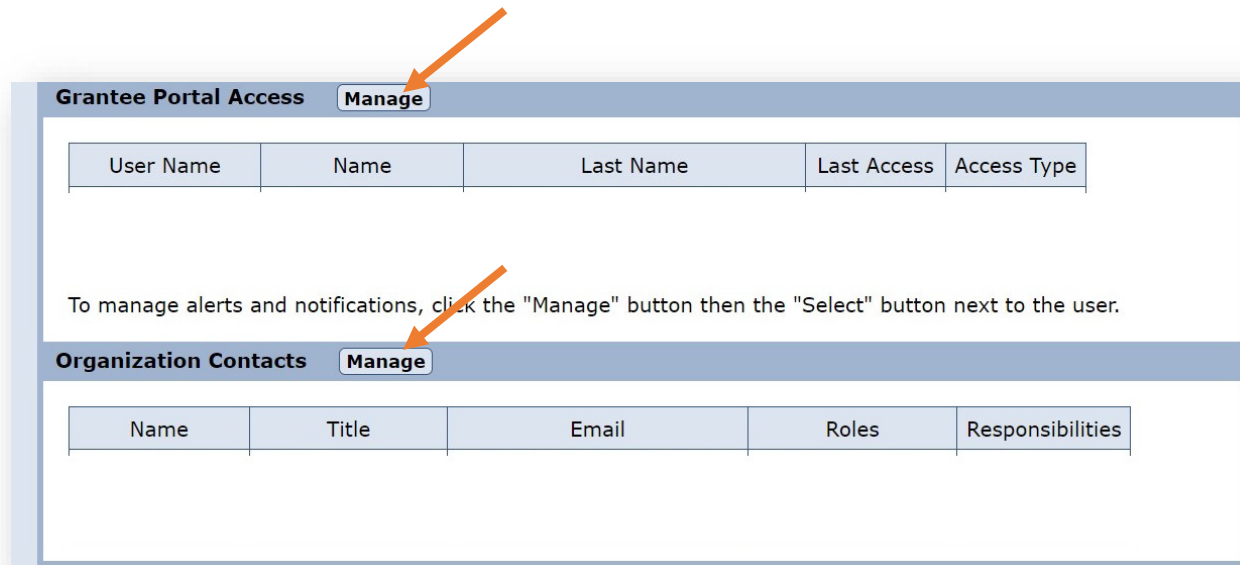| Requirement |
| --- |
| SAM.gov Account |
| Federal Employer ID (FEIN) |
| Federal Excluded Parties List |
| Illinois Secretary of State |
| Illinois Stop Payment List |
| Illinois DHFS Sanction List |

CEJA ILLINOIS
Climate & Equitable Jobs Act

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

CEJA ILLINOIS
Climate & Equitable Jobs Act

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

CEJA ILLINOIS
Climate & Equitable
Jobs Act

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

CEJA ILLINOIS
Climate & Equitable
Jobs Act

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

CEJA ILLINOIS
Climate & Equitable Jobs Act

Other GATA Grantee Portal Tips

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

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

Where to Find NOFOs

Application Submission Tips

- The NOFO contains all pertinent information
  - Contains link for application submission (do not email!)
  - Questions? Contacts are listed in NOFO

- Hard deadline!
  - If 5:00pm is the deadline, then 5:01pm is ineligible
  - Plan to submit at least a day in advance, leaving time to resolve any technical difficulties.

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				
$1,000,000 or more	N/A	Single Audit	Program-Specific Audit	9 months after grantee fiscal year end
Less than $1,000,000	$500,000 or more	Generally Accepted Governmental Auditing Standards Financial Statement Audit		6 months after grantee fiscal year end
	$300,000 or more	General 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 grantee fiscal year end

DCEO Grantee Resource Site

https://dceo.illinois.gov/dceo-grants.html

- Current Grant Opportunities
- Video & Resource Library
- Upcoming Grant Trainings
  - Sign up for training emails
  - Office Hours (Tuesdays 2-3pm)
- Grant Help Desk
  - ceo.granthelp@illinois.gov

Grant Application & Submission Requirements

NOFO Updates

CEJA Ecosystem Utilization Plan (CEUP)

Residential Housing Question

Communication at NOFO Process Steps

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/3054-2991.html

Conflict of Interest Disclosure

Mandatory Disclosure

Uniform Grant Application

Conflict of Interest Disclosure

Award applicants and recipients of awards from the State of Illinois (collectively referred to herein as "Grantee") must disclose in writing to the awarding State agency any actual or potential conflict of interest that could affect the State award for which the Grantee has applied or has received. See 30 ILCS 708/35; 44 Ill. Admin Code § 7000.40(b)(3); 2 CFR § 200.112. A conflict of interest exists if an organization's officers, directors, agents, employees and/or their spouses or immediate family members use their position(s) for a purpose that is, or gives the appearance of, being motivated by a desire for a personal gain, financial or nonfinancial, whether direct or indirect, for themselves or others, particularly those with whom they have a family business or other close associations. In addition, the following conflict of interest standards apply to governmental and non-governmental entities.

Definitions:

Governmental Entity. If the Grantee is a governmental entity, no officer or employee of the Grantee, member of its governing body or any other public official of the locality in which the award objectives will be carried out shall participate in any decision relating to a State award which affects his/her personal interest or the interest of any corporation, partnership or association in which he/she is directly or indirectly interested, or which affects the personal interest of a spouse or immediate family member, or has any financial interest, direct or indirect, in the work to be performed under the State award.

Non-governmental Entity. If the Grantee is a non-governmental entity, no officer or employee of the Grantee shall participate in any decision relating to a State award which affects his/her personal interest or the interest of any corporation, partnership or association in which he/she is directly or indirectly interested, or which affects the personal interest of a spouse or immediate family member, or has any financial interest, direct or indirect, in the work to be performed under the State award.

The Grantee shall also establish safeguards, evidenced by policies, rules and/or bylaws, to prohibit employees or officers of Grantee from engaging in actions, which create or which appear to create a conflict of interest as described herein.

The Grantee has a continuing duty to immediately notify the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (the "Department") in writing of any actual or potential conflict of interest, as well as any actions that create or which appear to create a conflict of interest.

Are there any current potential conflict(s) of interest, or any actions that create or which appear to create a conflict of interest, related to the State award for which your organization has applied?

☐ No   ☐ Yes

If there are any current potential conflict(s) of interest, or any actions that create or which appear to create a conflict of interest, related to the State award for which your organization has applied, please describe them all here:

Mandatory Disclosure

Award applicants and recipients of awards from the State of Illinois (collectively referred to herein as "Grantee") must disclose, in a timely manner and in writing to the State awarding agency, all violations of State or federal criminal law involving fraud, bribery, or gratuity violations potentially affecting the award. See 30 ILCS 708/40; 44 Ill. Admin. Code § 7000.40(b)(4); 2 CFR § 200.113. Failure to make the required disclosures may result in remedial action.

Are there any violations of State or federal criminal law involving fraud, bribery, or gratuity violations potentially affecting the awarding of a grant to your organization?   ☐ No   ☐ Yes

If there any violations of State or federal criminal law involving fraud, bribery, or gratuity violations potentially affecting the awarding of a grant to your organization, please describe them all here:

Grantee has a continuing duty to disclose to the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (the "Department") all violations of criminal law involving fraud, bribery or gratuity violations potentially affecting this grant award.

By signing this document, below, as the duly authorized representative of the Grantee, I hereby certify that:

- All of the statements in this Mandatory Disclosure form are true, complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I am aware that any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or claims may subject me to criminal, civil or administrative penalties. (U.S. Code, Title 18, Section 1001).
- There is no action, suit or proceeding at law or in equity pending, nor to the best of Grantee's knowledge, threatened, against or affecting the Grantee, before any court or before any governmental or administrative agency, which will have a material adverse effect on the performance required by the grant award.
- Grantee is not currently operating under or subject to any cease and desist order, or subject to any informal or formal regulatory action, and, to the best of the Grantee's knowledge, it is not currently the subject of any investigation by any state or federal regulatory, law enforcement or legal authority.
- If Grantee becomes the subject of an action, suit or proceeding at law or in equity that would have a material adverse effect on the performance required by an award, or an investigation by any state or federal regulatory, law enforcement or legal authority, Grantee shall promptly notify the Department in writing.

Grantee Organization (Company Name)

_____   _____
Signature of Authorized Representative   Date

_____
Printed Name (Authorized Signator Name)

_____
Printed Title (Authorized Signator Title)   CSFA Number

Uniform Grant Application

Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity

Uniform Application for State Grant Assistance

Agency Completed Section

1. Type of Submission:
   ○ Pre-Application
   ● Application
   ○ Changed/Corrected Application

2. Type of Application:
   ● New
   ○ Continuation (i.e. Multiple Year Grant)
   ○ Revision (Modification to Initial Application)

3. Date/Time Received By State (Completed by State Agency Upon Receipt of Application)

4. Name of Awarding Agency   Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity

5. Catalog of State Financial Assistance (CSFA) Number

6. CSFA Title

Federal Assistance Listing   ☐ Not Applicable (No Federal Funding)

7. Assistance Listing Number #1

8. Assistance Listing Program Title #1

9. Assistance Listing Number #2

10. Assistance Listing Program Title #2

217.782.7500 Springfield | 312.814.7179 Chicago | www.illinois.gov/dceo

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 & Enviromental 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		$	-

‹ › General Instructions | **Section A** | ICI | Certification | Phase1Personnel | Phase2Personnel | Phase

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)

Required Program Specific Documents

Program Specific Application

CEJA Ecosystem Utilization Plan (CEUP)

Equitable Energy Future Project Timeline

EEC Certification (Certificate/Approved Vendor List/Attestation)

Letter(s) of Community Support

Memorandum(a) of Understanding (if applicable)

Documentation of Property Ownership or Authority to Improve Site

Phase 2 Specific Documents (if applicable)

Find all NOFO Materials and resources here: https://dceo.illinois.gov/aboutdceo/grantopportunities/3054-2991.html

Program Specific Application

Equitable Energy Future Grant Program Application 2025

Applicant & Eligibility Information (NOFO Section C)

1. Applicant Name

2. GATA #

3. Business legal structure (check all that apply)
- ☐ Sole proprietorship
- ☐ Partnership (limited partnership or limited liability partnership)
- ☐ Limited Liability Company (LLC)
- ☐ Non-profit organization
- ☐ Cooperative: For-Profit or Not-For-Profit (circle one)
- ☐ Other:

4. Does the applicant business/organization have a parent company/organization or subsidiaries? If yes, describe the structure and provide entity names
- ☐ Yes ☐ No

5. Annual revenue of applicant business/organization
- ☐ $0-$100,000 ☐ $100,001-$500,000
- ☐ $500,001-$1,000,000 ☐ $1,000,001-$10,000,000

6. Please indicate whether you are an Approved Vendor of either of the following programs.
- ☐ Illinois Solar for All Program (https://www.illinoissfa.com/for-vendors/)
- ☐ Illinois Shines (Adjustable Block Program) (https://illinoisshines.com/)
- ☐ Not applicable

8. If you are applying as an independent contractor offering personal services, please indicate which equity eligible persons criteria you meet. *(Refer to NOFO Section A)*
- ☐ I have graduated from or am a current/former participant in one of the CEJA/FEJA Workforce (https://dceo.illinois.gov/ceja/workforce-training-programs.html) or CEJA/FEJA Contractor (https://dceo.illinois.gov/ceja/ceja-contractor-programs.html) programs (with exception of Craft Apprenticeship Program).
- ☐ I am a graduate of or am currently enrolled in the foster care system.
- ☐ I have been convicted of a crime and was incarcerated for that conviction.
- ☐ My primary residence is in an equity investment eligible community. (https://energyequity.illinois.gov/resources/equity-investment-eligible-community-map.html).
- ☐ Not applicable

9. Did you receive assistance from any of the following to complete this application? *(Refer to NOFO Section H)*
- ☐ Clean Energy Contractor Incubator Program (when in operation)
- ☐ Clean Energy Primes Contractor Accelerator Program (when in operation)
- ☐ Small Business Development Center
- ☐ APEX Accelerator (formerly Procurement Technical Assistance Centers)
- ☐ Other:
- ☐ Not applicable

Proposed Project & Outcome Information
(NOFO Section A – Program Description and Performance Goals and Measures)

10. What is the grant amount being requested per phase?

Phase 1	$
Phase 2	$

11. Is this project an energy efficiency or renewable energy project? (check all that apply)
- ☐ Energy Efficiency ☐ Renewable Energy

12. What type of project is being proposed? (check all that apply)
- ☐ Residential: ☐ Renovation ☐ New Build
- ☐ Commercial: ☐ Renovation ☐ New Build
- ☐ Other:

13. As detailed in the NOFO, grant funds were intended to accomplish any or all the goals to the left. Check all the accomplishments the proposed project will achieve.

Ensure achievements selected here are described in more detail throughout this application *(Refer to NOFO Section A)*
- ☐ Provide benefits to low-income communities wherein at least 50% of projected energy produced or saved benefits low-income households 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
- ☐ 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 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 CEJA and FEJA workforce programs
- ☐ 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 Multicultural Program

CEJA Ecosystem Utilization Plan (CEUP)

Office of Energy & Business Utility
CEJA Ecosystem Utilization Plan (CEUP)

The Equitable Energy Future's grant was developed as part of the Jobs & Environmental Justice Grant Program under the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act. In alignment with the CEJA legislation, Equitable Energy Futures prioritizes diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility in all funded projects. This plan is required for all applicants submitting materials for the Equitable Energy Futures grant opportunity and will be evaluated as part of the merit review process. For applicants who are not Equity Eligible Contractors, this plan will also be used to evaluate the applicant's eligibility and if they meet the equity building criteria as outlined in paragraph (9.5) of subsection (g) of Section 8-103B of the Public Utilities Act. The following definitions were utilized in the development of this form and sourced from the Illinois Toward Equity Framework. (*Note: Hover over underlined words to access a definition of that term/phrase*)

Business/Organization Name:		Is the organization a certified Equity Eligible Contractor through the Illinois Power Agency?	☐ Yes, the business/organization is a certified EEC ☐ No, the business/organization is not a certified EEC, but has a pending application with the IPA ☐ No, the business/organization is not a certified EEC and is not eligible to be an EEC

Employee Demographics									
Race/Ethnicity	Number of Employees	Gender Identity	Number of Employees	Age	Number of Employees	Equity Eligible Designation	Number of Employees	Number of Employees with Disabilities	Total Number of Employees
American Indian/ Native Alaskan		Female		18–24		Equity Eligible Person (EEP)			
Asian		Male		25–34		Equity Eligible Contractor (EEC)			
Black/African American		Transgender Woman		35–50		CEJA/FEJA Workforce Graduates			
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander		Transgender Man		50 +		CEJA/FEJA Contractor Graduates			
Hispanic/Latino		Non-Binary/ Gender Queer				Other State Workforce Program: _____			
White, Non-Hispanic		None of These							

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	Mont 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	Mont 32

EEF Project Timeline

EEC Certification: IPA Certification

Provide a digital/physical certification card OR provide an image of the most recent EEC Approved Vendor List

Illinois Shines

Organization/Business Name

Certified EEC AV

EEC Approved Vendors as of 3-4-2025
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 BLUE

AV ID	Company	Type	Website	Phone Number
2368	1500TH REC LLC	SREC Broker/ Aggregator		779-774-5151
2007	22C Development LLC	Community Solar Project Developer;DG Project Developer;SREC Broker/ Aggregator	WWW.22C-DEVELOPMENT.COM	779-774-5151
2347	550TH REC LLC	SREC Broker/ Aggregator		779-774-5151
513	93Energy LLC	DG Installer, DG Project Developer	www.93energy.com	773-797-6527
2347	950TH REC LLC	SREC Broker/ Aggregator		779-774-5151
2324	A-Current LLC	DG Installer, DG Project Developer, Community Solar Project Developer, SREC Broker/Aggregator, Other	www.acurrentllc.com	773-554-0017
2282	ADL KA335 REC LLC	Community Solar Project Developer	www.adlsolutionsllc.com	847-561-4731
2059	ADL Solutions LLC	DG Installer;Community Solar Project Developer;DG Project Developer	adlsolutionllc.com	847-561-4731
2288	ADL ST78 REC LLC	Community Solar Project Developer	www.adlsolutionsllc.com	847-561-4731
213	Advanced Energy Solutions Group	DG Installer, DG Project Developer, Community Solar Project Developer, SREC Broker/Aggregator	AESsolar.com	618-893-1717
2350	ALEXANDER REC LLC	SREC Broker/ Aggregator		779-774-5151
2274	Alpha Electricical Services LLC	DG Project Developer;DG Installer;Community Solar Project Developer	https://alphaelectricalserv.com/	708-738-7090
2169	Alpine Rd Illinois REC LLC	Community Solar Project Developer		612-991-9000
2052	AMB Renewable Energy Inc.	DG Installer;DG Project Developer;Community Solar Project Developer;SREC Broker/ Aggregator;Non-Profit;Other	https://www.ambrenewable.com/	773-206-9471
2183	ARF Solar LLC	DG Installer, DG Project Developer	https://arfsolar.net/	618-977-4248
2356	AROMA PARK REC LLC	SREC Broker/ Aggregator		779-774-5151
2248	Artemis Energy LLC	Community Solar Project Developer; Other		773-698-4209
2352	BADER REC LLC	SREC Broker/ Aggregator		779-774-5151
2351	BANDYVILLE REC LLC	SREC Broker/ Aggregator		779-774-5151
2261	BDL Solar LLC	DG Project Developer;SREC Broker/ Aggregator		217-356-3749
644	Bella Power Services	DG Installer		815-238-7606
2485	BlackRock Construction	DG Installer; DG Project Developer; Community Solar Project Developer; SREC Broker/Aggregator	blackrock-construction.com	708-228-6716
863	Blacktech Solutions Corp.	DG Installer; Community Solar Project Developer; DG Project Developer	www.blacktechsolutionscorp.com	630-341-4374
2084	Blue Solar One LLC	Community Solar Project Developer	www.bluesolarone.com	612-991-9000
2100	BLV Holdings1 LLC- BRS	DG Project Developer;Community Solar Project Developer	BigRockSustainables.com	630-880-5375
2335	Brotherhood Electric LLC	DG Installer; DG Project Developer; Community Solar Project Developer; Other		815-616-4252
2148	Cardinal Community Energy LLC	Community Solar Project Developer;SREC Broker/ Aggregator	https://www.cardinalcommunityenergy.com/	847-651-0091
626	CC Solar LLC	DG Installer	https://cleancommunityil.com/cc-solar-llc	312-890-7473

Locate the EEC Approved Vendor List: https://illinoisshines.com/find-an-av-designee-or-subcontractor/

EEC Attestation

Provide this only if:

1. Your business meets all criteria to be an EEC

2. You have applied to be certified as an EEC, but your application is pending approval by IPA

Letters of Community Support

o Should be from community organizations or businesses, local municipal support/elected officials etc.

o No requirement on the number of letters.

o Should demonstrate the connection between this project and community.

Additional Required Documents

- 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

OEBU & DCEO Grant Process

Technical Assistance (Optional)

Administrative Review Denial
May be denied due to:
- Lack of GATA approval Programmatic
- Required Documents Missing
- Applicant Eligibility Documents Missing
- Late Submission

Merit Review Denial
May be denied due to:
- Merit Review score less than 75%

Denial letter will provide constructive feedback on where the application can be improved.

Applicant Pre-Qualification → **NOFO Release/ Pre-submission** → **Application Submission** → **Administrative Review** → **Merit Review & Scoring** → **Final Score & Decision Letters Sent** → **Negotiation Meeting**

Applicants are invited to participate in one-on-one technical assistance, attend NOFO webinars, access the Q&A page, or submit questions to CEO.CEJA@Illinois.gov

6 – 12 weeks

3 – 6 weeks

Applications that receive a score of 75%+ will move to negotiation.

During negotiation deliverables, project timeline, budget, and milestones will be established.

OEBU & DCEO Grant Process

Merit Review Scoring

Cost Effectiveness /Return on Investment (20%)

Documentation of Need (10%)

Applicant Qualifications & Capacity (20%)

Project Quality (50%)
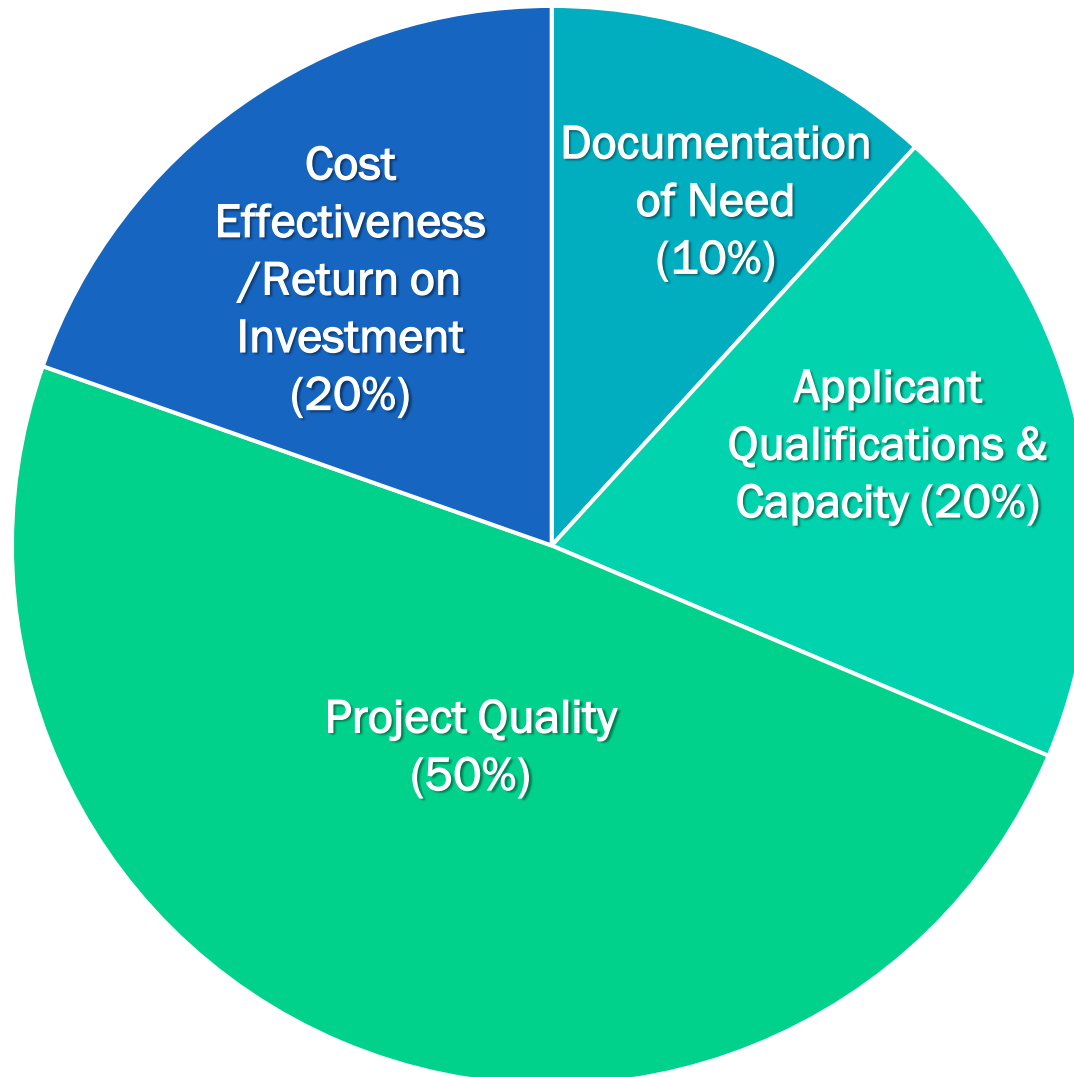
Proposals will be reviewed on a rolling basis by the Merit Review Team.

Applications scoring 75% or higher will move to negotiation.

Scoring Criteria (NOFO Section E)

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.	5%
Applicant's historical or future long-term partnership with the community in which the project will be located.	5%
Applicant's or partner's expertise in successfully completing similar projects.	5%
Extent to which applicant and partners/contractors exceed minimum equity eligibility qualifications (such as equity eligible contractor requirements).	5%

Project Quality 50%	
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%
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.	5%
Ability to leverage existing funding sources, incentives, services and partnerships to improve the cost effectiveness and return on investment of the project.	10%
The Budget Narratives outline the amount of each line item and are costs reasonable.	5%

NOFO Timeline

May 27, 2025
NOFO Posted

End June/Early July
Merit Reviews Begin

December 31, 2025
Applications Due by
5:00 PM CST

Quarter 1 2026
Merit Reviews End
for Round 3

Grant & Budget Tips/Resources

DCEO Video Training & Resources
https://dceo.illinois.gov/aboutdceo/grantopportunities/learning-library.html

Upcoming Grant Trainings
https://dceo.illinois.gov/aboutdceo/grantopportunities/upcoming-grant-trainings.html

Contact the DCEO Grant Help Desk
Email: CEO.GrantHelp@illinois.gov

Upcoming Grant Trainings

Live Trainings offered by DCEO's Office of Accountability

Curious about the grant lifecycle or wanting to learn more about the different facets of grants? Have a grant-related question that you would like answered in real time? DCEO is pleased to offer three training options for current and potential grantees:

Interested in participating in a training session?

Sign Up for a Training Session

Virtual Office Hour Q & A - Tuesdays at 2pm:
Join for a virtual question and answer session via Webex in which potential and current Grantees may attend to ask questions and seek assistance. Technical Support Managers will be online to field questions, demonstrate steps, or provide instructions as needed to assist entities and individuals with the grant process.

Pre-Qualification Training – 1st Wednesday of the month 9AM:
This slide presentation will cover Pre-Qualification requirements. Pre-qualification is required of all grantees with the State of Illinois and must be maintained throughout a grant program. To be in pre-qualified status means that all required registrations have been met and an entity is in good standing and able to conduct business with the State of Illinois. Join DCEO's Technical Support Team as we explain each step in the pre-qualification process and how to get started.

Various topics Training – 3rd Wednesday of the month 9AM:
This slide presentation will discuss important grant-related topics pertaining to grant management. Each month we will discuss a different component, process, or emerging practice that can benefit potential and existing grantees. Future topics offerings include:

EEF Grant Writing Resource

Grant Writing Tips for the Equitable Energy Future Grant Program
Updated June 2025

Center the Community
Renewable energy and energy efficiency projects have an array of possible energy and non-energy benefits, but not every community is the same. Throughout the application think about how this project will address the specific needs of your community and how this project will address those.

It's also important for applicant to think about community-based partners, vendors, contractors, and collaborating organizations. How can the applicant demonstrate a connection to those also embedded in the community. This may be by co-hosting events, attending public meetings, providing information on each other's websites or social media etc. These formal or informal partners can help with community connection or data that can be helpful for the applicant when demonstrating community need and/or potential impact of the project.

Outline Your Plan
This program was designed for projects that are in the early stages. As a result, merit review teams expect that not every detail of a plan will be worked out and know that as the project progresses plans may change. However, it is still important to outline your plans as much as possible even if details are not solidified. You may even go as far as stating "this is our plan based on these factors, but we acknowledge this may change based on xxx." Leaving information general because it is not solidified can be perceived as not having a plan or that there has been minimal thought put into the plan. Any details or estimates can be helpful to understand that while the plan may not feature exact dates your team has spent time on thinking through potential details and timelines.

Example:
General - Demonstrates intent but not thoughtful planning:
We plan to do community outreach with community members throughout all stages of this project.

Detailed- Demonstrates the plan was thought through even if some aspects may not be final:
Based on our current estimated timeline we anticipate that community outreach will begin once rezoning has been approved and will continue into the implementation phase. Our organization and partners have found one-on-one in-person outreach to be the most effective. As a result, we will attend public meetings, seek co-hosts for community awareness events, and work with local organizations such as the Chamber of Commerce and our local economic development board to increase awareness of the project. We are still actively seeking partners and identifying events that would reach the highest number of potential customers. As the project advances into the construction phase, we anticipate contracting a marketing professional to incorporate digital and social media outreach in addition to ongoing in-person events to increase our reach to those who may have barriers to meeting our team in-person.

Be Consistent
Prior to submitting your grant application read all application materials with a focus on identifying inconsistencies. Inconsistencies can make project details confusing potentially leading to a lower score.

Example: Are the costs outlined on the Program Specific Application also in the Uniform Budget Template? Are employment numbers in the Program Specific Application consistent with those outlined in the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Access Plan?

Be Specific
Every time you make a claim, back up
documentation of need, outcomes, m

Example: Include labor and economic
of partners or collaborators, List fund

Don't Assume
While merit review teams are compo
community, funding sources or othe
family member, or colleague unatta
application that are not clear or nee

Example: If you name a partner or
doing; If your team plans to apply
for, the type of funding etc.; if the
equipment etc. the budget narrati
utilized etc.

Use Available Resources & Sup
Refer to the DCEO website and t
and slides from the Bidder's Co
information or sign up for one-o

2025 EEF NOFO Information &
Clean Energy Funding Resourc
Submit a Question for the Q &
Access the Questions & Answ

The most important docume
read and thoroughly underst
Eligibility and Section D.2 Ap
automatic denial.

Use the Scoring Sheet
DCEO has released the offi
reviewers to assess each a
application to the "meets c
Each question in the scorin
identify what documents/c
Access the scoring sheet

Documenting Allowable
The EEF grant program d
ensure that costs are for
allowable costs and the
allowable costs referen
Phase 1: Planning and F

Requirements are Met
enied because the applicant did
ts, and/or the applicant was not

because of a late or incomplete
ly receive a denial and if the grant
deadline the application cannot

applications submitted after this

NOFO Section D. They are also

Seek Applicant Support

1. Sign up for one-on-one technical assistance with a CEJA Program Coach beginning 6/5/2025:

   [CEJA NOFO Applicant Technical Assistance Sign Up](#)

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 Aaron.McEvoy@Illinois.gov

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/3054-2991.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: June 24, 2025 | 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM

Session Overview

Step-by-step overview of the required EEF Application Documents & Case Studies of Approved Projects

- Program Application
- CEJA Ecosystem Utilization Plan (CEUP)
- EEF Project Timeline
- Budget Template
- Case Studies of Approved Projects

CEJA ILLINOIS
Climate & Equitable Jobs Act

Questions?

Contact Us
CEO.OEBU@Illinois.gov