



Equitable Energy Future Grant Program Application Requirements Review

June 24, 2025



Illinois
Department of Commerce
& Economic Opportunity
JB Pritzker, Governor

Presenters

- **Aaron McEvoy, Equitable Energy Future Grant Manager**
DCEO - Office of Energy & Business Utility
- **Christine Flynn, Public Sector Consultant**
Workforce Policy Lab, Northern Illinois University



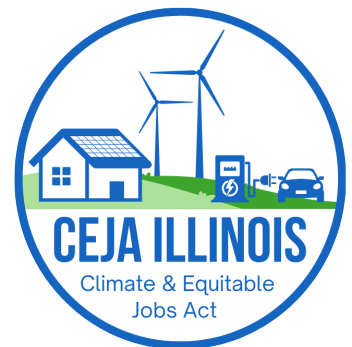


Items of Note

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.
4. There will be a Q&A at the end of each section of the presentation.

Overview

1. Climate & Equitable Jobs Act (CEJA)
2. Equitable Energy Futures Program
3. Grant Application & Submission Requirements
 1. Program Specific Application
 2. CEJA Ecosystem Utilization Plan (CEUP)
 3. EEF Project Timeline
 4. Uniform Budget Template
4. Grant & Merit Review Process



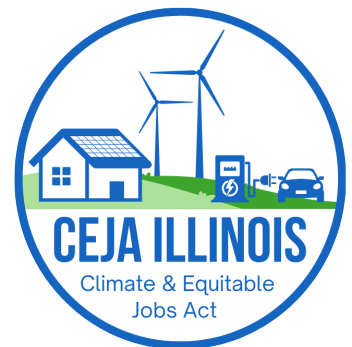


**Did you join us for the NOFO
session on June 4th?**



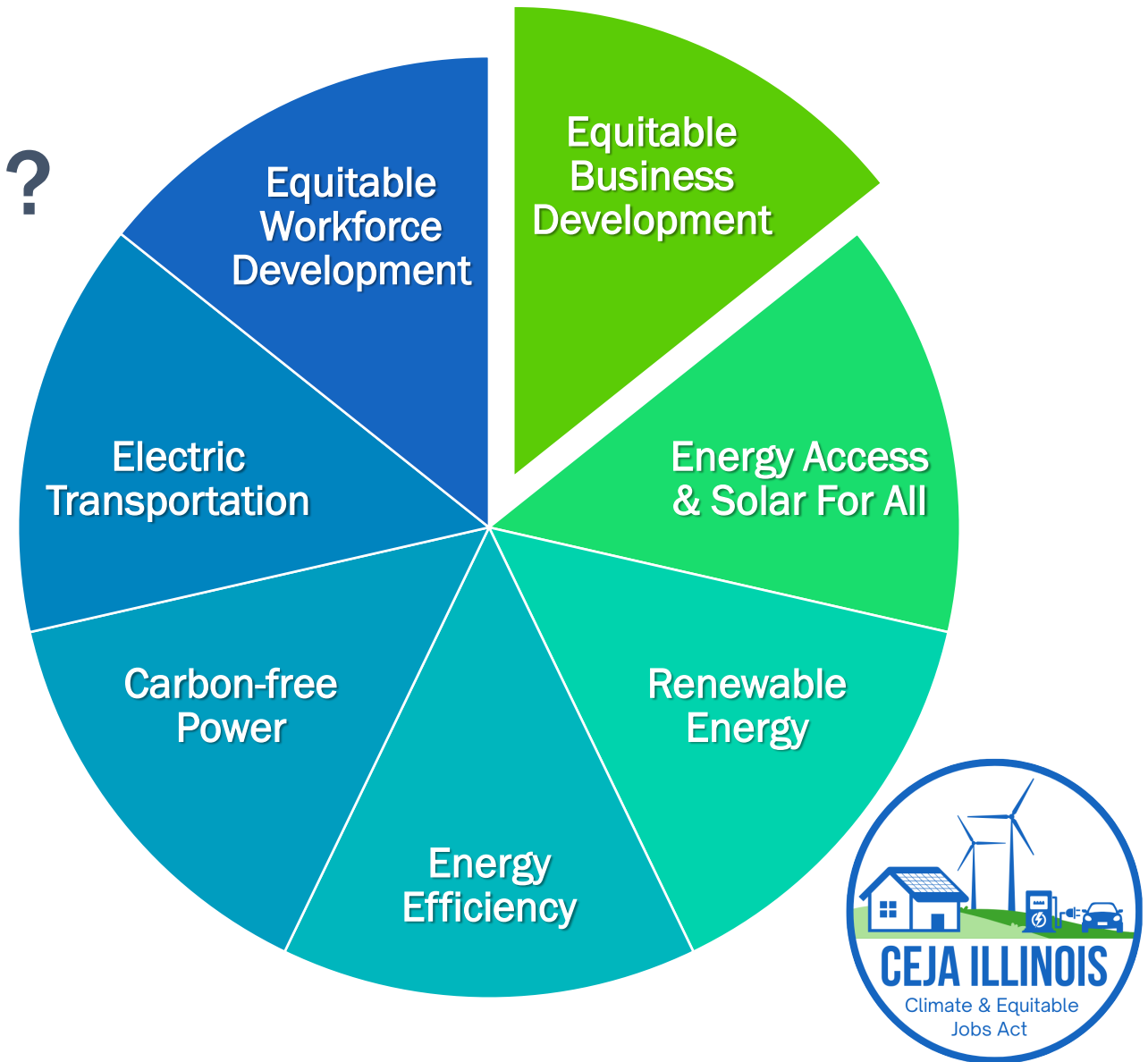


Climate & Equitable Jobs Act (CEJA)



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

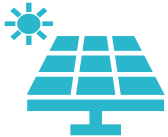
Comprehensive energy legislation that centers equity and puts Illinois on track to achieve 100 % renewable energy by 2050.



DCEO Clean Energy Programs

★ Funding Opportunity Currently Open

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



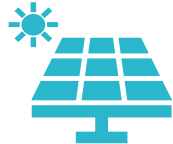
Coal to Solar



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.



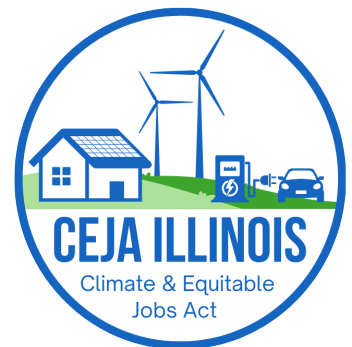
Future Energy Jobs Act (FEJA) OET



FEJA Workforce
Training Program



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.

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



Eligible Applicants

- **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 CEJA Ecosystem Utilization Plan (CEUP).

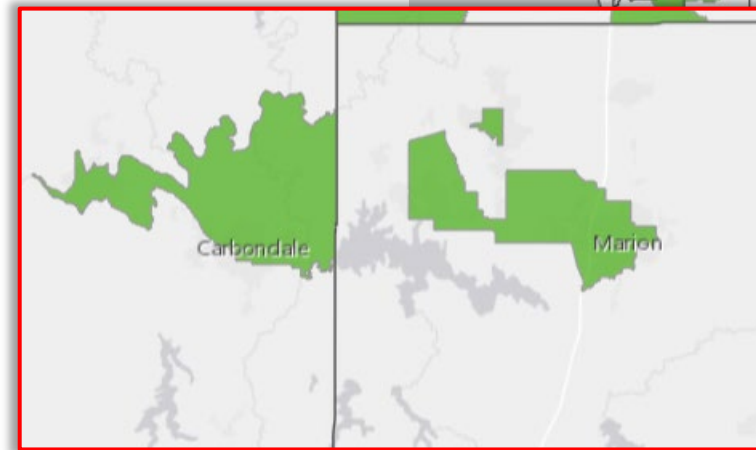


Funding

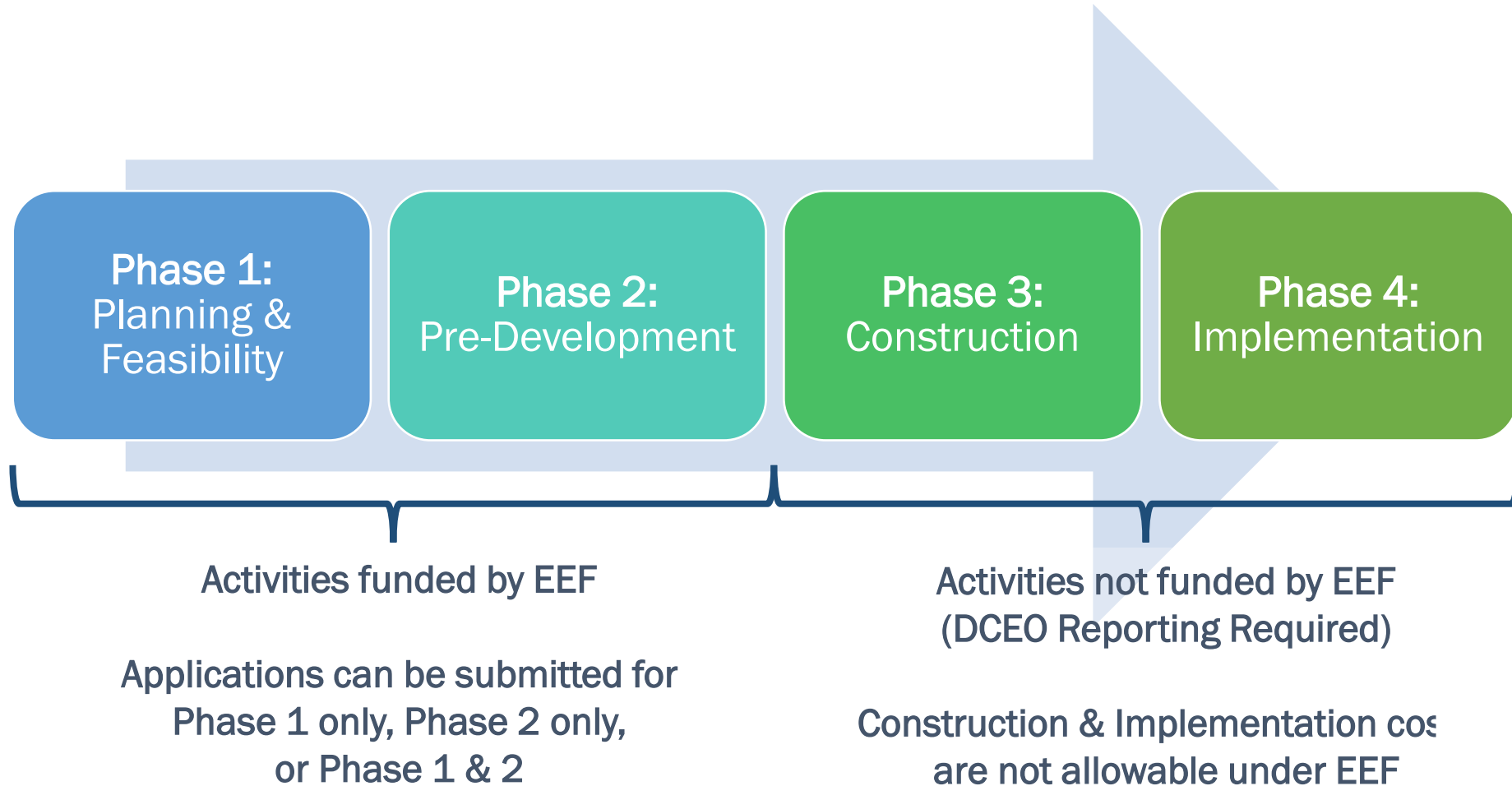
- **Total Funding:** \$25.5 million per year
- **Per Applicant Award:** \$250,000 - \$1,000,000
- **Estimated Number of Awards:** Up to 40
- **Applicants may apply for multiple projects.** However, applicants will only be approved for a total award amount of funds up to \$3 million between all projects.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

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

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



Project Phases

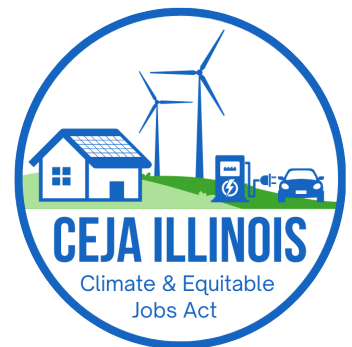


Allowable Activities

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)



Grant Application & Submission Requirements



Program Specific Application

CEJA Ecosystem Utilization Plan (CEUP)

Equitable Energy Future Project Timeline

Illinois Power Agency EEC Certification or Attestation Form

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/3054-2991.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) <input type="checkbox"/> Sole proprietorship <input type="checkbox"/> Partnership (limited partnership or limited liability partnership) <input type="checkbox"/> Limited Liability Company (LLC) <input type="checkbox"/> Non-profit organization <input type="checkbox"/> Cooperative: For-Profit or Not-For-Profit (circle one) <input type="checkbox"/> Other:		
4. Does the applicant business/organization have a parent company/organization or subsidiaries? If yes, describe the structure and provide entity names <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
5. Annual revenue of applicant business/organization <input type="checkbox"/> \$0-\$100,000 <input type="checkbox"/> \$100,001-\$500,000 <input type="checkbox"/> \$500,001-\$1,000,000 <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000,001-\$10,000,000		
6. Please indicate whether you are an Approved Vendor of either of the following programs. <input type="checkbox"/> Illinois Solar for All Program (https://www.illinoisifa.com/for-vendors/) <input type="checkbox"/> Illinois Shines (Adjustable Block Program) (https://illinoisshines.com/) <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable		
7. 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) <input type="checkbox"/> 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). <input type="checkbox"/> I am a graduate of or am currently enrolled in the foster care system. <input type="checkbox"/> I have been convicted of a crime and was incarcerated for that conviction. <input type="checkbox"/> My primary residence is in an equity investment eligible community. (https://energyequity.illinois.gov/resources/equity-investment-eligible-community-map.html). <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable		
8. Did you receive assistance from any of the following to complete this application? (Refer to NOFO Section H) <input type="checkbox"/> Clean Energy Contractor Incubator Program (when in operation) <input type="checkbox"/> Clean Energy Primes Contractor Accelerator Program (when in operation) <input type="checkbox"/> Small Business Development Center <input type="checkbox"/> APEX Accelerator (formerly Procurement Technical Assistance Centers) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable		
Proposed Project & Outcome Information (NOFO Section A – Program Description and Performance Goals and Measures)		
9. What is the grant amount being requested per phase?		Phase 1 \$ Phase 2 \$
10. What is the grant amount being requested per phase?		<input type="checkbox"/> Energy Efficiency <input type="checkbox"/> Renewable Energy <input type="checkbox"/> Residential: <input type="checkbox"/> Renovation <input type="checkbox"/> New build <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial: <input type="checkbox"/> Renovation <input type="checkbox"/> New build <input type="checkbox"/> Other:
11. What type of project is being proposed? (check all that apply)		
12. 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)		<input type="checkbox"/> 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 <input type="checkbox"/> Invest in equity investment eligible communities <input type="checkbox"/> Provide on-the-job training <input type="checkbox"/> 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) <input type="checkbox"/> Employ a minimum of 51% of its workforce from graduates or current or former participants of the following CEJA and FEJA workforce programs <input type="checkbox"/> 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

Program Specific Application: Applicant & Eligibility Information

Applicant & Eligibility Information (NOFO Section C)	
1. Applicant Name	
2. GATA #	
3. Business legal structure (check all that apply)	<input type="checkbox"/> Sole proprietorship <input type="checkbox"/> Partnership (limited partnership or limited liability partnership) <input type="checkbox"/> Limited Liability Company (LLC) <input type="checkbox"/> Non-profit organization <input type="checkbox"/> Cooperative: For-Profit or Not-For-Profit (circle one) <input type="checkbox"/> Other:
4. Does the applicant business/organization have a parent company/organization or subsidiaries? If yes, describe the structure and provide entity names	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
5. Annual revenue of applicant business/organization	<input type="checkbox"/> \$0-\$100,000 <input type="checkbox"/> \$100,001-\$500,000 <input type="checkbox"/> \$500,001-\$1,000,000 <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000,001-\$10,000,000
6. Please indicate whether you are an Approved Vendor of either of the following programs.	<input type="checkbox"/> Illinois Solar for All Program (https://www.illinoisfa.com/for-vendors/) <input type="checkbox"/> Illinois Shines (Adjustable Block Program) (https://illinoisshines.com/) <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable
7. 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)	<input type="checkbox"/> 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). <input type="checkbox"/> I am a graduate of or am currently enrolled in the foster care system. <input type="checkbox"/> I have been convicted of a crime and was incarcerated for that conviction. <input type="checkbox"/> My primary residence is in an equity investment eligible community. (https://energyequity.illinois.gov/resources/equity-investment-eligible-community-map.html). <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable
8. Did you receive assistance from any of the following to complete this application? (Refer to NOFO Section H)	<input type="checkbox"/> Clean Energy Contractor Incubator Program (when in operation) <input type="checkbox"/> Clean Energy Primes Contractor Accelerator Program (when in operation) <input type="checkbox"/> Small Business Development Center <input type="checkbox"/> APEX Accelerator (formerly Procurement Technical Assistance Centers) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable

Program Specific Application: Proposed Project & Outcome Information

Proposed Project & Outcome Information (NOFO Section A – Program Description and Performance Goals and Measures)		
9. What is the grant amount being requested per phase?	Phase 1	\$
	Phase 2	\$
10. What is the grant amount being requested per phase?	<input type="checkbox"/> Energy Efficiency <input type="checkbox"/> Renewable Energy	
11. What type of project is being proposed? (check all that apply)	<input type="checkbox"/> Residential: <input type="checkbox"/> Renovation <input type="checkbox"/> New build <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial: <input type="checkbox"/> Renovation <input type="checkbox"/> New build <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	
12. 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 <i>(Refer to NOFO Section A)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> 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 <input type="checkbox"/> Invest in equity investment eligible communities <input type="checkbox"/> Provide on-the-job training <input type="checkbox"/> 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) <input type="checkbox"/> Employ a minimum of 51% of its workforce from graduates or current or former participants of the following CEJA and FEJA workforce programs <input type="checkbox"/> 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	

Program Specific Application: Proposed Project & Outcome Information

13. Provide a descriptive summary of the proposed project and include the current state of the project, project plan, length of the program, and estimated outcomes of energy and non-energy benefits. Include as many specifics as possible including data points. (up to 750 words).

ABC Development, in partnership with 123 Solar will construct a 5 MW solar farm in Marion, Illinois. Subscriptions will be offered primarily to low-income residents with a projected utility rate reduction of 50%. This project is in the planning and feasibility phase and the team is seeking funding to cover architectural design and engineering services....

14. If you selected Residential Renovation and/or New Build in Question 11, please indicate how you intend to mitigate the risk of increased rental costs and/or displacement of current residents/community members. (e.g. Affordable Housing Covenants, Deed Restrictions, Community Benefit Agreements, First Right of Refusal etc.)

15. List the address(es) where the proposed project will be located. If an address(es) have not been selected outline potential sites/geographies.

16. Does the applicant own the project property/address?

☐ Yes ☐ No

17. Explain why this site location was chosen. (e.g. type of site, price, location in specific neighborhood, etc.) If a site has not been chosen, identify what factors will be considered when selecting a final site (up to 250 words).

18. List the community(ies) the project will benefit as well as the community needs that the completed project will directly address. Include demographic, economic, and labor data, etc. as available to demonstrate community needs. (up to 750 words) (Refer to NOFO Section A)

Program Specific Application: Proposed Project & Outcome Information

19. Funding may be requested for one or both of the following project phases: 1) planning and feasibility phase; 2) pre-development construction phase. Please select the Phase(s) the applicant is applying for (<i>Refer to NOFO Section A – Program Description</i>)		<input type="checkbox"/> Phase 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Phase 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Phase 1 & 2
20. Phase 1: Please select the planning and feasibility activities for which you are requesting funding (check all that apply). (<i>Refer to NOFO Section A</i>) <i>Be prepared to detail necessary costs in the budget template and budget narrative.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Market analysis <input type="checkbox"/> Property due diligence <input type="checkbox"/> Community outreach and engagement <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture, design, or engineering services <input type="checkbox"/> Auditing, consulting, or developer services	<input type="checkbox"/> Project pro-forma/budget <input type="checkbox"/> Site acquisition planning <input type="checkbox"/> Sourcing project funding <input type="checkbox"/> Project grant writing <input type="checkbox"/> Other:
21. Phase 2: Please select the pre-development construction activities for which you are requesting funding (check all that apply) (<i>Refer to NOFO Section A</i>). <i>Be prepared to detail necessary costs in the budget template and budget narrative.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Selecting contractors/securing contracts <input type="checkbox"/> Application (e.g. <i>Funding, IPA, Utility, Credentialing etc.</i>) <input type="checkbox"/> Purchasing and/or leasing of land <input type="checkbox"/> Permitting and/or zoning <input type="checkbox"/> Interconnection application costs and fees, studies, and expenses	<input type="checkbox"/> Equipment and supplies <input type="checkbox"/> Employee training <input type="checkbox"/> Community outreach, marketing, and engagement <input type="checkbox"/> Staff and operations expenses <input type="checkbox"/> Other:

Program Specific Application: Proposed Project & Outcome Information

22. For energy efficiency projects, please describe the estimated annual and/or overall energy savings (kWh, therms) of the project. In the description, provide how these estimates were determined. Please submit any available documentation showing how these estimates were determined.	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A - The project does not have energy efficiency benefits.
23. For renewable energy projects, please estimated capacity (MW) and the amount (MW) produced that will benefit low-income residents, non-profits, and organizations/facilities that service disadvantaged/target populations. In the description, provide how these estimates were determined. Please submit any available documentation showing how these estimates were determined.	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A - The project does not have a renewable energy scope of work
24. Does the project include the sale of energy production?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
24a. If yes, please describe how the applicant will sell the energy produced or conserved for customers, including its connectedness to the grid and/or customers; and ability to remain commercially viable upon project completion. (up to 500 words)	
25. Does the project include battery storage?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

Program Specific Application: Funding Resources & Partnership Information

Funding Resources & Partnership Information (NOFO Section C, Subsection 1 & 2)			
<p>26. The Department encourages grantees to leverage other funding sources to improve the cost effectiveness of grant funds.</p> <p>Specify any of the following incentive or grant programs you have applied to or plan to apply to for this project, if any. For "CEJA Programs" and/or "Other Illinois Finance Authority/Illinois Climate Bank" please specify the program in Question 27.</p> <p>*Please provide documentation of application and/or timeline for application in an attachment with other application materials <i>(if applicable)</i></p>	Incentive or Grant Program Name	Applied	Plan to Apply
	CEJA Programs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Equitable Energy Upgrade Program	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Illinois Solar For All	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Illinois Shines	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Community Development Block Grant	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Private Activity Bonds	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	State Small Business Credit Initiative	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Small Business Administration	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Other Illinois Finance Authority (IFA)/Illinois Climate Bank (CB)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Clean Energy Jobs & Justice Fund	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Public Utility Energy Efficiency Program Incentives & Funding	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Utility Energy Efficiency Rebate	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<p>27. List and describe any established or planned funding sources for this project. When possible, include the requested funding/financing amount and anticipated use of the funds. This may include federal, state, or local grant programs, tax incentives, loans or other financing options among others. For additional resources click here: https://uofi.app.box.com/v/cleanenergyfunding (up to 500 words)</p>			

Program Specific Application: Funding Resources & Partnership Information

28. Provide a detailed description of the anticipated non-energy benefits/impact of Phase 1 and Phase 2, as well as the completed project (post-construction). Include information about the impact on individuals, community, and the workforce (as applicable) (e.g. individual savings, community wealth building, temporary or permanent job creation etc.) (up to 750 words) (see NOFO Section D.2)

29. Provide a summary of how the costs outlined in the budget were determined. (e.g. was it based on engineer's estimates, why was one contractor chosen over another, was there a bidding process, what research was conducted etc.). If additional documentation would provide insight into these calculations that can be submitted with this application. (Up to 500 words)

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

☐ Yes ☐ No

Program Specific Application: Staff Capacity & Clean Energy Workforce Development

Staff Capacity & Clean Energy Workforce Development (NOFO Section A and Section D, Subsection 2)							
31. 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).							
32. How many permanent and/or temporary jobs will be created, if any, from this project? <i>"Total project" includes all jobs created in Phase 1: Planning and Feasibility through Phase 4: Implementation</i>							
Phase 1	Temporary		Phase 2	Temporary		Total Project	Temporary
	Permanent			Permanent			Permanent
33. Do you plan to hire CEJA or FEJA workforce program graduates as contractors, apprentices, or employees for the project?							<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
33a. If yes, what percentage of the workforce for the project will come from these programs or will meet other equity eligible persons criteria ¹ ?							%
34. Do you plan to provide hands-on training opportunities for CEJA/FEJA workforce program participants or on-the-job training opportunities for CEJA/FEJA workforce program graduates?							<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
34a. If yes, what activities or skills will the hands-on and/or on-the-job training provide?							
35. Provide the applicant's plan to engage with the local workforce (e.g. contractors, workers etc.) beyond CEJA/FEJA participants or graduates. This may include other State of Illinois workforce programs, utility programs, weatherization/energy efficiency programs among others in your project activities. (up to 500 words).							

Program Specific Application Document Checklist

Supplemental Documentation (NOFO Section D)	
<p>Required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Uniform Grant Application<input type="checkbox"/> Uniform Budget Template<input type="checkbox"/> Conflict of Interest Disclosure<input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory Disclosures<input type="checkbox"/> Illinois Power Agency EEC Certification documentation or attestation form (if applicable)<input type="checkbox"/> Equitable Energy Future Grant Project Timeline<input type="checkbox"/> CEJA Ecosystem Utilization Plan (CEUP)<input type="checkbox"/> Property ownership document OR document demonstrating applicant's authority to make site improvements. (If applicable for Phase 1, Required for Phase 2)<input type="checkbox"/> 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<input type="checkbox"/> Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) with collaborating organizations, or contracts for pre-develop activities with professional service providers, vendors, etc.	<p>Required Phase 2 Only Projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Design or construction documents that provide details of the project, if available (examples: building preliminary schematics, energy audit report, site map).<input type="checkbox"/> 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.<input type="checkbox"/> Documentation showing Phase 1 progress, anticipated outcomes, results of Phase 1 activities.

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 <u>Equity Eligible Contractor</u> through the Illinois Power Agency?		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, the business/organization is a certified EEC <input type="checkbox"/> No, the business/organization is not a certified EEC, but has a pending application with the IPA <input type="checkbox"/> 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		<u>Equity Eligible Person (EEP)</u>			
Asian		Male		25- 34		<u>Equity Eligible Contractor (EEC)</u>			
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							

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CEJA Ecosystem Utilization Plan (CEUP)

Business/Organization Name:				Is the organization a certified <u>Equity Eligible Contractor</u> through the Illinois Power Agency?		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, the business/organization is a certified EEC <input type="checkbox"/> No, the business/organization is not a certified EEC, but has a pending application with the IPA <input type="checkbox"/> 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		<u>Equity Eligible Person (EEP)</u>			
Asian		Male		25- 34		<u>Equity Eligible Contractor (EEC)</u>			
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							

CEJA Ecosystem Utilization Plan (CEUP)

Lead Applicant Leadership and Certification Information

Does your business/organization have any of the following certifications?	<input type="checkbox"/> Minority-owned business enterprise (MBE) <input type="checkbox"/> Women-owned business enterprise (WBE) <input type="checkbox"/> Disadvantaged business enterprise (DBE) <input type="checkbox"/> Veteran-owned business enterprise (VBE) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____		
For lead applicants, please list the names of the shareholders, owners, proprietors, or board members and the equity-eligible person criteria the individuals meet if any.			
Name of shareholder, owners, proprietors, or board member	Equity Eligible Persons Criteria	Designation	For-profit entities only
	<input type="checkbox"/> Current/Formers Participants in the CEJA / FEJA Workforce Programs <input type="checkbox"/> Graduates or currently enrolled in the foster care system <input type="checkbox"/> Formerly incarcerated <input type="checkbox"/> Primary residence in an equity-eligible community <input type="checkbox"/> None of them apply	<input type="checkbox"/> Shareholder <input type="checkbox"/> Owner <input type="checkbox"/> Proprietor <input type="checkbox"/> Board Member <input type="checkbox"/> None of them apply	What is the percentage of ownership this person holds if any? _____%
	<input type="checkbox"/> Current/Formers Participants in the CEJA / FEJA Workforce Programs <input type="checkbox"/> Graduates or currently enrolled in the foster care system <input type="checkbox"/> Formerly incarcerated <input type="checkbox"/> Primary residence in an equity-eligible community <input type="checkbox"/> None of them apply	<input type="checkbox"/> Shareholder <input type="checkbox"/> Owner <input type="checkbox"/> Proprietor <input type="checkbox"/> Board Member <input type="checkbox"/> None of them apply	What is the percentage of ownership this person holds if any? _____%
	<input type="checkbox"/> Current/Formers Participants in the CEJA / FEJA Workforce Programs <input type="checkbox"/> Graduates or currently enrolled in the foster care system <input type="checkbox"/> Formerly incarcerated <input type="checkbox"/> Primary residence in an equity-eligible community <input type="checkbox"/> None of them apply	<input type="checkbox"/> Shareholder <input type="checkbox"/> Owner <input type="checkbox"/> Proprietor <input type="checkbox"/> Board Member <input type="checkbox"/> None of them apply	What is the percentage of ownership this person holds if any? _____%
	<input type="checkbox"/> Current/Formers Participants in the CEJA / FEJA Workforce Programs <input type="checkbox"/> Graduates or currently enrolled in the foster care system <input type="checkbox"/> Formerly incarcerated <input type="checkbox"/> Primary residence in an equity-eligible community <input type="checkbox"/> None of them apply	<input type="checkbox"/> Shareholder <input type="checkbox"/> Owner <input type="checkbox"/> Proprietor <input type="checkbox"/> Board Member <input type="checkbox"/> None of them apply	What is the percentage of ownership this person holds if any? _____%
	<input type="checkbox"/> Current/Formers Participants in the CEJA / FEJA Workforce Programs <input type="checkbox"/> Graduates or currently enrolled in the foster care system <input type="checkbox"/> Formerly incarcerated <input type="checkbox"/> Primary residence in an equity-eligible community <input type="checkbox"/> None of them apply	<input type="checkbox"/> Shareholder <input type="checkbox"/> Owner <input type="checkbox"/> Proprietor <input type="checkbox"/> Board Member <input type="checkbox"/> None of them apply	What is the percentage of ownership this person holds if any? _____%

CEJA Ecosystem Utilization Plan (CEUP)

Project Vendor(s), Contractor(s), Collaborating Organization(s) Information

Vendor, Contractor, Project Collaborating Organization Name	Type of Collaborator <i>Check all that apply:</i>	Equity Eligible Designation <i>Check all that apply:</i>	Does an MOU/Contract exist between this party and the lead applicant?	Role in the Project
	<input type="checkbox"/> Contractor <input type="checkbox"/> Vendor <input type="checkbox"/> Project Collaborating Org. <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> None of the above	<input type="checkbox"/> Equity Eligible Contractor (EEC) <input type="checkbox"/> Equity Eligible Person (EEP) <input type="checkbox"/> Located in/serves an Equity Eligible Investment Community (EJ/R3) <input type="checkbox"/> CEJA/FEJA Workforce Program Graduate (Link) <input type="checkbox"/> CEJA/FEJA Contractor Program (Link) <input type="checkbox"/> Minority-Owned Business Enterprise (MBE), Woman-Owned Business Enterprise (WBE), Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE), or Veteran-Owned Business Enterprise (VBE) or very small business (VSB) <input type="checkbox"/> None of the above apply <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <i>If yes, attach the MOU/contract with other application documents</i>	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Contractor <input type="checkbox"/> Vendor <input type="checkbox"/> Project Collaborating Org. <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> None of the above	<input type="checkbox"/> Equity Eligible Contractor (EEC) <input type="checkbox"/> Equity Eligible Person (EEP) <input type="checkbox"/> Located in/serves an Equity Eligible Investment Community (EJ/R3) <input type="checkbox"/> CEJA/FEJA Workforce Program Graduate (Link) <input type="checkbox"/> CEJA/FEJA Contractor Program (Link) <input type="checkbox"/> Minority-Owned Business Enterprise (MBE), Woman-Owned Business Enterprise (WBE), Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE), or Veteran-Owned Business Enterprise (VBE) or very small business (VSB) <input type="checkbox"/> None of the above apply <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <i>If yes, attach the MOU/contract with other application documents</i>	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Contractor <input type="checkbox"/> Vendor <input type="checkbox"/> Project Collaborating Org. <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> None of the above	<input type="checkbox"/> Equity Eligible Contractor (EEC) <input type="checkbox"/> Equity Eligible Person (EEP) <input type="checkbox"/> Located in/serves an Equity Eligible Investment Community (EJ/R3) <input type="checkbox"/> CEJA/FEJA Workforce Program Graduate (Link) <input type="checkbox"/> CEJA/FEJA Contractor Program (Link) <input type="checkbox"/> Minority-Owned Business Enterprise (MBE), Woman-Owned Business Enterprise (WBE), Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE), or Veteran-Owned Business Enterprise (VBE) or very small business (VSB) <input type="checkbox"/> None of the above apply <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <i>If yes, attach the MOU/contract with other application documents</i>	

SMARTIE Goals

Goal setting exercise that ensures goals that follow a set of seven aspects to ensure that the goals are effective and realistic.

Similar to the more commonly known SMART goals, SMARTIE goals also ensure goals are inclusive and equitable.

Strategic
Measurable
Action-Oriented
Realistic
Timebound
Inclusive
Equitable

CEJA Ecosystem Utilization Plan (CEUP)

SMARTIE Goals

Many people are familiar with SMART (Strategic, Measurable, Action-Oriented, Realistic, Timebound) goals. SMARTIE goals go beyond SMART goals to include Inclusive and Equitable aspects to goals. Below outline the top three goals of this project and include the timeline to achieve each goal.

Goal	<u>Strategic</u> (What is being achieved? Why is this the goal? Who is involved? Where it take place?, When?)	<u>Measurable</u> (How will this goal be measured? What metrics will be collected?)	<u>Action-Oriented</u> (What actions will be taken to achieve this goal?)	<u>Realistic</u> (What results are realistic based on the actions identified?)	<u>Timebound</u> (What is the timeline / relevant deadlines for this goal?)	<u>Inclusive</u> (How will individuals from EIECs/groups that are traditionally marginalized be included in the project processes, actions, decision making etc.?)	<u>Equitable</u> (How will the goal include elements like fairness and justice in processes, actions, decision making, etc.?)	Final Goal
Example	Engage with employees through 4 specific focus groups and distribute a survey (mail & digital, in English & Spanish) to gather input on needs and barriers to effective and efficient work productivity.	90% of employees engaged in focus groups, demographics of focus group attendees; 90% of employees responded to the survey, Compile a list of 10 unique and actionable employee needs are identified.	Senior leadership and volunteer/selected employees will prioritize 4 out of the 10 actionable needs on the list. Develop a working group made of employees and leadership to develop; solutions and a project implementation plan.	Identify the breadth of the project's impact and additional needs that the project could address. Develop a timeline to implement solutions and assign roles.	The survey will be sent in early Fall 2024 and be available for 2 months. Focus groups will take place over the same 2-month span. Results will be compiled, and analysis prepared by end of 2024.	Feedback will be integrated into the project plans. A community member will serve on the project implementation committee. Several employees will volunteer and/or be selected to participate on the project implementation team.	Surveys, focus groups, and progress of the implementation plan will be available in several languages, information shared across departments and shifts...	Employer identified and addressed 4 major challenges faced by employees. Employees participated in identifying, developing, and implementing the solution.
Goal #1								

CEJA Ecosystem Utilization Plan (CEUP)

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)

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

Authorized Signatory Name (Printed): _____ Authorized Signatory Title (Printed): _____

Date: _____ Authorized Signatory Signature: _____

Equitable Energy Future Project Timeline

EQUITABLE ENERGY FUTURES GRANT PROGRAM 2025 PROJECT TIMELINE

Anticipated Project
Start Date:

Anticipated Project
End Date:

PROJECT PHASE(S)

1. Enter the anticipated project start and end dates. These dates should be for the full Phase 1 & Phase 2 project timeline. Note: Phase 1 is Planning and Feasibility Phase 2 is Pre-Development (Cell C3 and E3). Inset project activities chronologically.
2. Indicate the Uniform Budget tab where this expense is located. (i.e. Staffing, Fringe, Phase 1 Consultant, Phase 2 Consultants, N/A)
3. Select the Phase(s) that the applicant is applying for (Click Cell G3 to reveal drop-down list)
4. For selected Phase(s) add the Project Activity(ies), Estimated Start Date(s), Estimated End Date(s), Project Milestones, Projected Outcomes, and Deliverables per activity. Additional activity rows can be added by right-clicking and selecting "Insert" then selecting "Entire Row" from the pop-up
5. Indicate if an activity is a Critical Decision Point (Go/No Go Point) by selecting "Yes" or "No" in Column E. Critical Decision Points (Go/No Go Points) indicate if the result of a specific activity is critical to a project's ability to move forward. For any activity marked as "Yes" in Column E, applicants must also list a Deliverable that will document the result of the activity.

PHASE 1 ACTIVITIES

Project Activities	Uniform Budget	Estimated Start Date	Estimated End Date	Critical Decision Point (Go/No Go Point)	Project Milestones	Performance Measures/ Outcomes	Cost	Deliverable
Ex.: Define goals, identify partners, confirm location(s), etc.	staffing	6/3/24	7/8/24	Yes	Ex.: Draft scope of work, objectives, work flow / coordination, key deliverables, etc.	Ex.: Key leadership / partner approvals, etc.	\$25,000.00	Ex: Contract, Invoice

[Right click on row above and select "Insert" to add additional rows]

Equitable Energy Future Project Timeline

[illegible]

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 #	3054-2991
CSFA Number:	420-35-3054	CSFA Description:	Equitable Energy Future Grant Program	Fiscal Year:	2025
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		\$ -	
15. A. Phase 1 Feasibility/Market Analysis				\$ -	
<div><div>< ></div><div>General Instructions</div><div>Section A</div><div>ICI</div><div>Certification</div><div>Phase1Personnel</div><div>Phase2Personnel</div><div>Phase1FringeBenefits</div><div>Phase2Fring</div></div>					

Uniform Budget Template – Budget Narrative

Each tab that has a line item, must also have a budget narrative.

- Each budget tab asks for a brief budget narrative.
- Be specific and concise. Offer detail when helpful, but don't provide too much detail for smaller expenses.
- Cite calculations: show your math for both justifications of costs and accuracy.
- Collect quotes and invoices, if available.

STATE OF ILLINOIS	UNIFORM GRANT BUDGET TEMPLATE			Commerce & Economic Opportunity		
Organization Name:		UEI#		NOFO #	3054-2991	

Section C - Budget Worksheet & Narrative

0

1A). Phase 1 Personnel (Salaries & Wages) (2 CFR 200.430) --List each position by title and name of employee, if available. Show the annual salary rate and the percentage of time to be devoted to the project and length of time working on the project . Compensation paid for employees engaged in grant activities must be consistent with that paid for similar work within the applicant organization. Include a description of the responsibilities and duties of each position in relationship to fulfilling the project goals and objectives in the narrative space provided below. Also, provide a justification and description of each position (including vacant positions). Relate each position specifically to program objectives. Personnel cannot exceed 100% of their time on all active projects.

Name	Position(s)	Salary or Wage	Basis (Yr./Mo./Hr.)	% of Time	Length of time	Personnel Cost
						\$ -
						\$ -
						\$ -
						\$ -
					State Total	\$ -
					Total Personnel	\$ -
Personnel Narrative (State):						

15. A. Phase 1 Feasibility/Market Analysis

< >
General Instructions
Section A
ICI
Certification
Phase1Personnel
Phase2Personnel
Phase1FringeBenefits
Phase2Fring

\$ -

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)

Personnel

Section C - Budget Worksheet & Narrative

0

1A). Phase 1 Personnel (Salaries & Wages) (2 CFR 200.430) --List each position by title and name of employee, if available. Show the annual salary rate and the percentage of time to be devoted to the project and length of time working on the project . Compensation paid for employees engaged in grant activities must be consistent with that paid for similar work within the applicant organization. Include a description of the responsibilities and duties of each position in relationship to fulfilling the project goals and objectives in the narrative space provided below. Also, provide a justification and description of each position (including vacant positions). Relate each position specifically to program objectives. Personnel cannot exceed 100% of their time on all active projects.

Name	Position(s)	Salary or Wage	Basis (Yr./Mo./Hr.)	% of Time	Length of time	Personnel Cost
Jane Doe	Program Manager	\$50,000	Yr	50%	1	\$ 25,000.00
John Doe	Coach/Instructor	\$30	Hr	100%	1600	\$ 48,000.00
TBD	Assistant Coach/Support Staff	\$ 20.00	Hr	100%	1600	\$ 32,000.00
						\$ -
					State Total	\$ 105,000.00

Budget Narrative Tip: In describing costs, list personnel and their positions and briefly describe their contribution to the project.

Fringe Benefits: What are they?

Benefits employees receive on top of their normal wages and salaries.

Budget Narrative Tip: Outline what is covered as a fringe benefit. Some benefits may be health, life or disability insurance, childcare reimbursement, pension/retirement contribution among others.

Section C - Budget Worksheet & Narrative

0

2A). Phase 1 Fringe Benefits (2 CFR 200.431)--Fringe benefits should be based on actual known costs or an established formula. Fringe benefits are for the personnel listed in category (1) direct salaries and wages, and only for the percentage of time devoted to the project. Provide the fringe benefit rate used and a clear description of how the computation of fringe benefits was done. Provide both the annual (for multiyear awards) and total. If a fringe benefit rate is not used, show how the fringe benefits were computed for each position. The budget justification should be reflected in the budget description. Elements that comprise fringe benefits should be indicated.

Name	Position(s)	Base	Rate	Fringe Benefit Cost
Jane Doe	Program Manager	\$ 25,000.00	25.00%	\$ 6,250.00
John Doe	Coach/Instructor	\$ 48,000.00	25.00%	\$ 12,000.00
TBD	Assistant Coach/Support Staff	\$ 32,000.00	25.00%	\$ 8,000.00
				\$ -
			State Total	\$ 26,250.00

Contractual Services & Subawards

Item		Contractual Services Cost
<i>Fighting Illini Basketball</i>		\$ 5,000.00
<i>Champaign Boys & Girls Club</i>		\$ 50,000.00
		\$ -
<i>State Total</i>		\$ 55,000.00

Use this tab if you are partnering with another business or organization on this project, and if they will be receiving project funds to do part of the work on the project. These organizations will be “subrecipients” or “subcontractors” on your project.

Budget Narrative Tip: Clearly explain who is being contracted, their scope and why you needed a person’s expertise or services.

Consultant Services

[illegible]

Use this tab for any professional services you will be utilizing for your project. This may include architect or design consultant, engineering firm, energy auditor, grant writing consultant among others.

Budget Narrative Tip: Provide details on the consultant service budget and the activities the consultant will be performing.

Equipment vs. Supplies

Equipment: Used for projects over the long-term. Subject to depreciation and generally retain some value after use.

Examples:

- Vehicles
- Computers

Budget Narrative Tip: Identify pricing or quotes. Explain how the equipment will be used in the project and if it will be shared with other projects.

Supplies: Used over the short term, not subject to depreciation. Do not retain value.

Examples:

- Paper
- Pens
- Printer ink

Budget Narrative Tip: Provide details of the type of supplies. Avoid using general terms like “Office supplies”

Where should I put this?

- **Wages for project manager, outreach staff**
 - Personnel
- **Benefits for project manager**
 - Fringe benefits
- **Subrecipient staff wages**
 - Contractual Services
- **Zoning or building permit costs**
 - Phase 2 Permitting & interconnection costs
- **Architect/energy auditor costs**
 - Consultant (professional services)
- **Site testing costs**
 - Phase 1 Feasibility/Market Analysis
- **Legal fees associated with financing, purchasing, or leasing land**
 - Phase 2 Site Control

Grant Writing Tips

1. Center the Community
2. Outline Your Plan
3. Be Consistent
4. Be Specific
5. Don't Assume
6. Use Available Resources & Support
7. Document Allowable Costs
8. Submit on Time, Ensure all all Documents are Submitted & Pre-qualification Requirements are Met





Grant & Merit Review Process



Submitting Application Materials

Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity

3054-2878 Equitable Energy Future Grant Program

The funding is intended to address barriers to private business development in justice-impacted communities with available capital.

Note: The demographic information requested is for informational purposes and will not be used to determine eligibility.

☐ By checking this box I understand that my application to be considered for this grant must be pre-qualified prior to application deadline. For more information on pre-qualification, please visit <https://www2.illinois.gov/dceo/AboutDCEO/GrantOpportunities.aspx>.

Applicant Information

Applicant Legal Name *

Employer/Taxpayer Identification Number (EIN/TIN) *

Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) *

GATA ID *

Address 1 *

Address 2

City *

County *

Zip Code *

Applicant Contact Information

Contact First Name *

Contact Last Name *

Contact Phone Number *

Contact Email Address *

Demographic Information

Has your entity received a grant from DCEO in the past 12 months? *

Select

Is your organization owned by an individual (sole proprietorship or partnership)? *

If your organization is a nonprofit, please state the name of the organization: *

If you are representing a government, select the name of the government: *

Select

Is your organization owned by an individual (sole proprietorship or partnership) with a disability? *

If your organization is a nonprofit, please state the name of the organization: *

If you are representing a government, select the name of the government: *

Select

Is your organization owned by an individual (sole proprietorship or partnership)? *

If your organization is a nonprofit, please state the name of the organization: *

If you are representing a government, select the name of the government: *

Select

Documents Submitted *

Each package must contain the following documents. Please check off documents as you upload them below to ensure all required documents are submitted.

- ☐ Uniform Grant Application
- ☐ Uniform Budget
- ☐ Conflict of Interest Disclosure
- ☐ Mandatory Disclosures
- ☐ Program Specific Application Documents (these documents are described in the Notice of Funding Opportunity)

File Upload *

Drag and drop files here or [browse files](#)

☐ Send me a copy of my responses

Submit

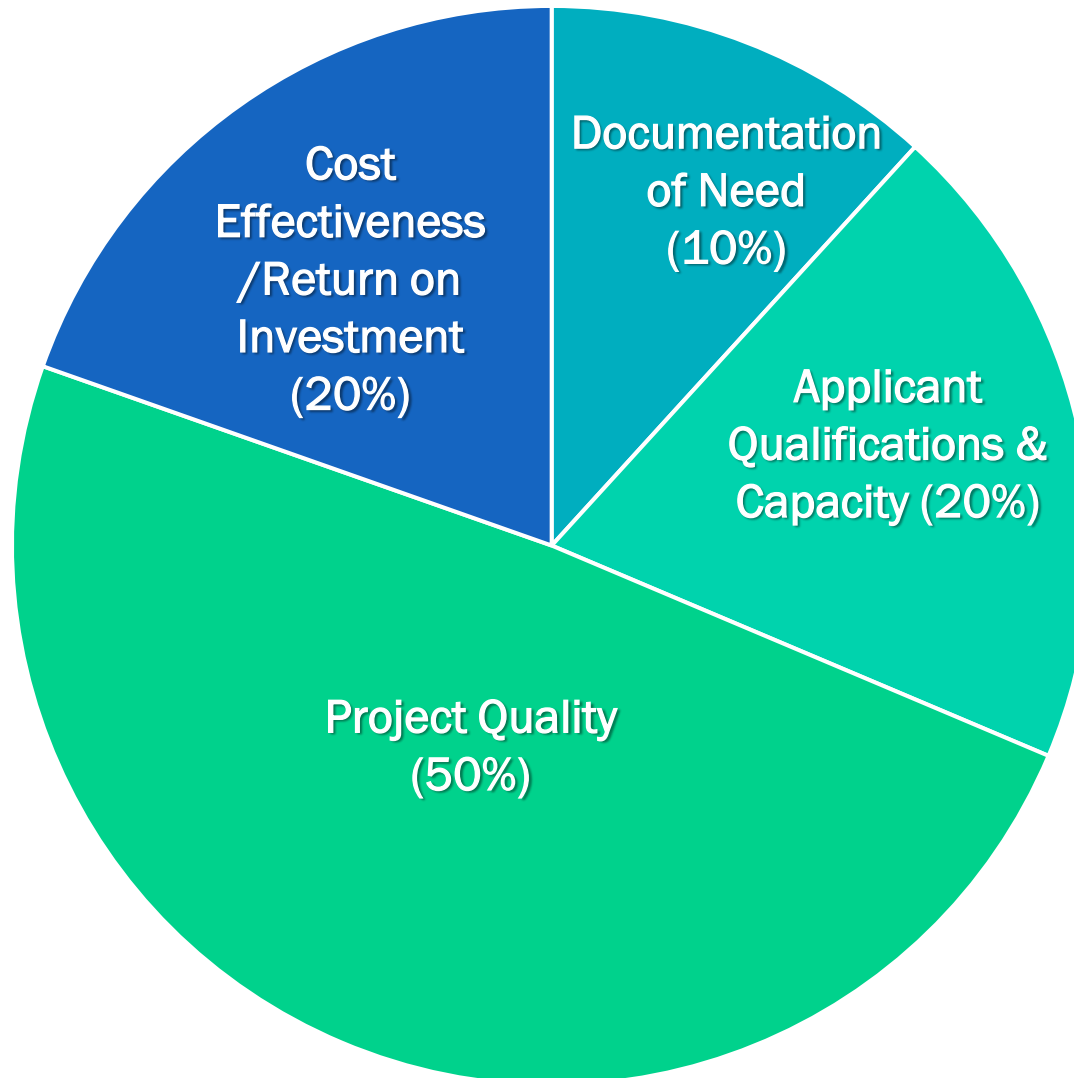
Powered by smartsheet
[Privacy Notice](#) | [Report Abuse](#)

Application materials can only be submitted through the Smartsheet link below (also on Page 7 of the NOFO Supplement)

<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/ce96ac7e0ce64965b289ba50ad19abed>

Maximum of 10 documents can be submitted.

Merit Review Scoring



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

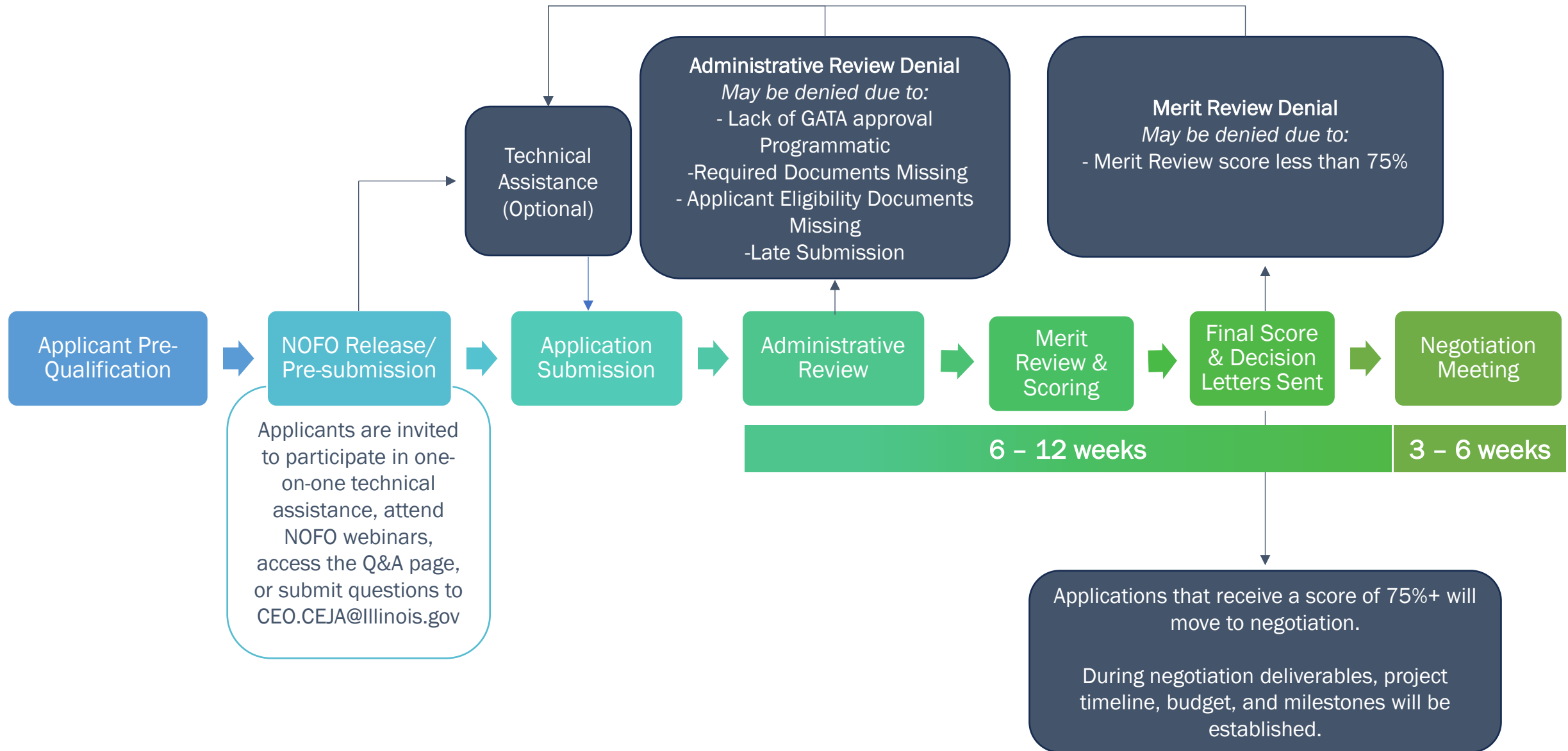
Applications scoring 75% or higher will move to negotiation.

Scoring Criteria (NOFO Section E)

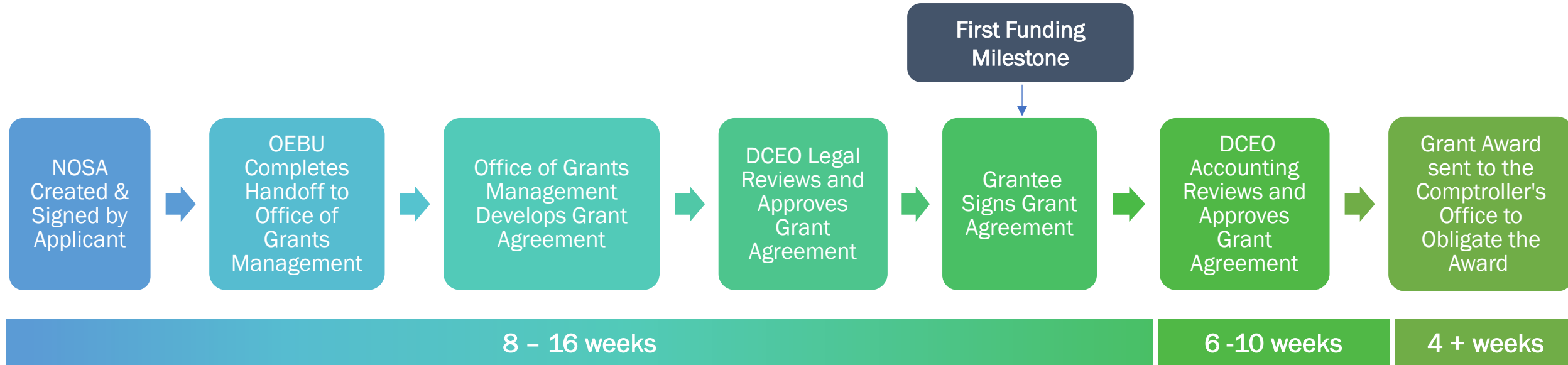
Documentation of Need (10%)	
The project's location within or serving equity investment eligible communities or populations and suitability for proposed use.	5%
The project's identification of community needs that the project will address.	5%
Applicant Qualifications and Capacity (20%)	
Applicant's capacity 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%

OEBU & DCEO Grant Process



OEBU & DCEO Grant Process



NOFO Timeline





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 Manager 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



Questions?



Contact Us
CEO.CEJA@Illinois.gov



Illinois
Department of Commerce
& Economic Opportunity
JB Pritzker, Governor