

# Community Solar Energy Sovereignty Grant Program

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## Bidder's Conference

March 14, 2024



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**Department of Commerce**  
& Economic Opportunity

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# Facilitators

**Hilary Scott-Ogunrinde, Deputy Director**  
DCEO, Office of Energy and Business Utility

**Amber Broughton, Technical Support Manager**  
DCEO, Office of Accountability

**Christine Flynn, Research Associate - Workforce Development**  
Center for Governmental Studies at Northern Illinois University



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# Presentation Overview

- Climate & Equitable Jobs Act (CEJA) Overview
- Community Solar Energy Sovereignty Grant Program Overview
- Grant Accountability & Transparency Act (GATA)
- Application Process & Documentation
- Application Support & Resources
- Next Steps





Session recording  
will be posted to  
the [NOFO website](#)



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# Zoom Basics



- Mute/unmute
- Stop/start video
- Raise hand
- Emojis
- Chat
- Recording
- Breakout group



# Climate & Equitable Jobs Act (CEJA) Overview

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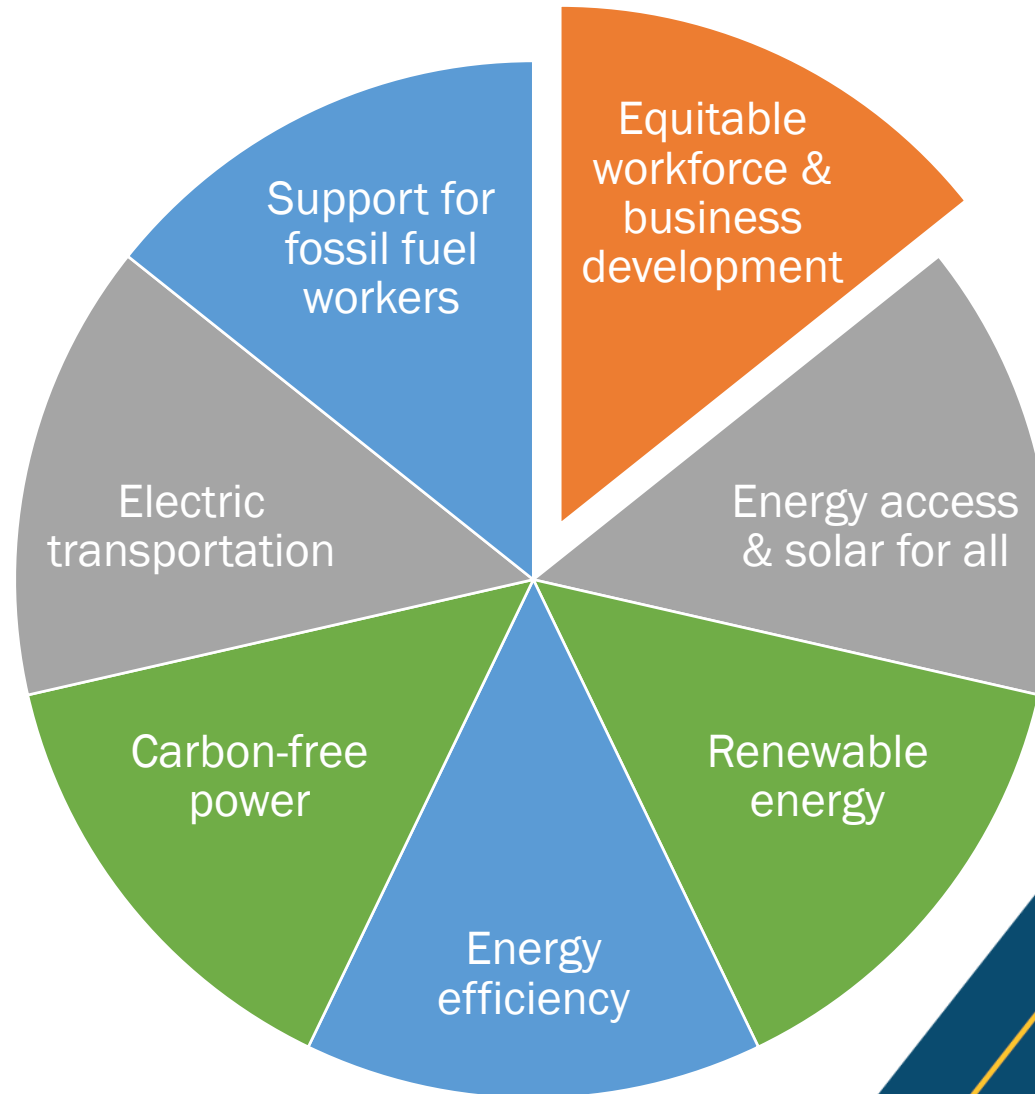
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# What is CEJA?

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



# CEJA Equity Focus

Some groups of people and communities benefit more from clean energy investments.

Some groups of people and communities suffer more from environmental impacts and community disinvestment.



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



## Equality



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

## Equity



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

## Justice



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

# What is Equity?

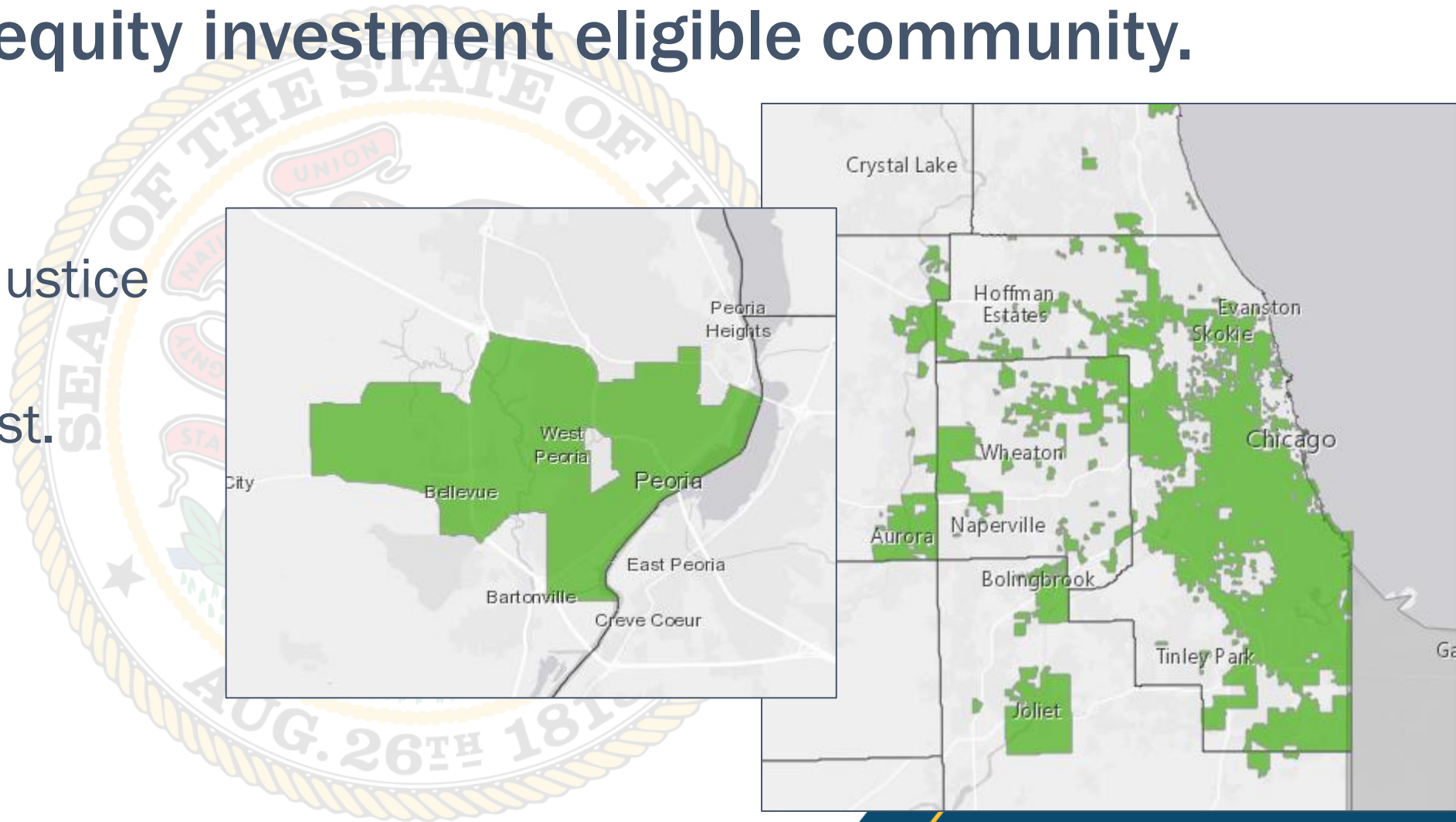
Overcome barriers to project, community, and business development caused by a lack of capital in low-income communities and historically disadvantaged populations



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

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



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



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# DCEO CEJA Ecosystem

## Contractor support programs



Contractor Incubator  
\$21M/yr.



Contractor Primes Accelerator  
\$9M/yr.

## Workforce training programs



Clean Jobs Workforce Network  
\$21M/yr.



Climate Works Pre-apprenticeship  
\$9M/yr

## Workforce support programs



Energy Transition Navigators  
\$6M/yr.

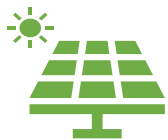


Energy Transition Barrier Reduction  
\$15M/yr



Returning Resident Clean Jobs  
\$6M/yr

## Economic Development & Jobs & Environmental Justice Grant



Coal to Solar



Energy Transition Community Grant  
\$40M/yr



Equitable Energy Future Grant  
Up to \$34M/yr



Comm. Solar Energy Sovereignty Grant  
Up to \$8.5M/yr

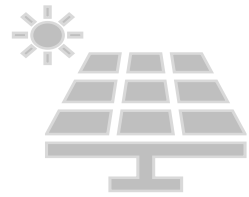
## Commissions, Councils, & More

- Energy Transition Workforce Commission
- Energy Workforce Advisory Council
- Jobs & Justice Fund

# Jobs & Environmental Justice Grant Program

[Climate & Equitable Jobs Act](#) Section 5-60

## Economic Development & Jobs & Environmental Justice Grant



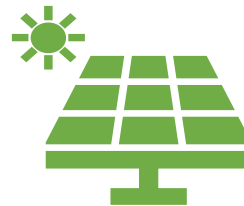
Coal to Solar



Energy Transition Community  
Grant

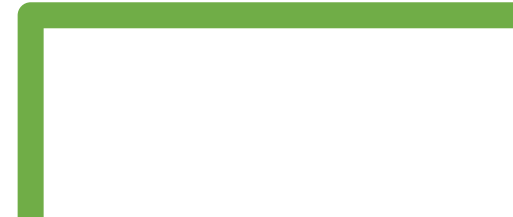


Equitable Energy Future Grant



Community Solar Energy  
Sovereignty Grant

# Questions?





# Community Solar Energy Sovereignty Grant Program Overview

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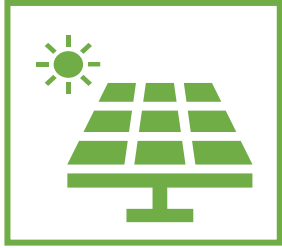


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# Community Solar Energy Sovereignty Grant

Climate & Equitable Jobs Act Section 5-60

## What will the grant provide?

- Intended to provide grants to plan, develop, and execute community solar projects.
- Provides upfront capital to support the development of community solar projects and provides seed capital and pre-development funding to support community ownership of renewable energy projects.

## Who can get funding?

- Community-based organizations (CBO) defined by the National Community-Based Organization Network (NCBON) in the Illinois Power Agency's 2022 Long Term Plan
- Public Entities (with attestation)
- Technical Service Providers directly working with a CBO

## Why?

- To remove barriers to project, community & business development caused by lack of capital.

## Who will the grant benefit?

- Contractor businesses in historically disadvantaged communities
- Equity investment eligible communities
- Low-income households

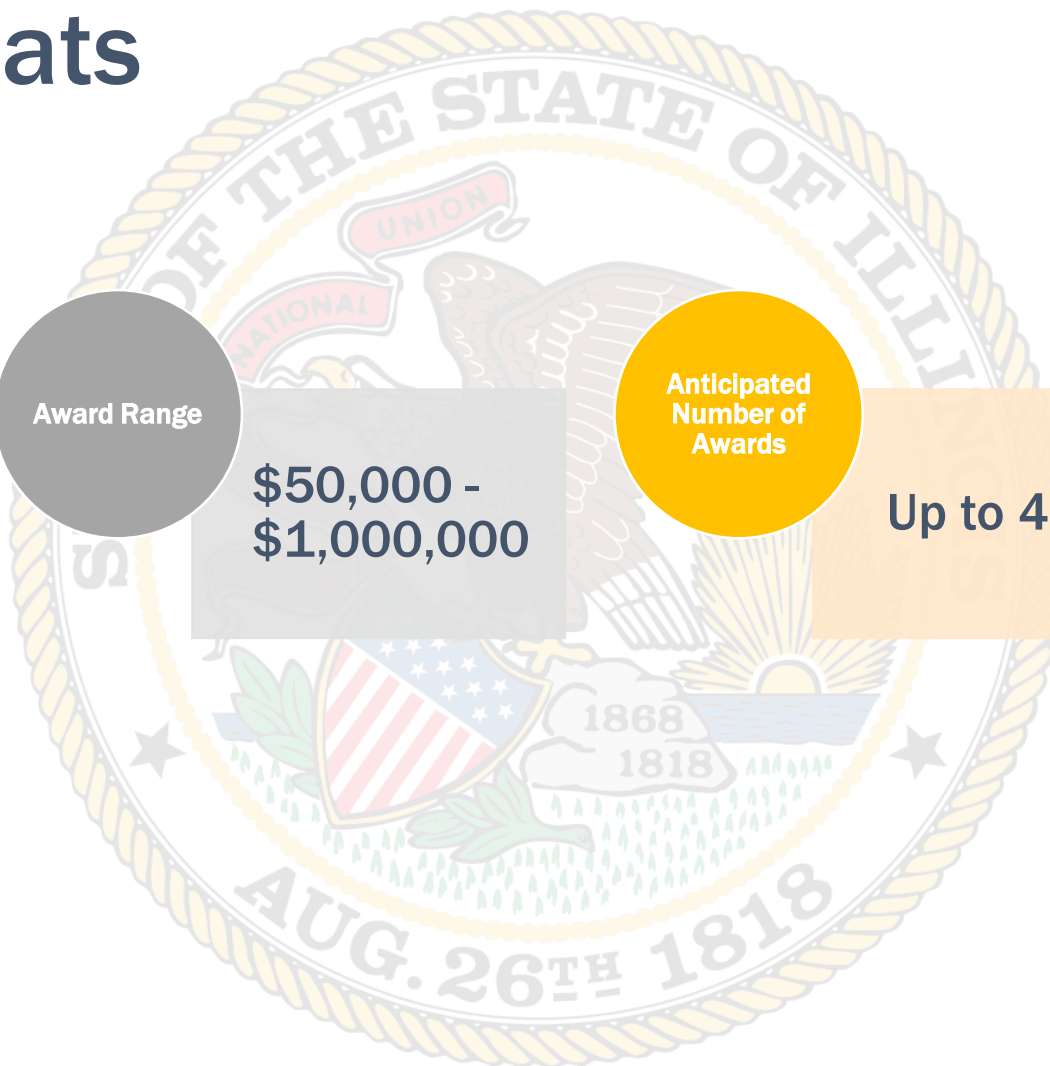
# Funding Stats

**Total Funding**  
\$8.5 million  
per year

**Award Range**  
\$50,000 -  
\$1,000,000

**Anticipated  
Number of  
Awards**  
Up to 40

**Performance  
Period**  
Up to 4  
years



# Who can apply?

Community-based  
Organizations

Public Entities

Technical Service Providers

Must fit the definition outlined by the National Community-Based Organization Network (NCBON) in the Illinois Power Agency's 2022 Long Term Plan:

- a. The majority of the governing body and staff consists of local residents,
- b. The main operating offices are in the community,
- c. Priority issue areas are identified and defined by residents,
- d. Solutions to address priority issues are developed with residents, and
- e. Program design, implementation, and evaluation components have residents intimately involved, in leadership positions.



# Who can apply?

Community-based  
Organizations

Public Entities

Technical Service Providers

A public entity may qualify as a community-based organization, but only if the public entity meets the following requirements:

- a. The public entity must represent a municipality or county (or school district, park district, etc.) Priority given to proposed projects located in and supporting an equity investment eligible community or communities; and benefiting participating low-income households.
- b. The public entity must certify that no local community-based organizations exist that can fill this role.
- c. The public entity must provide the same showing of robust community engagement as a non-public entity would be required to show.

*Public entities must complete the Public Entity Attestation form: [attestation-community-solar-sovereignty-grant-program-3055-2697.pdf](https://illinois.gov/attestation-community-solar-sovereignty-grant-program-3055-2697.pdf) (illinois.gov)*



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# Who can apply?

Community-based  
Organizations

Public Entities

Technical Service Providers

Technical service providers as defined in the CEJA Section 5-60 (e) (4) working in direct partnership with community-based organizations (as defined above).

- a. The entity must demonstrate robust community engagement and support.
- b. A technical service provider can be a solar supplier or installer or business involved in the field of solar energy.



# Project Phases





# Examples of activities for phases

## Phase 1: Planning & Feasibility

- Early-Stage Project Planning
- Project Team Organization
- Site Identification
- Organizing a project business model
- Customer outreach
- Preliminary site assessments
- Development of cooperative or community ownership project models that allocate benefits to equity eligible communities

## Phase 2: Pre-development Construction

- Procurement and contracting
- Securing financing
- Site control
- Customer outreach and enrollment
- Permitting and zoning
- Interconnection application costs and fees, studies, and expenses
- Equipment and supplies
- Staff and operation expenses

# How will the funding be provided?

**Funding will be provided upfront** to support planning & development activities.

Applicants can request funding for activities in

- Phase 1 only
- Phase 2 only
- Phase 1 & 2



# How will the funding be provided?

If a grantee receives an award for Phase 1 & Phase 2 the Department will review Phase 1 performance metrics to determine whether the grantee may receive funding for Phase 2 activities.

If grantee applies for Phase 2 only, they must provide appropriate Phase 1 metrics for the Merit Reviewers to evaluate.





# Program Specific Reporting

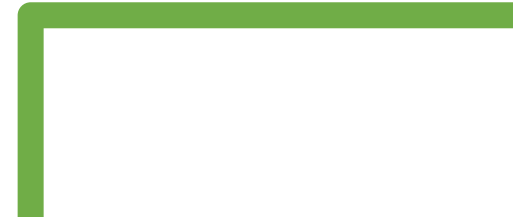
Grantee must at minimum report the following:

- Number of workers recruited from a FEJA or CEJA workforce program
- Number of contractors recruited from a CEJA contractor program
- Amount of funds leveraged for project
- Number of households that received or are projected to receive benefits from the project.
- Projected amount of energy saving for households that received or are projected to receive benefits from the project
- Chart showing names of community partnerships and types of input Phase 2 projects must show estimated or achieved amount of solar energy produced.



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# Questions?



# Grant Transparency & Accountability Act (GATA)

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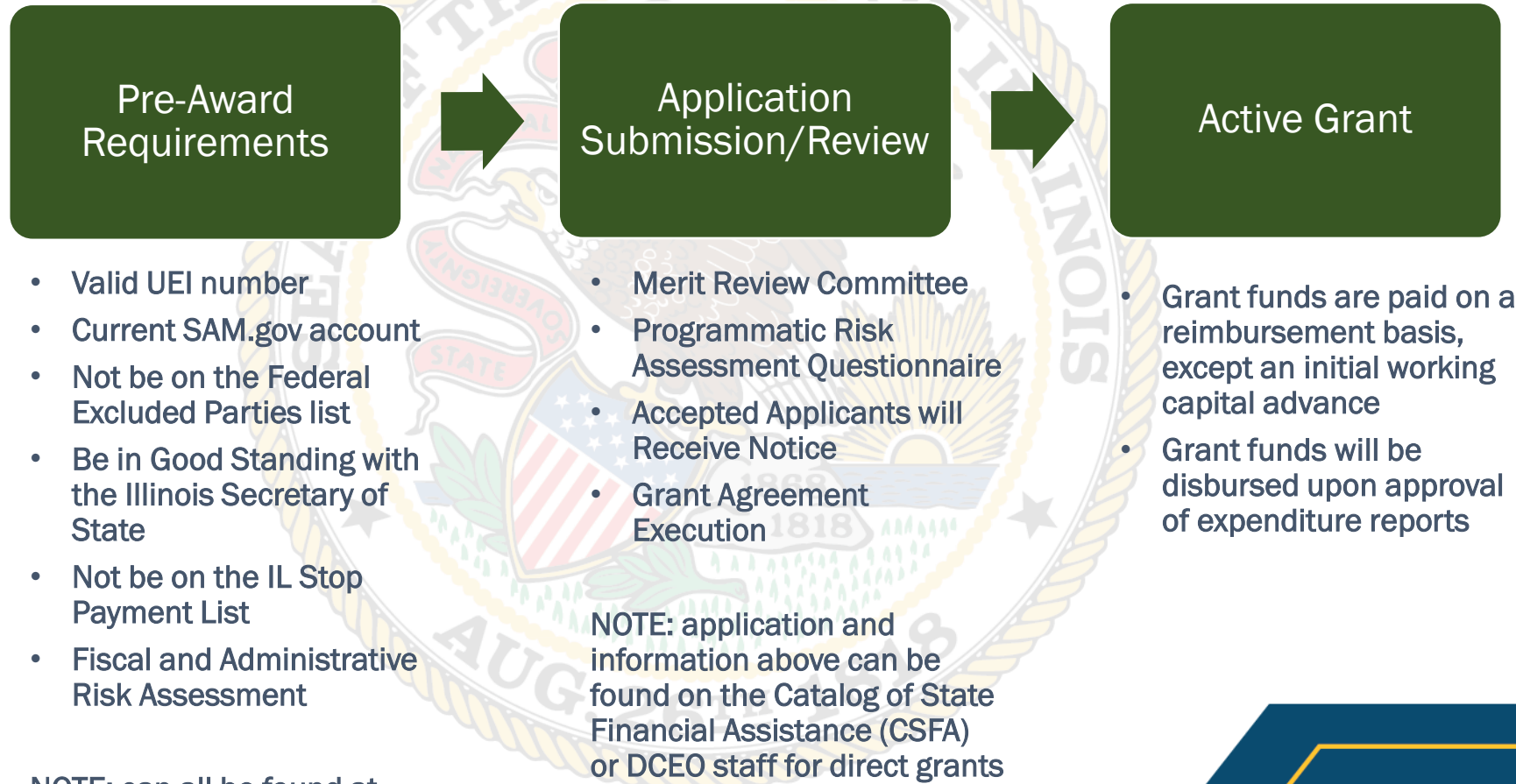


# GATA Overview

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



# Competitive Grant Life Cycle



NOTE: can all be found at [grants.illinois.gov/portal](https://grants.illinois.gov/portal)



# What is GATA?

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



# Getting Started in the GATA Grantee Portal

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



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

[Grantee Portal Sign In](#) [Amplifund Sign In](#) [Create Account](#) [Public Account Help](#) [Partner Account Help](#)

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

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

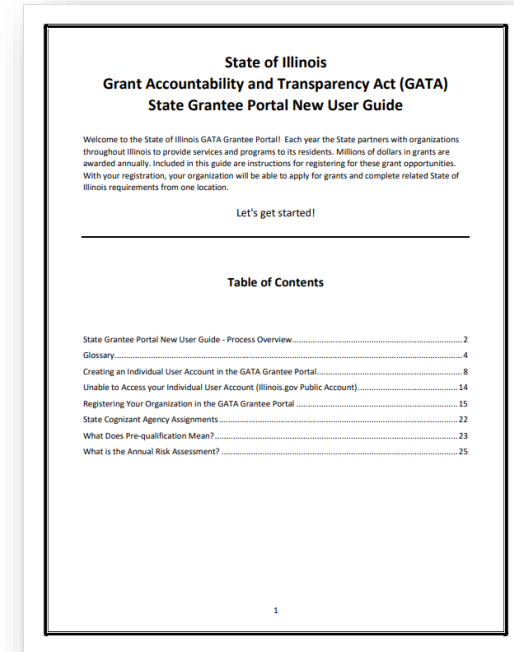
**Note:** To bookmark this Portal, bookmark this page. Bookmarking the sign in page will cause an error.

[Grantee Portal Frequently Asked Questions?](#)



# Getting Started in the GATA Grantee Portal

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



# Pre-Qualification

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

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

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







### 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	<a href="#">Help</a>
Federal Employer ID (FEIN)	Pending	<a href="#">Help</a>
Federal Excluded Parties List	Good	<a href="#">Help</a>
Illinois Secretary of State	Not Found	<a href="#">Help</a>
Illinois Stop Payment List	Good	<a href="#">Help</a>
Illinois DHFS Sanction List	Good	<a href="#">Help</a>

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



# SAM.gov Account

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

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



# Federal Employer ID (FEIN)

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

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



# Federal Excluded Parties List

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

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



# Illinois Secretary of State

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

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





# Illinois Stop Payment List

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

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



# Illinois DHFS Sanction List

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

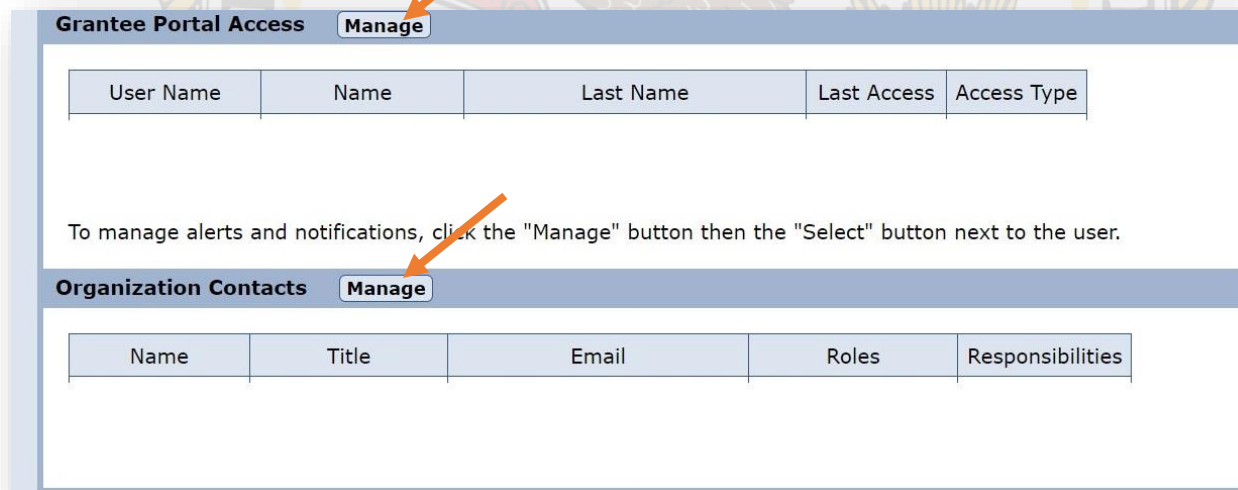
Requirement
SAM.gov Account
Federal Employer ID (FEIN)
Federal Excluded Parties List
Illinois Secretary of State
Illinois Stop Payment List
<b>Illinois DHFS Sanction List</b>





# Other GATA Grantee Portal Tips

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



The screenshot displays two sections of the GATA Grantee Portal. The top section, 'Grantee Portal Access', features a table with columns for 'User Name', 'Name', 'Last Name', 'Last Access', and 'Access Type'. Below the table is a text instruction: 'To manage alerts and notifications, click the "Manage" button then the "Select" button next to the user.' The bottom section, 'Organization Contacts', features a table with columns for 'Name', 'Title', 'Email', 'Roles', and 'Responsibilities'. In both sections, a 'Manage' button is present and highlighted with an orange arrow.

User Name	Name	Last Name	Last Access	Access Type
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To manage alerts and notifications, click the "Manage" button then the "Select" button next to the user.

Name	Title	Email	Roles	Responsibilities
------	-------	-------	-------	------------------



# Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)

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

Other NOFOs  
can be found in  
the CSFA



# Fiscal and Administrative Internal Controls Questionnaire (ICQ)

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

**Fiscal and Administrative Internal Controls Questionnaire (ICQ)**

ICQ	State FY	Date Started	Date Submitted	Date Accepted
<a href="#">View</a>	2024	03-13-2023		
<a href="#">View</a>	2023	04-22-2022		
<a href="#">View</a>	2022	03-30-2021		
<a href="#">View</a>	2021	04-14-2020		
<a href="#">View</a>	2020	03-06-2019	02-25-2020	
<a href="#">View</a>	2019	06-28-2018		
<a href="#">View</a>	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
<a href="#">02 - Quality of Management System</a>	8	0
<a href="#">03 - Financial and Programmatic Reporting</a>	6	0
<a href="#">04 - Ability to Effectively Implement Requirements</a>	29	0
<a href="#">05 - Audit</a>	5	0
<b>All Sections</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>0</b>

Printing the ICQ requires Adobe Acrobat Reader.  
ICQ Assistance: [Commerce And Econ Opp \(ceo.gata@illinois.gov\)](mailto:ceo.gata@illinois.gov)



# Post-Award Requirements

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



# Audit Types and Submission Deadlines

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





# Resources

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

Questions can be sent to  
[CEO.GrantHelp@Illinois.gov](mailto:CEO.GrantHelp@Illinois.gov)

Scan Here



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# Questions?



# Application Process & Documentation

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# Applicant Submission Documents

Find all NOFO Materials  
and resources here:  
[Community Solar Energy  
Sovereignty Grant  
Program \(illinois.gov\)](#)

Uniform Grant Application in fillable PDF format

Uniform Budget utilizing template provided by DCEO

Conflict of Interest Disclosure

Mandatory Disclosure

Community Solar Sovereignty Grant Application  
utilizing template

Public Entity Attestation (if applicable)



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# Special Considerations

- Applicants may submit multiple applications for this opportunity, but a maximum award per applicant is \$3,000,000 total. Maximum per award is \$1,000,000.
- Applicants may apply for Phase 1 only, Phase 2 only, or Phase 1 and Phase 2
- This opportunity does not allow reimbursement of pre-award costs.
- Other restrictions can be found in Sections B. and C.3.
  - Cost sharing or matching is not required,
  - The applicant organization must have an annually negotiated indirect cost rate agreement (NICRA), if wanting to charge indirect.
  - Encouraged to leverage funding from other existing programs, including the Adjustable Block Program & the Illinois Solar for All Program, to name a few.



## DCEO CEJA

- Workforce development programs
- Contractor programs
- Community economic development programs
- Reimagining Energy and Vehicles in Illinois Act (REV)

## Illinois Finance Authority

- IL Climate Bank Finance (CBF)
- C-PACE - CFI
- GRID: muni utility/rural coops,
- State Small Bus. Climate Initiative
- Charging & Fueling Infra.
- EE Revolving Load Fund

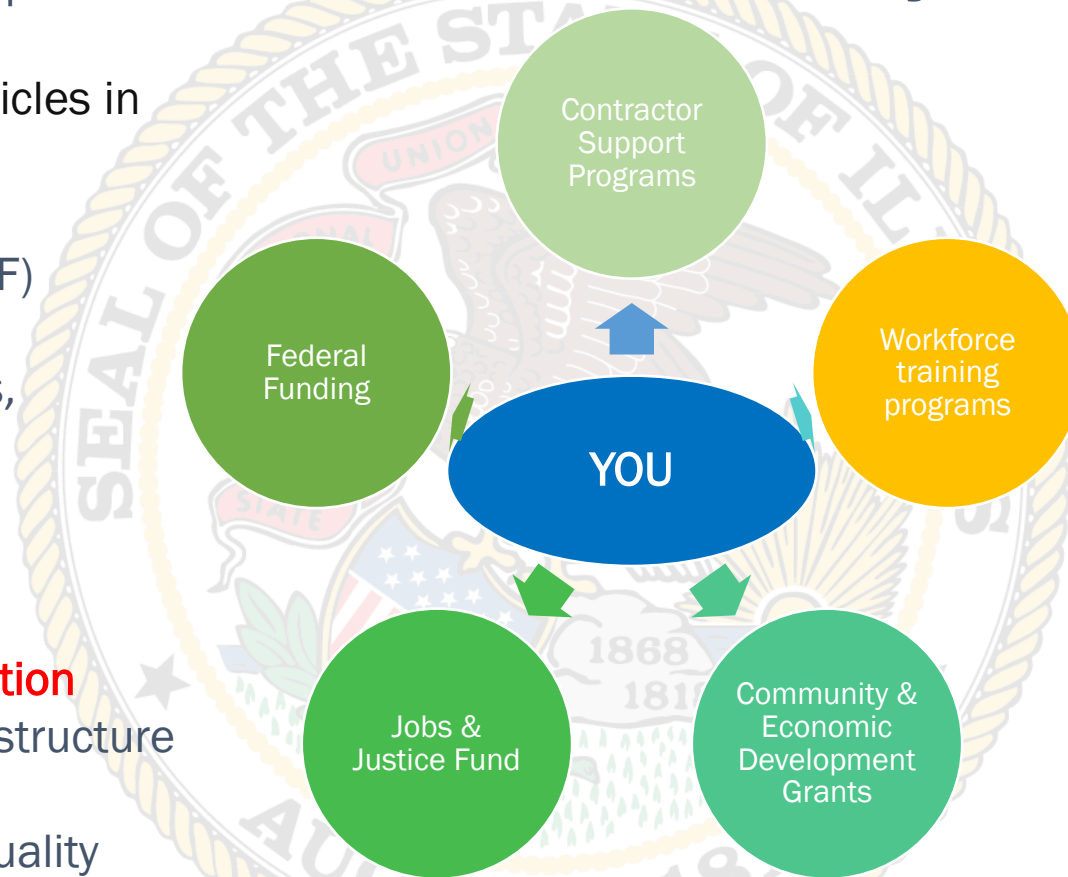
## Illinois Dept. of Transportation

- National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure
- Carbon Reduction Program
- Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality
- Competitive Freight-Port Infrastructure

## Federal Programs

- Ride and Drive Electric, Buy America
- Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF)
- IRA, Justice 40...and more

# IL Renewable/Clean Energy Transition Ecosystem



## Illinois Community College Board

- IAC Program: Clean Energy Build/Manufacturing Workforce

## Capital Development Board

- Municipal Building Codes Implementation (pending)

## Illinois Power Agency

- Illinois Shines
- IL Solar For All
- EEP/EEC Portal
- Min. Equity Standard
- Bright Neighborhood Pilot

## Illinois Environmental Protection Agency

- Energy Codes Training & Tech Support
- EE Trust Fund
- Electric Vehicle Rebate
- Electric School Bus
- Renewable Energy Trust Fund
- *EE Contractor Training*
- Volkswagen Settlement Funds

## Illinois Commerce Commission

- Equitable Energy Upgrade Program

## CMS

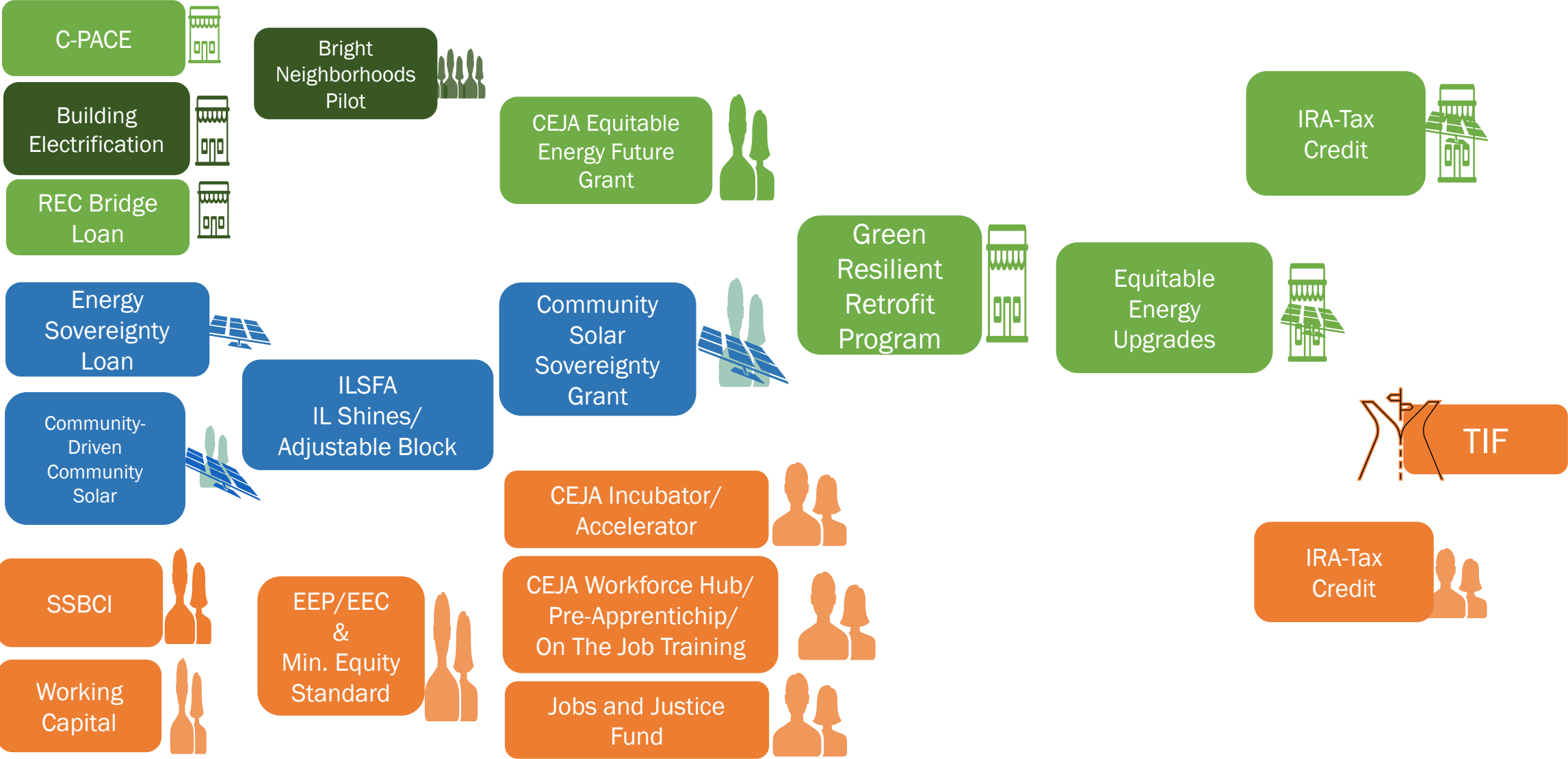
- Electric Vehicle Charging

## Illinois Housing Authority

- Energy Efficiency Program
- Green Resilient Retrofit Program

**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**

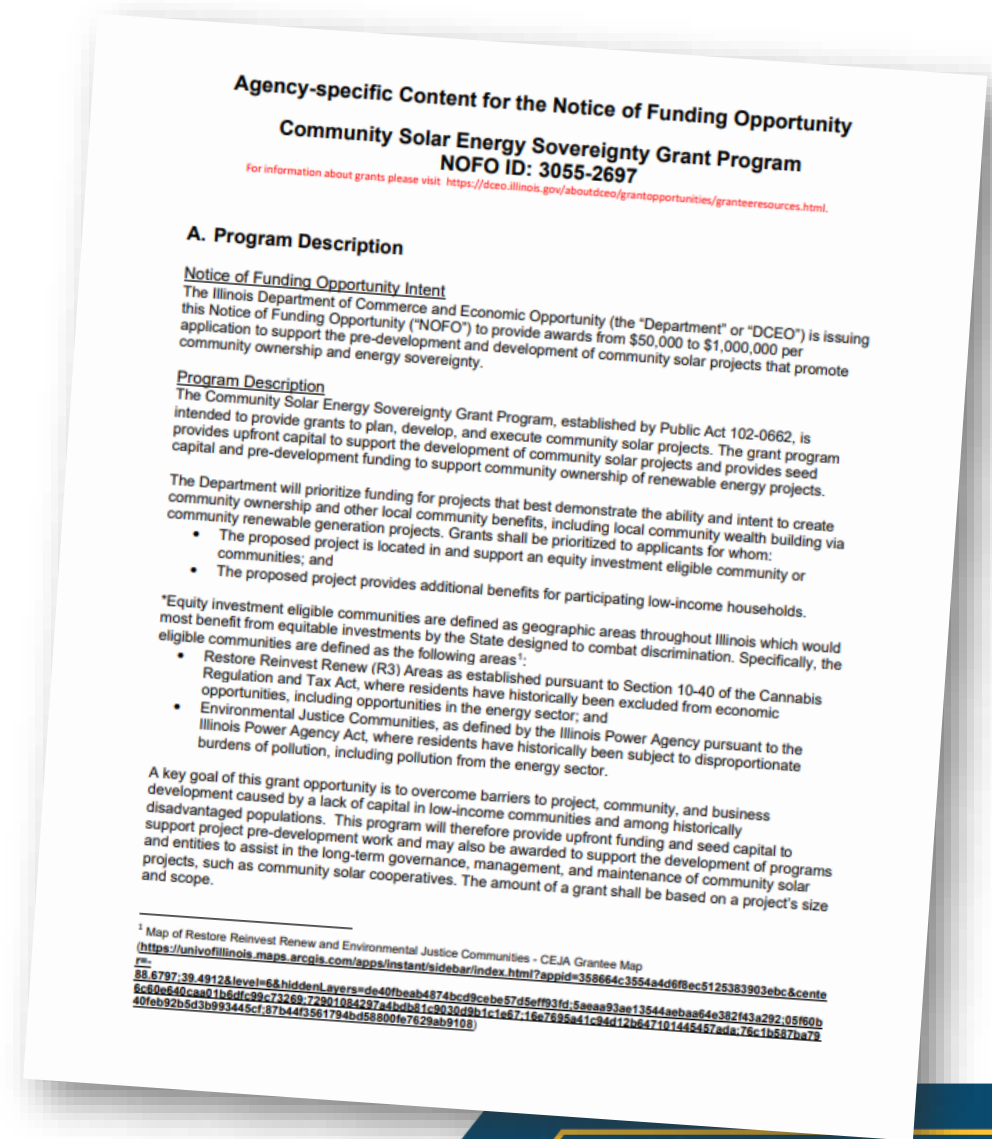
**IFA                      IPA                      DCEO                      IHDA                      ICC                      FEDS                      Local**





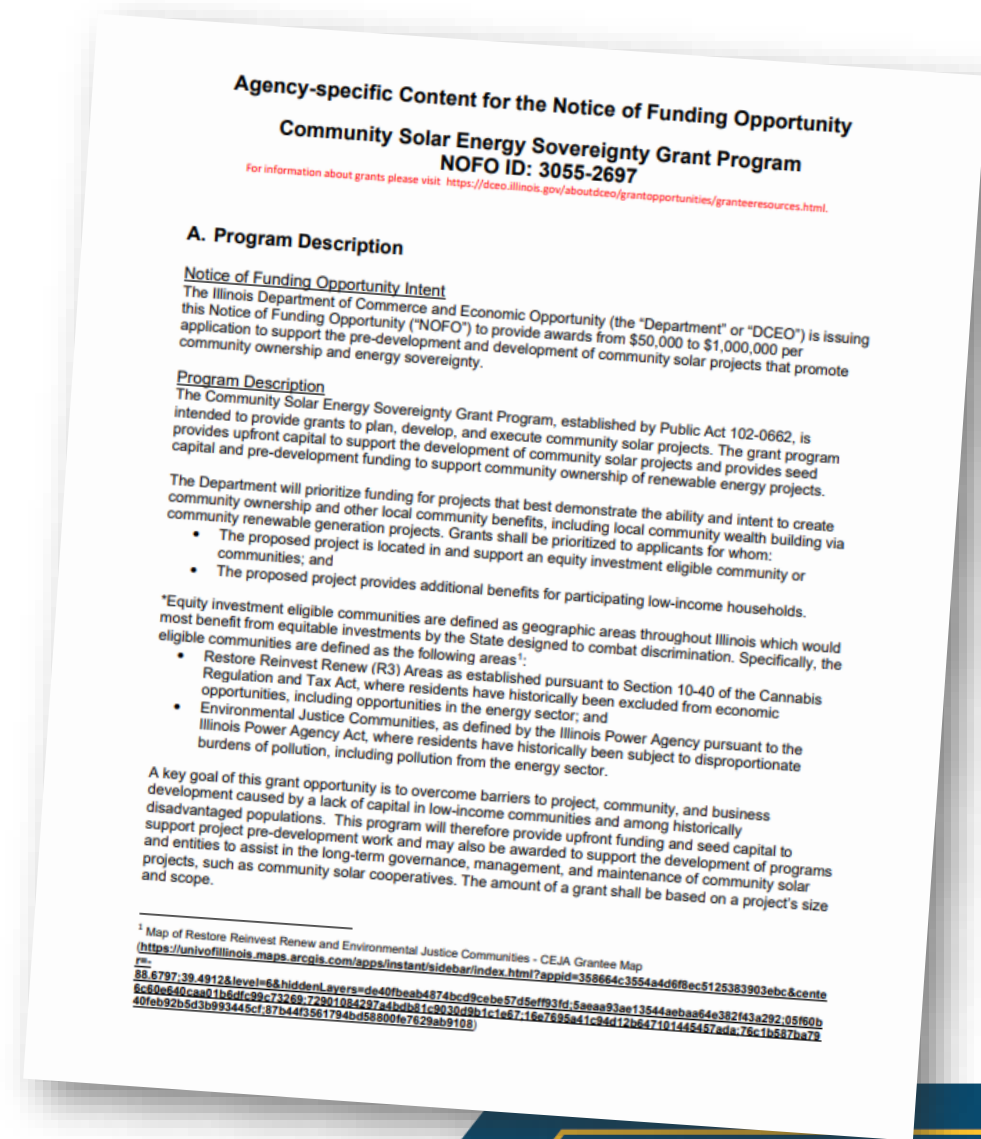
# Tips

- EVERY NOFO section is important. Go through it. Not once; at least twice.
- Highlight, underline, take notes.
- Performance Goals, Measures and Metrics (page 4): Ideas
- Project Narrative (page 5): Review what is needed. Tell your story.
- Eligibility – GATA (page 5): Start NOW!
- Application & Submission (pages 6-8): Just one part = ineligible



# Tips

- **UEI and SAM (page 8):** Three initials short; but start today.
- **Smartsheet (page 9):** Use the link to submit application. Emailed documents are not accepted.
- **Application Review (pages 10-11):** Do you have everything?
- **Award Grant and Reporting (pages 11-12):** Go to the grant & know what to expect
- **Other Hints:**
  - Have someone else read your application
  - Think like a Merit Reviewer and use the NOFO Criteria.



# NOFO Criteria (p. 10)

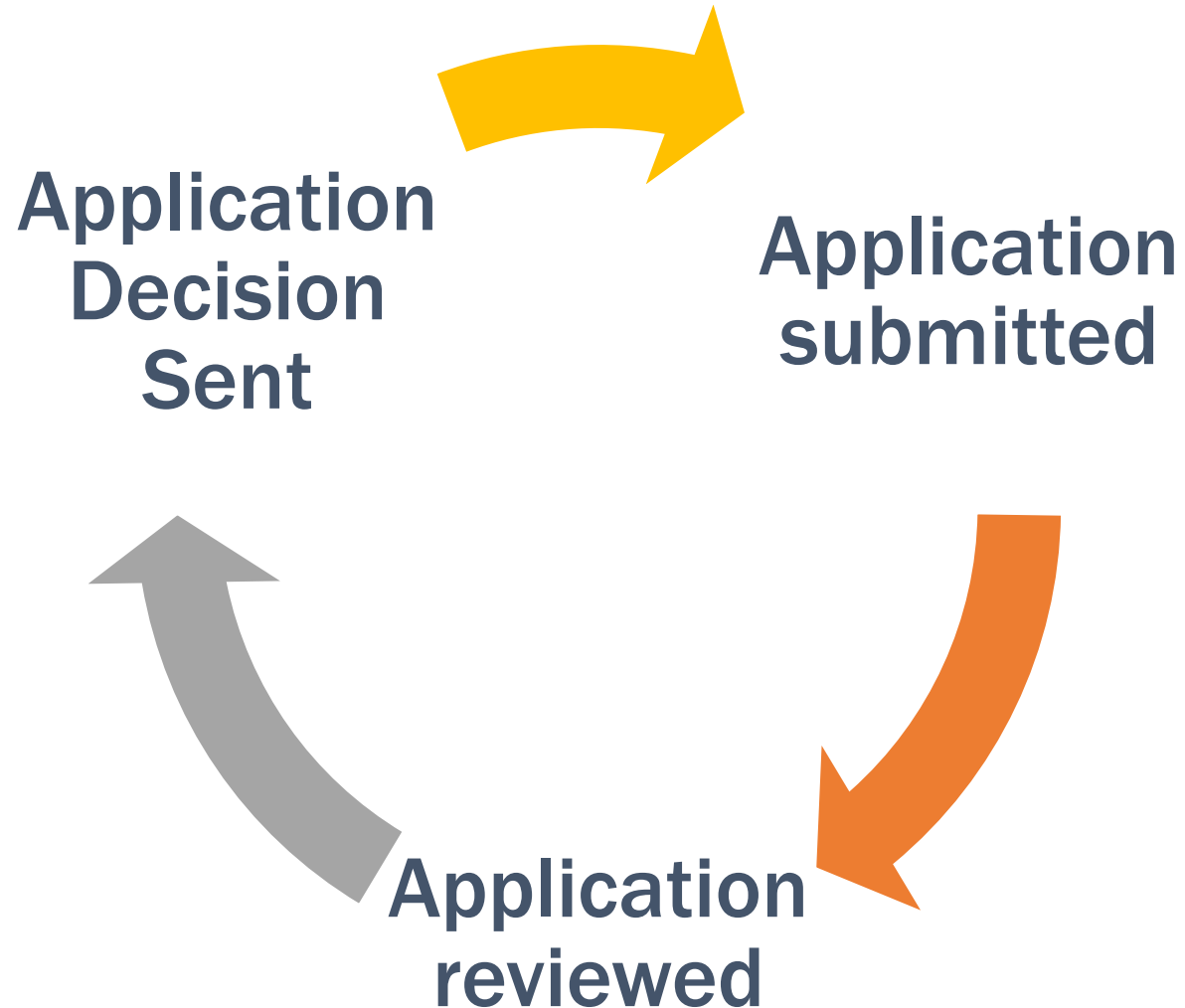
Before submitting your application review the materials and ask:

*"Does my application meet or exceed these criteria?"*

<b>Documentation of Need (10%)</b>	
The project's location is within or serving equity investment eligible communities or underserved communities.	5%
Plan describes the community needs and how this project will address the needs.	5%
<b>Applicant Qualifications and Capacity (25%)</b>	
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.	15%
Applicant's historical or future long-term partnership with the community in which the project will be located or the community that will be served by the project.	10%
<b>Project Quality (45%)</b>	
Quality of plan to generate energy and create community ownership through community solar project.	10%
Quality of plan to execute project through activities related to project feasibility, project conception, project planning, project development, and implementation.	5%
Anticipated outcomes of the project in terms of households served, reduction in utility energy costs, and non-energy benefits for target communities.	5%
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.	15%
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.	10%
<b>Cost Effectiveness/Return on Investment (20%)</b>	
The cost efficiency and effectiveness of the planned activities and projected outcomes.	10%
Ability to leverage existing funding sources, incentives, services and partnerships to improve the cost effectiveness and return on investment of the project.	10%



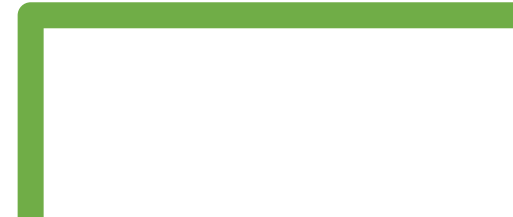
# Rolling Grant



- Applicants can submit applications at any point during the Round 1 application period (March 5, 2024 - July 1, 2024)
- Applications are reviewed on a first come, first served basis
- If an application is denied, the applicant can seek technical assistance/support and resubmit



# Questions?





# Application Support & Resources

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# Learn more, ask questions, get assistance

- Program, eligibility requirements and submission information can be found on the NOFO webpage: [Community Solar Energy Sovereignty Grant Program \(illinois.gov\)](https://www.illinois.gov/CommunitySolarEnergySovereigntyGrantProgram)
- Submit questions to [CEO.CEJA@Illinois.gov](mailto:CEO.CEJA@Illinois.gov) . Responses to questions will be made publicly available on the [NOFO webpage – Q & A](#)
- Contact Aaron McEvoy, grant manager. [Aaron.McEvoy@Illinois.gov](mailto:Aaron.McEvoy@Illinois.gov)

***TIP: Please email BOTH CEO.CEJA and Aaron McEvoy***



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# Get Technical Assistance from a CEJA Program Coach

CEJA Program Coaches provide technical assistance on developing an effective grant application. Applicants may sign up for multiple TA sessions.

Use the QR code or link to sign up:

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

CEJA NOFO Applicant Technical Assistance Sign Up



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# Budget & Grant Resources

DCEO Grants Page [DCEO Grants \(illinois.gov\)](https://www.illinois.gov/dceo/grants)

- Watch grant, budgeting, reporting training videos
- Attend DCEO grant training sessions
- Get help on grant related questions from the DCEO Help Desk

## DCEO Grants



### Apply for Funding

Search a current listing of DCEO grant opportunities including application links and information, as well as information on Capital Grants.



### Upcoming Grant Trainings

Interested in learning more about the grant process? See the calendar listing of upcoming live training opportunities and sign-up for future grant trainings.



### Video Training & Resource Library

A collection of training videos from all facets of the grant lifecycle. Enjoy short tutorials on how to navigate the grant process.



### Contact DCEO Grant Help Desk

Need assistance with a grant-related question? Click here to contact the DCEO Grant Help Desk.



# Partnership Resources

- List of EEC via the Illinois Shines program: [Find-an-Equity-Eligible-Contractor-as-of-1-18-2023.pdf](#) ([illinoisshines.com](http://illinoisshines.com))
- Business Enterprise Program (BEP) Directory: [State of Illinois Commission on Equity and Inclusion](#) ([diversitysoftware.com](http://diversitysoftware.com))



# Next Steps

- **Join the 2nd Technical Assistance Session**
  - Thursday, March 28, 2024 | 1 PM | [Register](#)
  - Topics: Merit Review Process , Tips and Hints for a Successful Application & Budget
- **[Sign up for a technical assistance](#) session with a CEJA program coach**
- **Complete Application & Submit**



# Questions?

