

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

Awarding Agency Name	Commerce And Econ Opp
Agency Contact	Travis Grupe (CEO.CEJACommTransition@illinois.gov)
Announcement Type	Initial
Type of Assistance Instrument	Grant
Funding Opportunity Number	FY25-1 Zion Nuclear Plant Local Taxing Bodies
Funding Opportunity Title	Energy Transition Community Grant Program
CSFA Number	420-35-3071
CSFA Popular Name	Energy Transition Community Grant Program
Anticipated Number of Awards	10
Estimated Total Program Funding	\$13,527,118
Award Range	\$151153 - \$5589914
Source of Funding	State
Cost Sharing or Matching Requirements	No
Indirect Costs Allowed	No
Restrictions on Indirect Costs	No
Posted Date	08/28/2024
Application Date Range	08/28/2024 - 10/28/2024 : 5:00PM
Grant Application Link	Please select the entire address below and paste it into the browser... <a href="https://dceo.illinois.gov/aboutdceo/grantopportunities/3071-2879.html">https://dceo.illinois.gov/aboutdceo/grantopportunities/3071-2879.html</a>
Technical Assistance Session	No

# Agency-specific Content for the Notice of Funding Opportunity Energy Transition Community Grant Program - Zion Nuclear Plant Local Taxing Bodies NOFO ID: 3071-2879

For information about grants please visit <https://dceo.illinois.gov/aboutdceo/grantopportunities/granteeresources.html>.

## A. Program Description

### Notice of Funding Opportunity Intent

The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (the “Department” or “DCEO”) is issuing this Notice of Funding Opportunity (“NOFO”) to provide grants from the Energy Transition Community Grant Program to units of local government that are taxing authorities for the Zion Nuclear Plant.

### Program Description

The Energy Transition Community Grant Program provides grants to promote economic development to communities that are in an area with a closure or reduced operation of a nuclear plant.

Grants must be used to plan for or address the economic and social impact on the community or region of plant or mine retirement or transition. Eligible uses of grant funds include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Workforce development, including upskilling and reskilling for high-demand/high-wage opportunities in regional industries, and investment in training facilities. This may include tuition assistance and wrap-around services for trainees, including stipends for housing, transportation, and childcare.
- Financial assistance for unemployed, underemployed, and/or low-income residents, including direct cash benefits, childcare, housing, transportation, and health care.
- Public infrastructure investment, including water/sewer, transportation, drainage, broadband, public facilities, and other.
- Site cleanup and environmental remediation.
- Grants to incentivize relocation or retention of companies.
- Marketing and other investment to boost tourism, recreation, and business development opportunities.
- Affordable housing.
- Public health initiatives and community health care facilities.
- Downtown/commercial redevelopment, including investment to enhance public space, improve energy efficiency/sustainability of facilities or infrastructure, and renovate/revitalize historic buildings.
- Planning, along with supporting research and analysis, for economic development, transportation, or other programs to address the impact of closure.
- Investment in local or regional operational capacity for economic development/business development/grantwriting/planning through local governments or nonprofits.

### Program History

The Energy Transition Community Grant Program was created by the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act (CEJA, P.A. 102-0662), signed into law by Governor Pritzker on September 15, 2021. DCEO's role in CEJA is to help Illinois' workforce prepare for and train for jobs in the clean energy industry, and to provide support to workers and communities facing plant and mine closures.

Under current law and subject to appropriation, new funding opportunities for this program will be available annually through the year 2045.

### Performance Goals and Measures

Grants must be used to plan for or address the economic and social impact on the community or region of plant retirement or transition. Specific performance goals and measures will depend on the proposed grantee project.

Other Information

N/A

**B. Funding Information**

This grant program is utilizing state funds appropriated by Climate and Equitable Jobs Act. Total amount of funding expected to be awarded through this NOFO is \$13,527,118.34. Awards will range from \$151,153.83 to \$5,589,914.07. The Department expects to make 10 awards through this NOFO.

Anticipated start date for awards is 7/1/24. The period of performance is expected to be 7/1/24 through 6/30/25 and may be extended and amended in future years, subject to appropriation.

Grants must be used to plan for or address the economic and social impact on the community or region of plant retirement or transition

Funding Formula

A list of identified tax bodies that have been identified as eligible for this Notice of Funding Opportunity and the amounts can be found below.

College of Lake County	\$279,937.28
County of Lake	\$557,156.58
Zion Elementary SD #6	\$5,589,914.07
Forest Preserve	\$163,943.12
Zion Benton High School Dist #126	\$3,296,877.58
Zion-Bent Public Dist	\$322,774.88
City of Zion	\$2,011,779.02
Zion Park Dist	\$907,279.76
North Shore Water Reclamation Dist.	\$151,153.83
Township of Zion	\$246,302.22

When more than one government entity is included in an application, this amount will be calculated for each distinct entity and then aggregated across those entities.

Grant costs are authorized to procure third-party vendors for grant writing and implementation costs, including for guidance and opportunities to apply for additional federal, State, local, and private funding resources. If the application is approved, one-time reimbursable costs to apply for the Energy Transition Community Grant are authorized up to 3% of the award.

**The release of this NOFO does not obligate the Department to make an award.**

**C. Eligibility Information**

An entity must be registered in the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA) Grantee Portal, <https://grants.illinois.gov/portal/>, at the time of grant application. The portal will verify that the entity:

- Has a valid FEIN number (<https://www.irs.gov/individuals/international-taxpayers/taxpayer-identification-numbers-tin#:~:text=You%20can%20use%20the%20IRS%27s,for%20Individual%20Taxpayer%20Identification%20Number>);

- Has a current SAM.gov registration (<https://sam.gov>), SAM.gov registrations must be marked as “public” to allow the GATA Grantee Portal to expedite the review of the federal information;
- Has a valid UEI number (<https://sam.gov>);
- Is not on the Federal Excluded Parties List (verified at <https://sam.gov>);
- Is in Good Standing with the Illinois Secretary of State, as applicable ([https://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/business\\_services/corp.html](https://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/business_services/corp.html));
- Is not on the Illinois Stop Payment list (verified once entity is registered in GATA Grantee Portal); and
- Is not on the Department of Healthcare and Family Services Provider Sanctions list (<https://www.illinois.gov/hfs/oig/Pages/SanctionsList.aspx>).

Entities on the Illinois Stop Payment List and/or the Federal Excluded Parties List at time of application submission will not be considered for an award.

An automated email notification to the entity alerts them of “qualified” status or informs how to remediate a negative verification (e.g., not in good standing with the Secretary of State). A federal Debarred and Suspended status cannot be remediated.

Pursuant to the policy of the Illinois Office of the Comptroller, to receive grant funds from the State of Illinois, a grantee must be considered a regarded entity by the IRS for federal income tax purposes. Disregarded entities will not be eligible to receive grant funds.

### **1. Eligible Applicants include:**

Local units of government, including municipalities, counties, school districts, and other taxing districts that are taxing authorities for the Zion nuclear plant.

See “Section B Funding Information” for a list of taxing authorities that meet this criteria.

Local units of governments in eligible areas may join with any other local unit of government, economic development organization, local educational institutions, community-based groups, or with any number or combination thereof as subgrantees to apply for the Energy Transition Community Grant.

The Department complies with all applicable provisions of state and federal laws and regulations pertaining to nondiscrimination, sexual harassment and equal employment opportunity including, but not limited to: The Illinois Human Rights Act (775 ILCS 5/1-101 et seq.), The Public Works Employment Discrimination Act (775 ILCS 10/1 et seq.), The United States Civil Rights Act of 1964 (as amended) (42 USC 2000a-and 2000H-6), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 USC 794), The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 USC 12101 et seq.), and The Age Discrimination Act (42 USC 6101 et seq.).

### **2. Cost Sharing or Matching.**

Cost sharing or matching is not required.

### **3. Indirect Cost Rate.**

This grant opportunity is limited to capital improvement expenses. The grant will not compensate for indirect costs, overhead or administrative expenses associated with the execution of the program.

In order to charge indirect costs to a grant, the applicant organization must have an annually negotiated indirect cost rate agreement (NICRA). There are three types of NICRAs:

a) Federally Negotiated Rate. Organizations that receive direct federal funding, may have an indirect cost rate that was negotiated with the Federal Cognizant Agency. Illinois will accept the federally negotiated rate. The organization must provide a copy of the federally NICRA.

b) State Negotiated Rate. The organization may negotiate an indirect cost rate with the State of Illinois if they do not have a Federally Negotiated Rate. If an organization has not previously established an indirect cost rate, an indirect cost rate proposal must be submitted through State of Illinois' centralized indirect cost rate system no later than three months after receipt of a Notice of State Award (NOSA). If an organization previously established an indirect cost rate, the organization must annually submit a new indirect cost proposal through CARS within six to nine months after the close of the grantee's fiscal year, depending on the grantee's audit type requirements.

c) De Minimis Rate. An organization may elect a de minimis rate of 10% of modified total direct cost (MTDC). Once established, the De Minimis Rate may be used indefinitely. The State of Illinois must verify the calculation of the MTDC annually in order to accept the De Minimis Rate.

All grantees must complete an indirect cost rate negotiation or elect the De Minimis Rate to claim indirect costs. Indirect costs claimed without a negotiated rate or a De Minimis Rate election on record in the State of Illinois' centralized indirect cost rate system may be subject to disallowance.

Grantees have discretion and can elect to waive payment for indirect costs. Grantees that elect to waive payments for indirect costs cannot be reimbursed for indirect costs. The organization must record an election to "Waive Indirect Costs" into the State of Illinois' centralized indirect cost rate system.

The following State University Facilities & Administration Rate and Base will apply to all State issued awards that contain either Federal pass-through funding or State funding.

**RATE:**

20% Rate for awards or programs administered On-Campus\*

10% Rate for awards or programs administered Off-Campus\*

**BASE:**

Base approved in the State Universities' current Federally Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA)

\*Criteria for utilization of the On/Off campus rate is located within the general terms and conditions of Federal NICRA for each State University. If not clearly defined, State awarding agencies and officers will make final determination based upon the purposes of the grant scope.

**4. Freedom of Information Act/Confidential Information.**

Applications and accompanying materials are subject to disclosure in response to requests received under provisions of the Freedom of Information Act (5 ILCS 140/1 et seq.). Information that could be proprietary, privileged, or confidential commercial or financial information should be clearly identified as such in the application materials. The Department will maintain the confidentiality of that information only to the extent permitted by law.

**5. Other, if applicable.**

Applicants may submit one application for this opportunity

**D. Application and Submission Information**

**1. Address to Request Application Package.**

Grant application forms are available at the web link provided in the “Grant Application Link” field of this announcement or by contacting the Program Manager:

Hubert Murray  
Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity  
607 E. Adams  
Springfield, IL 62701  
Email: CEO.CEJACommTransition@illinois.gov

## 2. Content and Form of Application Submission.

A standard application package must be submitted and reviewed by the Department. Each package should contain the following items:

- Uniform Grant Application in fillable PDF format. Signature page must be printed, signed, scanned and submitted with application.
- Uniform Budget utilizing the template provided by DCEO for this project. The entire budget with all worksheets included even if the worksheets are not relevant to the grant opportunity must be submitted with the application materials. Signature page must be printed, signed, scanned and submitted with application.
- Conflict of Interest Disclosure
- Mandatory Disclosures

This Notice of Funding Opportunity also requires the submission of the following other programmatic specific items as part of a program application that can be found on the website where you accessed the application document:

- Program Application
  - a. Cover page including:
    - i. Name of organization(s)
    - ii. If multiple organizations, please specify lead entity
    - iii. Contact for follow-up regarding this Notice of Funding Opportunity, including name, title, e-mail address, mailing address, and phone number
  - b. Detailed Project narrative, including
    - i. A detailed description of the proposed project, including:
      - a. A detailed description of what the project will entail and who will be responsible for project administration and implementation
      - b. For a capital project:
        - i. How the capital project addresses a current deficiency and/or entails an investment that will support economic development
      - c. If it is a program involving beneficiaries or trainees:
        - i. How program will be staffed and/or use of third-party vendors or contracts to support or administer the program
        - ii. Who is eligible to participate
        - iii. Plan for outreach, technical assistance, and support
        - iv. How the program will reach populations that are historically underserved and/or most impacted by closures
      - d. Timeline for implementation
      - e. How the project will address the economic and social impacts of plant or mine closure
      - f. How the project is in line with local or regional economic development goals or addresses local or regional economic/social needs

- ii. A description of the stakeholder process undertaken to arrive at this proposal, including:
  - a. a description of how input was solicited and received (e.g. public meetings, hearings, etc.)
    - i. Participated in at least one public meeting that allowed for public input, in which a discussion of the proposed use of your Energy Transition Community Grant was on the agenda, and
    - ii. For at least one person or organization reflecting each category in the bulleted list below, solicited input and feedback regarding use of Energy Transition Community Grant funds by:
      - 1. holding one or more meetings (this may include participation in the public meeting described in (1) with that individual or organization, or
      - 2. submitting a direct written request to that individual or organization for input via e-mail or mail correspondence
      - 3. A list of specific organizations and/or individuals that provided input including, but not limited to:
        - a. Regional Planning Councils, in areas where a Regional Planning Council is active;
        - b. economic development organizations;
        - c. low-income or environmental justice communities;
        - d. educational institutions;
        - e. elected and appointed officials;
        - f. organizations representing workers; and
        - g. other relevant organizations, if applicable.
  - b. Note: CEJA requires that these projects include community input and consultation with a diverse set of stakeholders, including, but not limited to: Regional Planning Councils, where applicable; economic development organizations; low-income or environmental justice communities; educational institutions; elected and appointed officials; organizations representing workers; and other relevant organizations.
- iii. Metrics to assess the impact of the project, and associated goals for each metric. We will request that the grantee provide reports on these metrics over the course of the project.
- iv. A summary of the detailed budget provided through the Uniform Budget Template.

Please note there is a maximum upload of 10 documents in the web form that you submit the application, so combining files may be necessary.

### **3. Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) and System for Award Management (SAM)**

Each applicant (unless the applicant is an individual or Federal or State awarding agency that is exempt from those requirements under 2 CFR 25.110(b) or (c), or has an exception approved by the Federal or State awarding agency under 2 CFR 25.110(d)) is required to:

- (i) Be registered in SAM. To establish a SAM registration, go to [www.SAM.gov](http://www.SAM.gov) and/or utilize this instructional link: [How to Register in SAM from the www.grants.illinois.gov Resource Links tab](#). SAM.gov registrations must be “public.”
- (ii) Provide a valid UEI number in the GATA Grantee Portal registration.

- (iii) Continue to maintain an active SAM registration with current information at all times during which it has an active Federal, Federal pass-through or State award or an application or plan under consideration by a Federal or State awarding agency. The State awarding agency may not make a Federal pass-through or State award to an applicant until the applicant has complied with all applicable UEI and SAM requirements and, if an applicant has not fully complied with the requirements by the time the State awarding agency is ready to make a Federal pass-through or State award, the State awarding agency may determine that the applicant is not qualified to receive a Federal pass-through or State award and use that determination as a basis for making a Federal pass-through or State award to another applicant.

#### **4. Submission Dates and Times.**

Applications for this opportunity must be submitted by 5:00PM CST on Monday, October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

Application materials must be submitted to the Department via electronic form at <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/d24893548b354244878448d3b4359027>

The Department is under no obligation to review applications that do not comply with the above requirements. Failure to meet the application deadline may result in the Department returning application without review or may preclude the Department from making the award.

#### **5. Intergovernmental Review, if applicable.**

N/A

#### **6. Funding Restrictions.**

This opportunity does allow reimbursement of pre-award costs. Grant costs are authorized to procure third-party vendors for grant writing and implementation, including guidance and opportunities to apply for additional federal, State, local, and private funding resources. If the application is approved, one-time reimbursable costs to apply for the Energy Transition Community Grant are authorized up to 3% of the award. Other restrictions can be found in Sections A, B, and C.

#### **7. Other Submission Requirements.**

Documents stored in Google Docs or other cloud-based servers are not allowed.

Applicants may confirm receipt of the application and documents by contacting the program contact listed in this NOFO.

## **E. Application Review Information.**

### **1. Criteria.**

Lead applicant is a local government that meets eligibility requirements outlined in Section C.1.

- Application is complete and sufficiently detailed, as described in Section B.2.
- The applicant has undertaken a stakeholder process to identify proposed use of grant funds, as required by CEJA.
- The proposed project is eligible for funding because it entails planning for or addressing the economic and social impact on the community or region of plant retirement or transition



## 2. Review and Selection Process.

Applications will be graded using the Merit Review Process and scored on the criteria specified in Section E.1. The Department will designate an Evaluation Committee to grade each application received for this funding opportunity. The final score of each Committee member will be calculated and an average of all scores will be the final applicant score. Grants will be awarded based on applications evaluated by the Department for eligibility. The determination of eligibility is subject to appeal. The appeal must be submitted in writing to the Department within 14 calendar days following the publish date of the grant award notice. The written appeal shall include the name and address of the appealing party, the identification of the grant, and the reasons for the appeal. Further information regarding the appeals process may be found on the Grant Opportunities page of the DCEO website:  
<https://dceo.illinois.gov/aboutdceo/grantopportunities/meritappeview.html>.

The program application will outline projects compliant with the funding restrictions and other eligibility requirements detailed above. The funding amount will be awarded based on the contents of the application.

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

After the application period is closed, the Department will conduct a merit based review of eligible applications. Successful applicants will receive a Notice of State Award (NOSA) to initiate the grant agreement phase. During this phase, you will be contacted by a grant manager to develop a grant agreement, which can be a months long process depending on complexity, cooperation, and conformity with all applicable federal and state laws.

The Department reserves the right to issue a reduced award, or not to issue any award.

## F. Award Administration Information

### 1. State Award Notices.

The Notice of State Award (NOSA) will specify the funding terms and specific conditions resulting from the pre-award risk assessments and the merit based review process. The NOSA must be accepted in the GATA Portal by an authorized representative of the grantee organization. The NOSA is not an authorization to begin performance or incur costs.

### 2. Administrative and National Policy Requirements.

**Subrecipients and Subcontractors:** Agreement(s) and budget(s) with subrecipients and subcontractors must be pre-approved by and on file with DCEO. Agreements can be submitted to DCEO when available. Subcontractors and subrecipients are subject to all applicable provisions of the Agreement(s) executed between DCEO and the grantee. The successful applicant shall retain sole responsibility for the performance of its subrecipient(s) and/or subcontractor(s).

**Grant Uniform Requirements:** The Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (30 ILCS 708/1 *et seq.*) (and its related administrative rules, 44 Ill. Admin. Code Part 7000), was enacted to increase the accountability and transparency in the use of grant funds from whatever source and to reduce administrative burdens on both State agencies and grantees by adopting federal guidance and regulations applicable to those grant funds; specifically, the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (2 CFR 200).

**Procurement:** Grantees will be required to adhere to methods of procurement per the Procurement Standards (2 CFR 200.317 – 2 CFR 200.327).

**Business Enterprise Program:** For grant awards of \$250,000 or more, grantees will be required to comply with the Business Enterprise Program for Minorities, Females, and Persons with Disabilities Act (30 ILCS 575/0.01 *et seq.*), which establishes a goal for contracting with businesses that have been certified as owned and controlled by persons who are minority, female or who have disabilities. The Department will work with the grantees to ensure compliance prior to the establishment of the grant agreement as well as through the life of the grant.

**Environmental Review Requirements:** Capital grants will be reviewed to determine environmental review requirements. Based on the scope of the project, the grantees may be required to complete additional environmental approvals before a grant agreement can be initiated.

**Illinois Works Jobs Program Act (30 ILCS 559/20-1 *et seq.*):** For grants with an estimated total project cost of \$500,000 or more, the grantee will be required to comply with the Illinois Works Apprenticeship Initiative (30 ILCS 559/20-20 to 20-25) and all applicable administrative rules. The “estimated total project cost” is a good faith approximation of the costs of an entire project being paid for in whole or in part by appropriated capital funds to construct a public work. The goal of the Illinois Apprenticeship Initiative is that apprentices will perform either 10% of the total labor hours actually worked in each prevailing wage classification or 10% of the estimated labor hours in each prevailing wage classification, whichever is less. Grantees will be permitted to seek from the Department a waiver or reduction of this goal in certain circumstances pursuant to 30 ILCS 559/20-20(b). The grantee must ensure compliance for the life of the entire project, including during the term of the grant and after the term ends, if applicable, and will be required to report on and certify its compliance.

**Prevailing Wage Act (820 ILCS 130/0.01 *et seq.*):** Applicants that are awarded grants shall comply with all requirements of the Prevailing Wage Act, including but not limited to, inserting into all contracts for construction a stipulation to the effect that not less than the prevailing rate of wages as applicable to the project shall be paid to all laborers, workers, and mechanics performing work under the award and requiring all bonds of contractors to include a provision as will guarantee the faithful performance of such prevailing wage clause as provided by contract. Grantees will be required to report on Prevailing Wage Act compliance on a monthly basis.

**Employment of Illinois Workers on Public Works Act (30 ILCS 570/0.01 *et seq.*):** All grantees will be required to comply with the Employment of Illinois Workers on Public Works Act (30 ILCS 570/0.01 *et seq.*) (the “Act”), which provides that whenever there is a period of excessive unemployment in Illinois (as defined by the Act), if the Grantee is using Grant Funds for (1) constructing or building any public works, or (2) performing the clean-up and on-site disposal of hazardous waste for the State of Illinois or any political subdivision of the State, then the Grantee shall employ at least 90% Illinois laborers on such project. Illinois laborers refers to any person who has resided in Illinois for at least 30 days and intends to become or remain an Illinois resident. Grantees may receive an exception from this requirement by submitting a request and supporting documents certifying that Illinois laborers are either not available, or are incapable of performing the particular type of work involved. The certification must: (a) be submitted to the grant manager within the first quarter of the Award Term; (b) provide sufficient support that demonstrates the exception is met; (c) be signed by an authorized signatory of the Grantee; and (d) be approved by DCEO in consultation with the Illinois Department of Labor. In addition, every contractor on a public works project or improvement or hazardous waste clean-up and on-site disposal project in this State may place on such work no more than 3 (or 6 in the case of a hazardous waste clean-up and on-site disposal project) of the contractor’s regularly employed non-resident executive and technical experts.

### 3. Reporting.

#### **Periodic Performance Report (PPR) and Periodic Financial Report (PFR)**

Grantees funded through this NOFO are required to submit in the format required by the Grantor, at least on a quarterly basis, the PPR and PFR electronically to their assigned grant manager.

The first of such reports shall cover the first three months after the award begins. Pursuant to 2 CFR 200.328, Periodic Financial Reports shall be submitted no later than 30 calendar days following the period covered by the report. Pursuant to 2 CFR 200.329, Periodic Performance Reports shall be submitted no later than 30 calendar days following the period covered by the report. Any additional reporting requirements will be disclosed in the NOSA. Grantees are required within 45 calendar days following the end of the period of performance to submit a final closeout report in the format required by the Grantor (See 2 CFR 200.344).

#### **Monitoring**

Grantees funded through this NOFO are subject to fiscal and programmatic monitoring visits by the Department in accordance with 2 CFR 200.337. They must have an open-door policy allowing periodic visits by Department monitors to evaluate the progress of the project and provide documentation upon request of the monitor. Program staff will also maintain contact with participants and monitor progress and performance of the contracts. The Department may modify grants based on performance.

#### **Audit**

Grantees shall be subject to Illinois' statewide Audit Report Review requirements. Terms of the Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996 (31 USC 7501-7507), Subpart F of 2 CFR Part 200, and the audit rules set forth under the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act shall apply (See 30 ILCS 708/65(c)).

### **G. State Awarding Agency Contact(s)**

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

### **H. Other Information, if applicable**

N/A