



# CEJA ILLINOIS

Clean Jobs Workforce  
Network Program



# CEJA ILLINOIS

Energy Transition  
Navigator Program

## Apply for Funding, Round 2

## January 5, 2024



**Illinois**  
**Department of Commerce**  
& Economic Opportunity

JB Pritzker, Governor

# Agenda

- CEJA Workforce Ecosystem Overview
- Status of Workforce Hub and Energy Transition Navigator Programs
- Applied before? Consider revising and resubmitting
- New applicants? Brief overview of programs
- Application tips



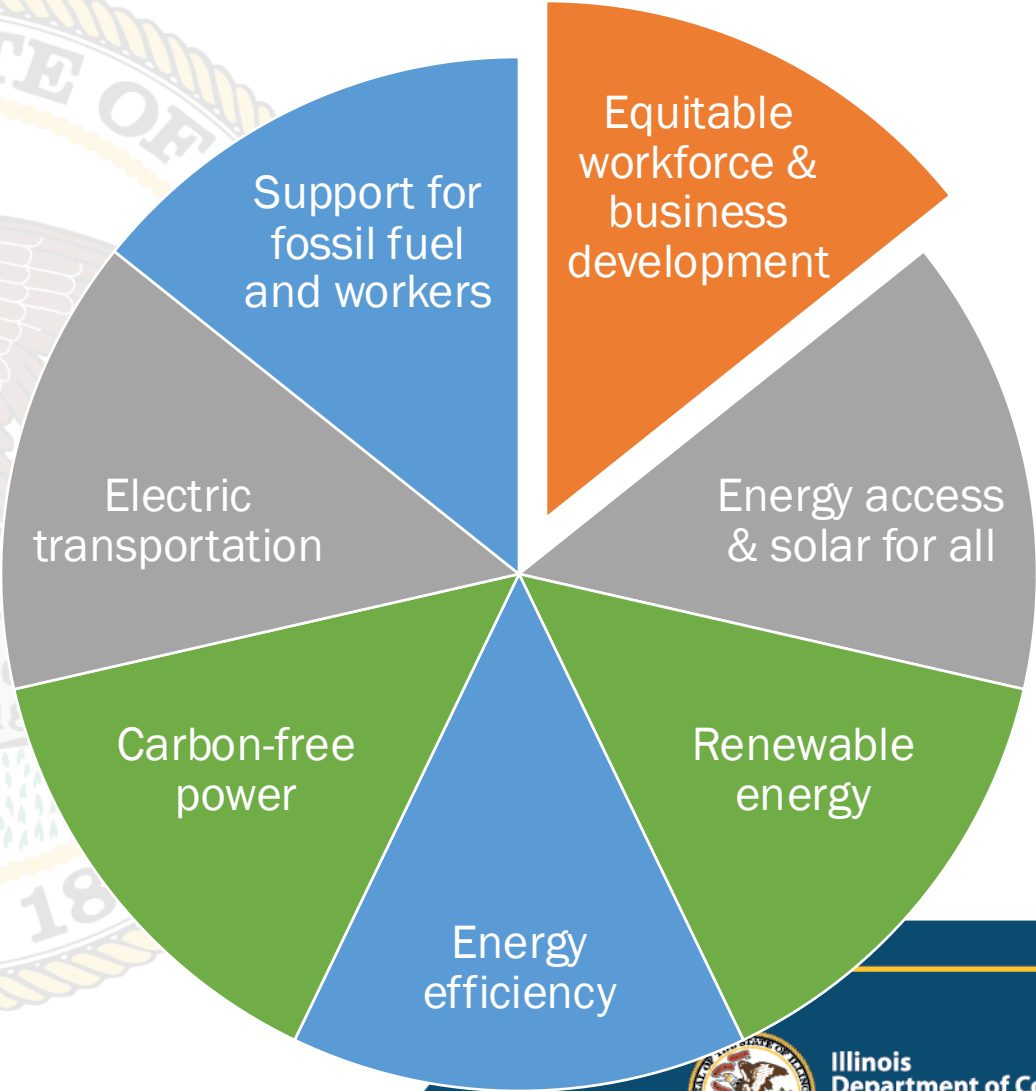
# CEJA Workforce Ecosystem Overview



# What is the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act, or CEJA?

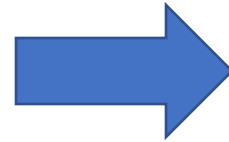
Comprehensive energy legislation that centers equity and puts Illinois on track to achieve 100 percent renewable energy by 2050.

DCEO is responsible for administering equitable workforce and business development programs



# CEJA Equitable Workforce Development

Illinois is investing in clean energy sources, electric vehicles, and energy efficiency.



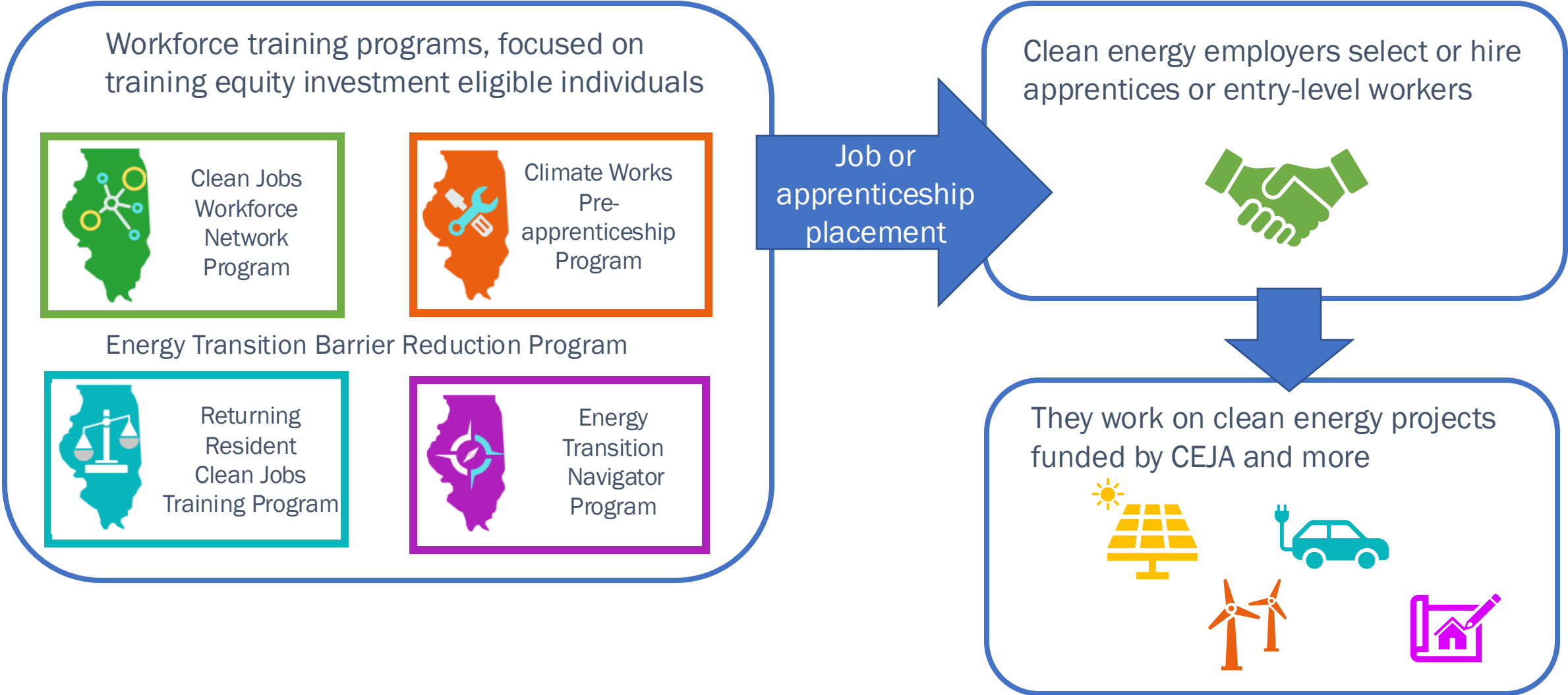
We need to expand the clean energy workforce to do the work.

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



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

# CEJA Workforce Programs



# CEJA Workforce Programs



## Clean Jobs Workforce Network Program (“Workforce Hubs”)

- **Goal:** Prepare people for **entry-level clean energy jobs.**
- Clean job training will be available at 13 locations across the state, facilitated by various hubs.
- Hubs will use a standardized framework for the clean energy curriculum.
- Funding for the Barrier Reduction Program will be included.



## Energy Transition Navigators Program

- Recruit participants for CEJA workforce programs.
- Conduct outreach & education to build awareness of CEJA programs.
- Build connections with communities, employers, and stakeholders.

# CEJA Workforce Programs



## Climate Works Pre-apprenticeship Program

- **Goal:** Prepare people for **registered apprenticeships**.
- Three regional centers deliver pre-apprenticeship training.
- Centers will provide basic construction training with a clean energy focus.
- Funding for the Barrier Reduction Program will be included.

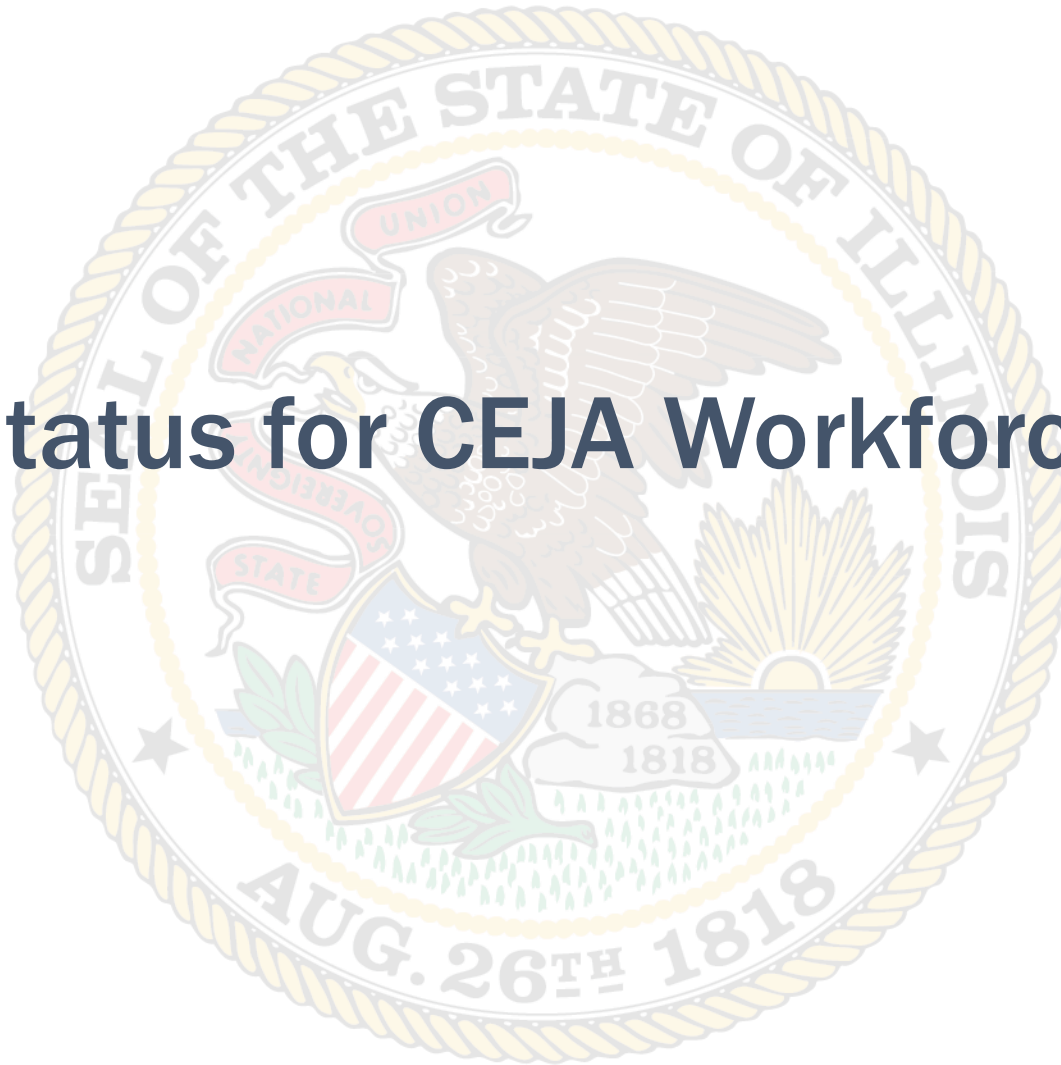


## Returning Resident Clean Jobs Training Program

- **Goal:** Prepare people for **entry-level clean energy jobs**.
- Training will be provided for individuals who are in the custody of the Illinois Department of Corrections.
- Grantees will use a standardized framework for the clean energy curriculum.



# Program Status for CEJA Workforce Programs



# Status of CEJA workforce programs

Program	Status
Climate Works Pre-apprenticeship	Grantees Selected (to be announced soon)
Clean Jobs Workforce Network Program	First round of reviews complete. Applications for second round due February 23.
Energy Transition Navigator Program	First round of reviews complete. Applications for second round due February 23.
Returning Resident Clean Jobs Program	NOFO to be released late January/early February



# Funding Recommendation Results

Program	Applications Received	Applications Recommended for Funding	Hubs with applicants recommended for funding	Hubs remaining unfilled (no recommended applicants)
Clean Jobs Workforce Network Program	25	7	Chicago South (2), Chicago SW/W (2), Rockford, Champaign, Alton, Decatur	Chicago South*, Waukegan, Joliet, Aurora, Peoria, Danville, Carbondale, East St. Louis
Energy Transition Navigator	22	6	Chicago South (2), Chicago SW/W (2), Rockford, Carbondale	Waukegan, Joliet, Aurora, Peoria, Danville, Champaign, Decatur, East St. Louis, Alton

**We've launched a Round 2 application period to try to fill the remaining hubs. Deadline: February 23, 2024**

# Application Selection Process



Administrative review to assess GATA requirements and whether the application has all required elements.



Applications sorted by proposed region.



Highest scoring applications per region that meet minimum scoring requirements recommended for funding.



Final grants negotiated by the Department based on alignment with NOFO requirements to arrive at acceptable grant terms (budget, scope of work).



Final grant award decisions made, grantees announced.

# Why wasn't my application selected?

## Some potential reasons

### Didn't make it past the first administrative review:

- Application package wasn't complete.
- Application package wasn't submitted on time.
- Applicant didn't meet GATA or eligibility requirements.

### Went through merit review but wasn't selected:

- Application didn't receive a high enough score to be considered for funding.
- Another applicant (or multiple applicants) in your region received a higher score.



**Applied before?**

**Consider Revising and Resubmitting (but only if you are in a hub area accepting applications for round 2).**



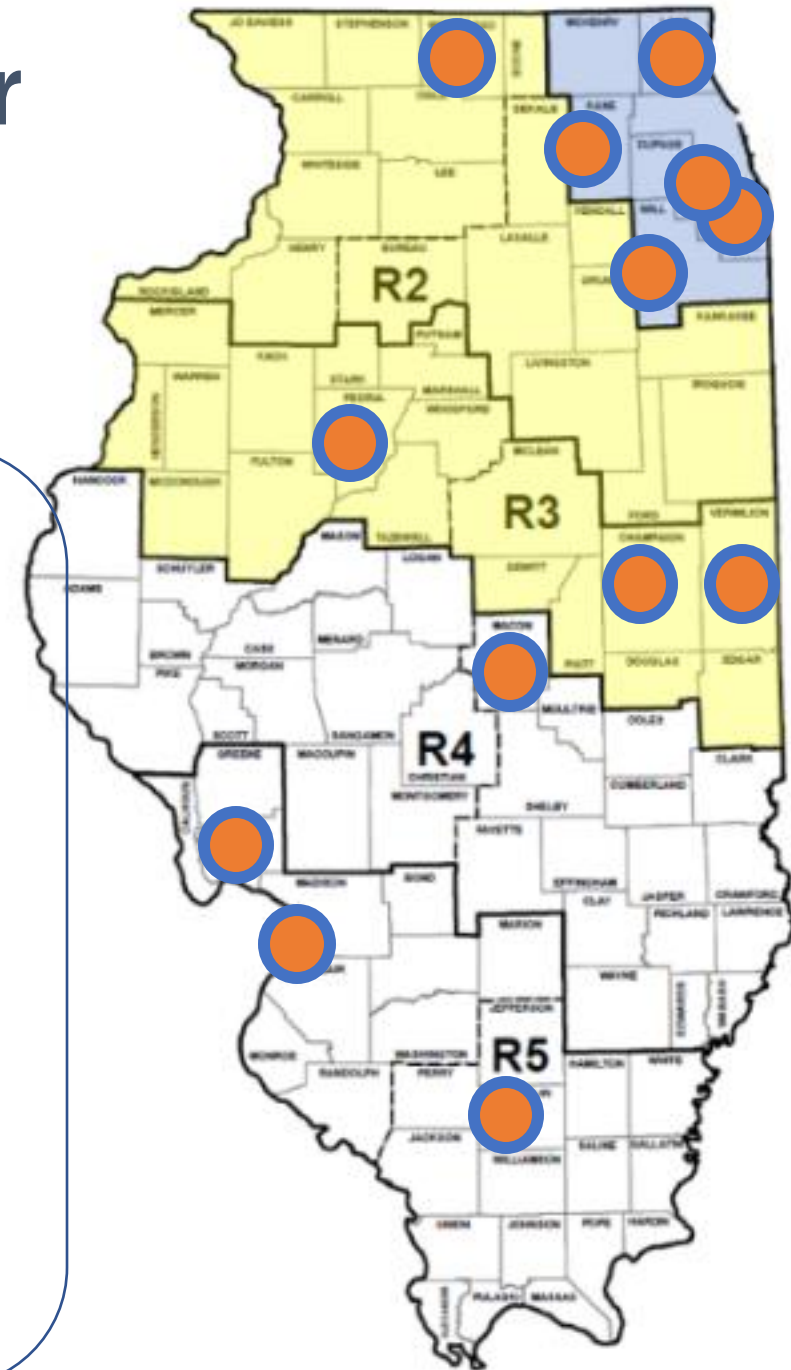
# Hub Areas Accepting Applications for Round 2

## Clean Energy Workforce Network Program

- Chicago South
- Waukegan
- Joliet
- Aurora
- Peoria
- Danville
- Carbondale
- East St. Louis

## Energy Transition Navigator Program

- Waukegan
- Joliet
- Aurora
- Champaign
- Decatur
- Peoria
- Danville
- Alton
- East St. Louis



# Support for returning and new applicants

Request summary of feedback from merit reviewers. Contact Char Flickinger, [charlotte.flickinger@illinois.gov](mailto:charlotte.flickinger@illinois.gov)

Request one-on-one technical assistance (up to 5 sessions).

Attend more technical assistance webinars.

Attend a networking event to build stronger partnerships.

Collaborate with community leaders





# Get Technical Assistance from a CEJA NOFO Coach

CEJA NOFO 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/4qUkTd\\_gCFY](https://forms.office.com/r/4qUkTd_gCFY)

CEJA NOFO Applicant Technical Assistance Sign Up



# Upcoming Technical Assistance Webinars

Developing a CEJA Budget: Avoiding Pitfalls	January 12, 12 pm	<a href="#">Register here</a>
Rolling Back the Curtain: What CEJA Grant Reviewers are Looking For	January 19, 12 pm	<a href="#">Register here</a>



# CEJA Networking Events

[Register for an event](#)

- Carbondale: January 8, 1-3 pm
- Waukegan: January 9, 1-3 pm
- Champaign: January 9, 1:30-3:30 pm
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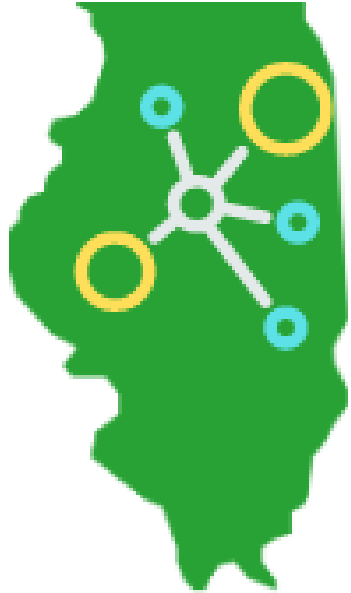
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# TA webinars and one-on-one sessions will provide guidance for improving your application

- Does what you propose conform to the application requirements outlined in the NOFO?
- Is your application package complete?
- Does your team have the capacity and experience to deliver the program? Are roles and responsibilities among partners clearly defined?
- Do you have detailed plans to deliver key elements? The NOFO explains WHAT you'll be delivering. Your proposal explains HOW you'll deliver it.
- Do you have a detailed budget description/narrative?
- Do you demonstrate an understanding of local economy and clean energy job needs?

# New Applicants? Program Overviews





# CLEAN JOBS ILLINOIS

Clean Jobs Workforce Network Program

<https://www.illinoisworknet.com/cejaworkforcenetwork>



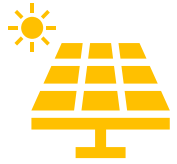
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# Clean Jobs Workforce Network Program, "Workforce Hubs"

- **Goal:** Prepare people for good-paying, entry-level clean energy jobs.
- **What:** Clean jobs training, utilizing a standard clean energy curriculum framework
- **Where:** At least one in each of the 13 regions
- **Funding:** \$37.9 million/year
- **Delivered by:** Community-based organizations and partners

# Workforce hubs will prepare people for clean energy jobs.



- Solar energy
- Solar thermal



- Wind energy



- Electric vehicle
- Green hydrogen



- Energy efficiency
- Healthy building materials



- Energy storage
- Industries achieving emission reductions

Clean energy jobs are those that **manufacture, develop, build, install, maintain, or provide ancillary services** in these industries. They provide administrative, sales, and other support functions in these industries.

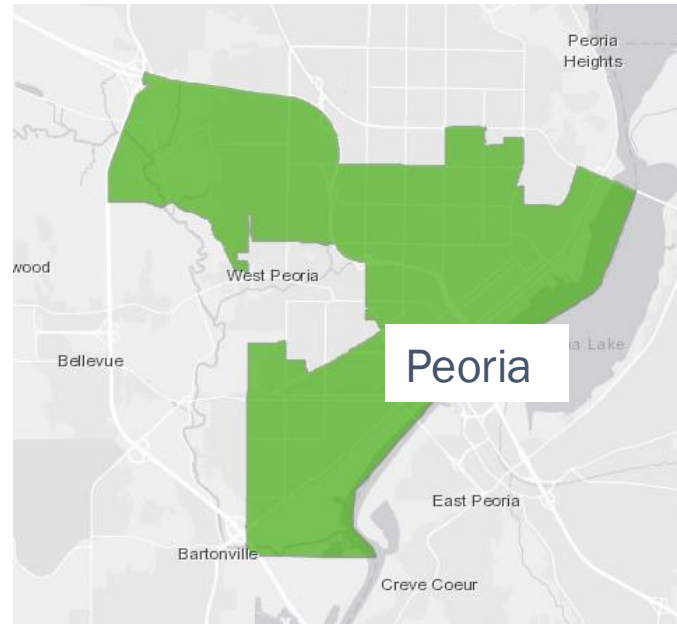
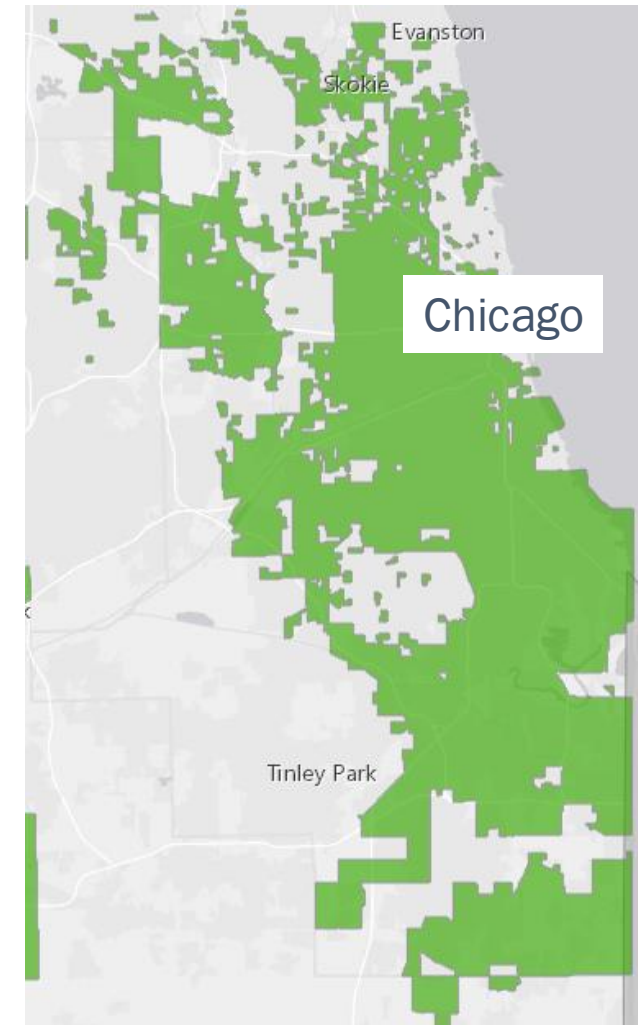
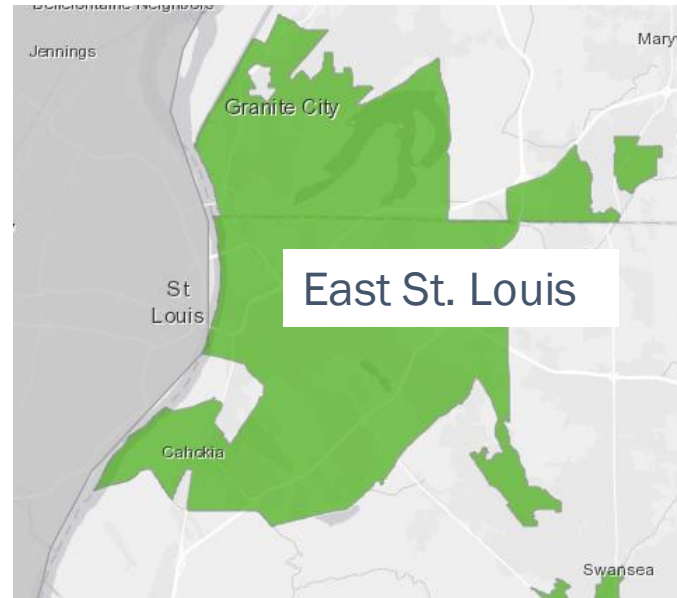




# Who will the program serve?

## Target populations:

- People living in equity investment eligible communities (environmental justice or R3 communities)
- People with barriers to employment (such as incarceration)
- Former members of foster care
- Displaced energy workers



# Workforce hubs: 7 main tasks

1. Recruit participants

2. Enroll participants

3. Deliver bridge program training

4. Deliver job-specific training

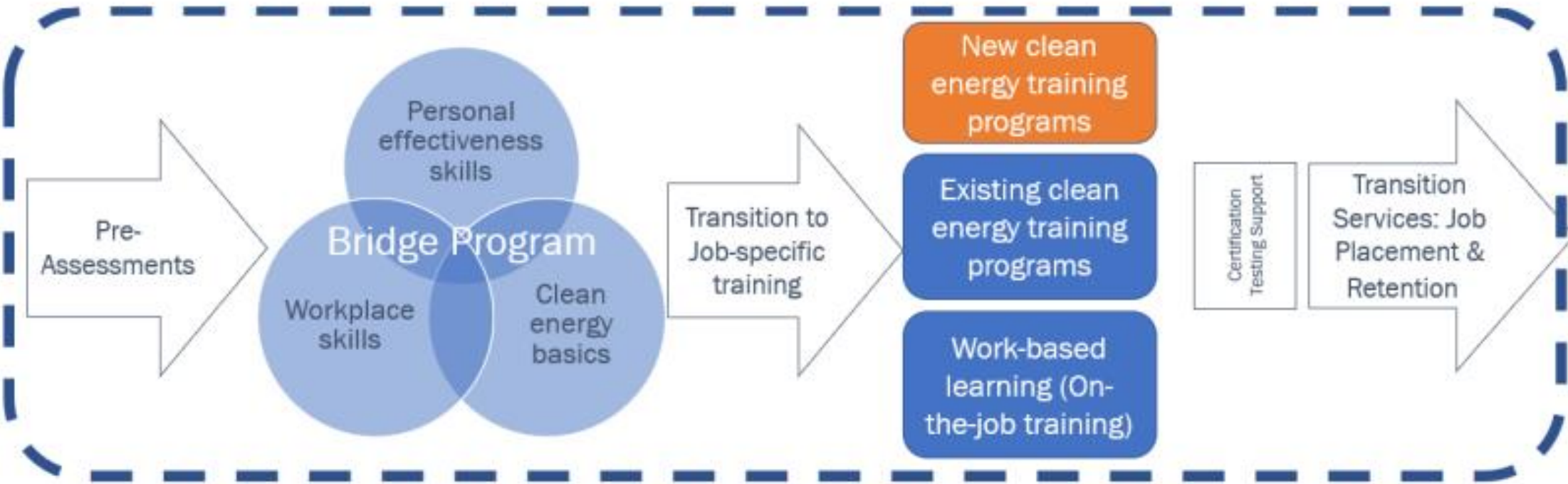
5. Provide barrier-reduction services

6. Help participants transition to jobs

7. Track participants and provide follow-up support



# Training must align with the Clean Jobs Curriculum Framework



Wrap-around support: stipends, childcare, tutoring, transportation, etc.

Figure 1: Overview of Clean Jobs Curriculum Framework

# Equity focused program culture: More than numeric participant targets



# Who can apply for funding to deliver the Clean Jobs Workforce Network Program?

**Community-based organizations\*** can deliver all program elements or subcontract with other entities to deliver some elements. Teams are encouraged!

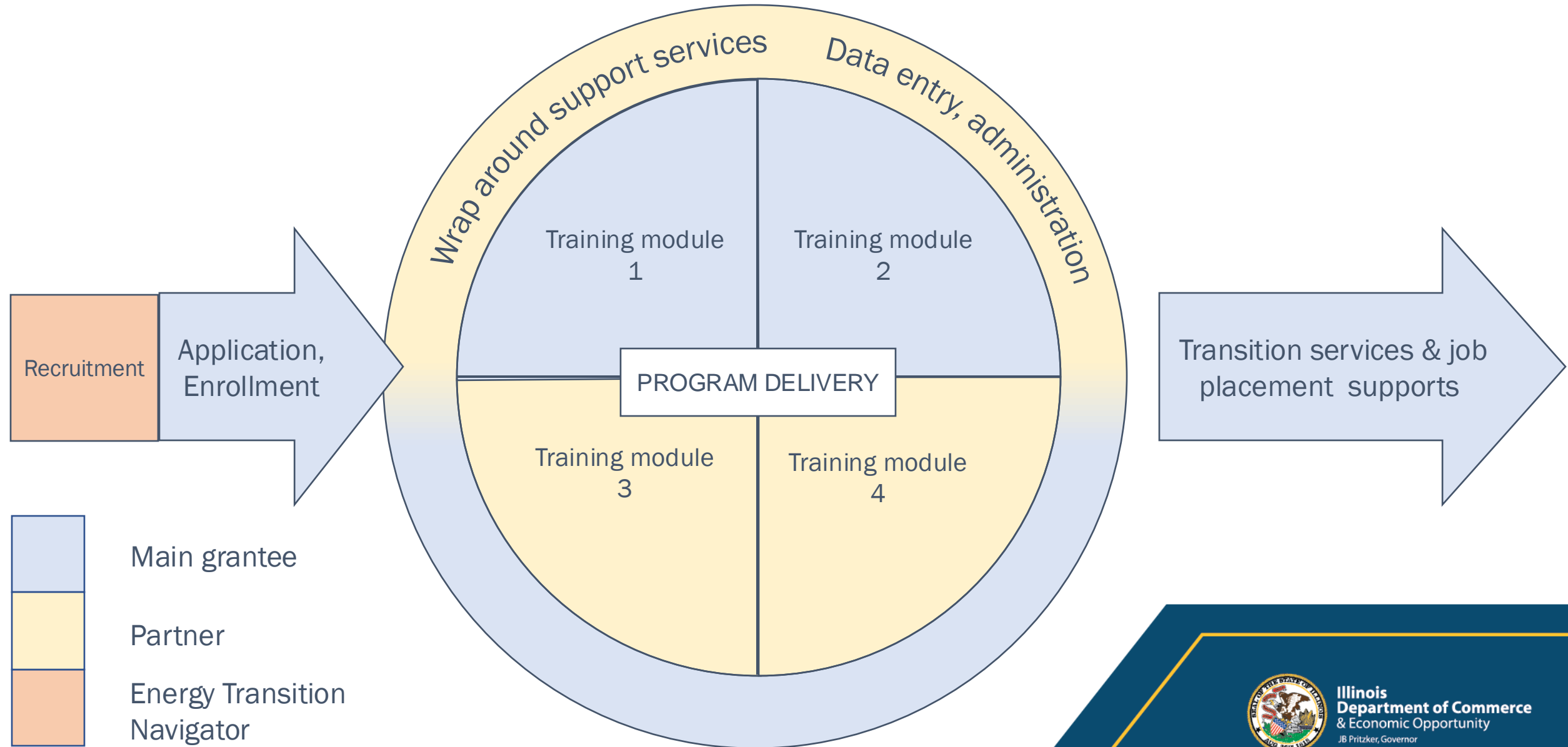
Funding available:  
\$22.9 million for Y1  
+ \$15 m Barrier Reduction  
# of awards: 13

\*Community-based organizations, including community colleges, nonprofits & local governments, must:

- Provide employment, skill development, or related services to members of the community
- Have at least one main operating office in the community or region it serves
- Demonstrate relationships with local residents & other organizations in community



# Multiple Organizations can Partner to Deliver a Workforce Hub.



# Collectively, the applicant team should demonstrate

Ability to serve all individuals, including diverse and equity focused populations.

Agreements with employers, others for work-based learning, job placement, on-the-job training

Ability to provide training using the Clean Energy Jobs Curriculum Framework

Ability to recruit, prescreen and provide training to prepare workers for employment

Capacity to provide barrier reduction services, transition services

Ability to provide training in locations that are accessible in the region



# CEJA ILLINOIS

Energy Transition  
Navigator Program

<https://www.illinoisworknet.com/WIOA/Pages/cejaenergy.aspx>



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# Energy Transition Navigator Program

- **Goal:** Increase awareness of and participation in CEJA programs
- **What:** Provide recruitment, enrollment and engagement for CEJA workforce programs
- **Where:** 13 hubs and surrounding areas throughout the state
- **Funding:** \$6 million/year
- **Delivered by:** Community-based providers and partners

# Energy Transition Navigators: 4 main tasks

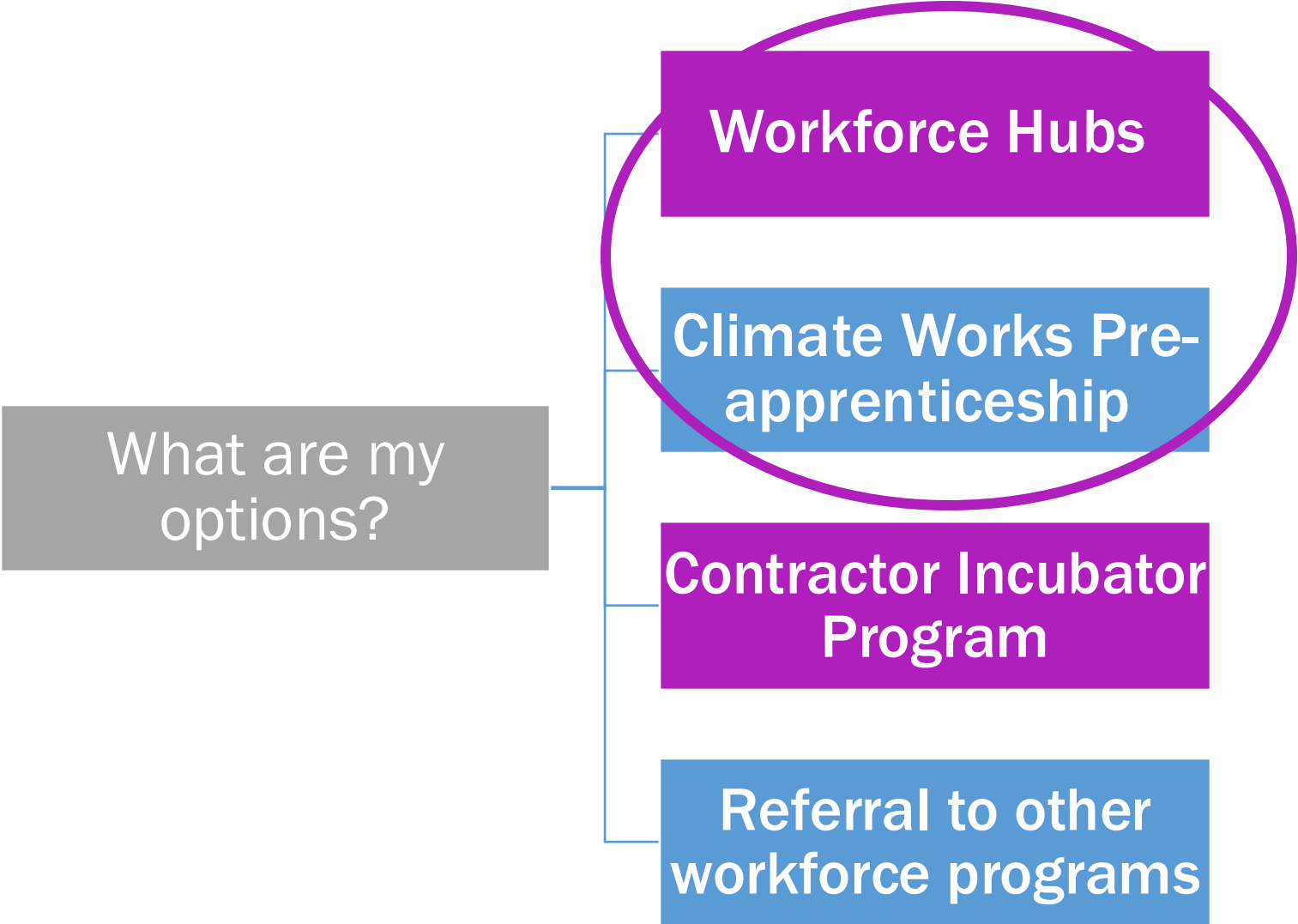
Coordinate closely with the other CEJA workforce programs (especially Climate Works Pre-apprenticeship and Workforce Hubs)

Provide outreach and community education to raise awareness of and recruit people to participate in CEJA programs

Provide services to help people enroll and participate in the programs.

Engage with diverse community, employer, and workforce stakeholders to advance workforce program goals.

# Navigators coordinate with CEJA programs to guide people to the programs that meet their interests and needs



Navigators must coordinate closely with these programs as part of their larger outreach teams.



# Navigators help people make informed decisions about CEJA training programs and career pathways

Solar PV  
installer or sales  
representative

Wind turbine  
technician

Weatherization  
installer

Electrician

Iron worker

Carpenter

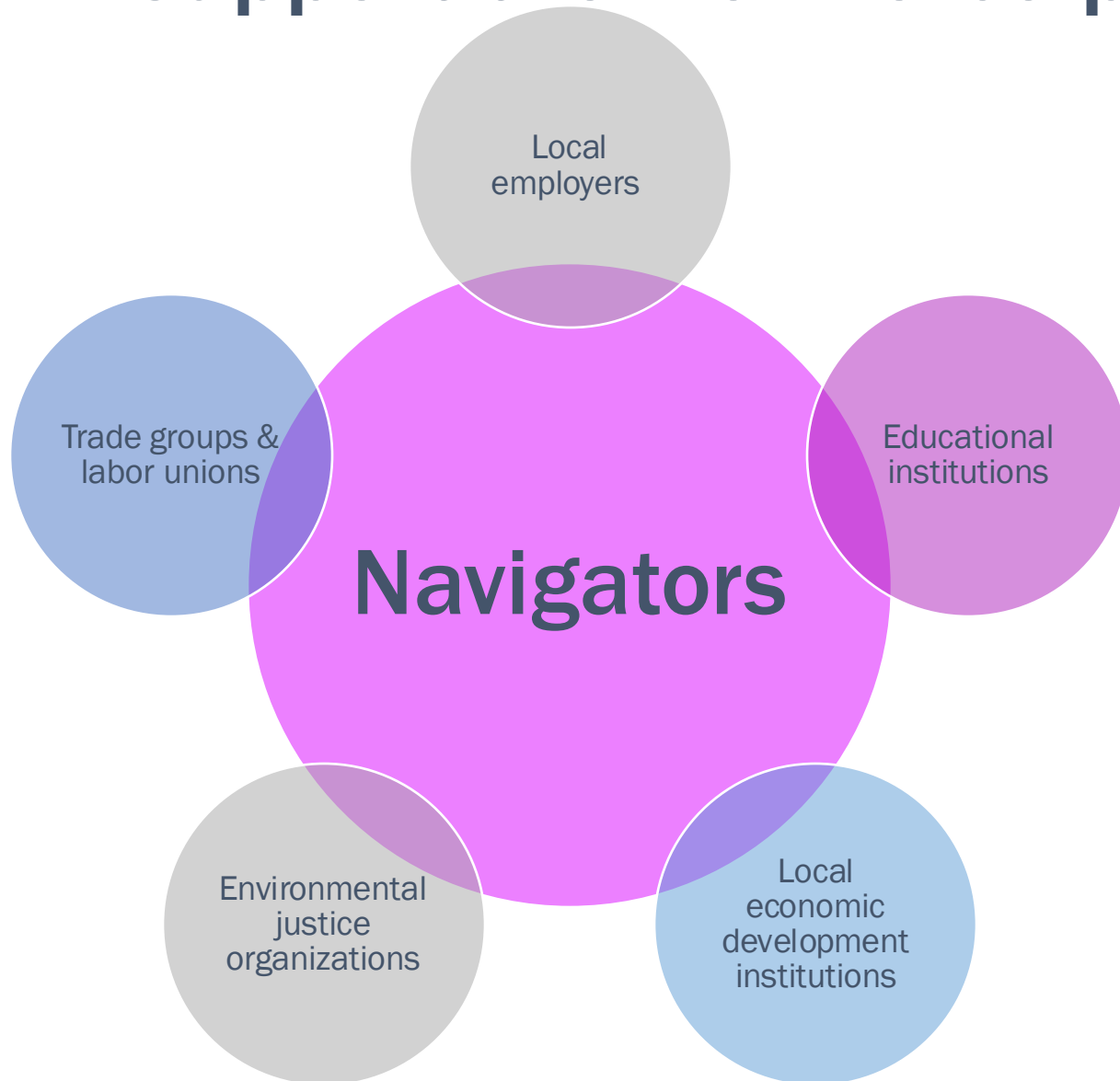
Energy auditor

Auto mechanic,  
EV focus

HVAC service  
technician

And more....

# Navigator teams will engage stakeholders to support the workforce programs



Establish and maintain relationships to:

- Identify skill and hiring needs of local clean energy industry
- Inform recruitment and training decisions
- Facilitate job placement and work-based learning efforts



# Equity lens: More than just numeric participant targets

Understand how race, ethnicity, gender, background impact access to and experience within clean energy industry.

Must incorporate core equity values (diversity, inclusion, accessibility, equity) in all program elements.

- Recruitment
- Enrollment & intake
- Successful transition into job or apprenticeship program
- Building relationships with stakeholders and employers

Must help create a welcoming, accessible, and inclusive environment.

# Annual funding available for Energy Transition Navigator

\$6 million per year total program delivery

Number of awards: Up to 13 (one for each regional workforce hub area)

Amount per award range:  
\$250,000 to \$600,000 per year

Applicants selected for 3 years, subject to annual review



# Who can apply for funding to deliver the Energy Transition Navigator Program?

Community-based providers: Not-for-profit organization that has a history of serving low-wage or low-skilled workers or individuals from economically disadvantaged communities.

Provide employment, skill development or related services

Demonstrate relationships with residents and orgs serving communities in region

Have a history of serving low wage or low-skilled workers from economically disadvantaged communities

Demonstrate relationships with apprenticeship programs and contractor associations.





# Building partnerships and Application tips

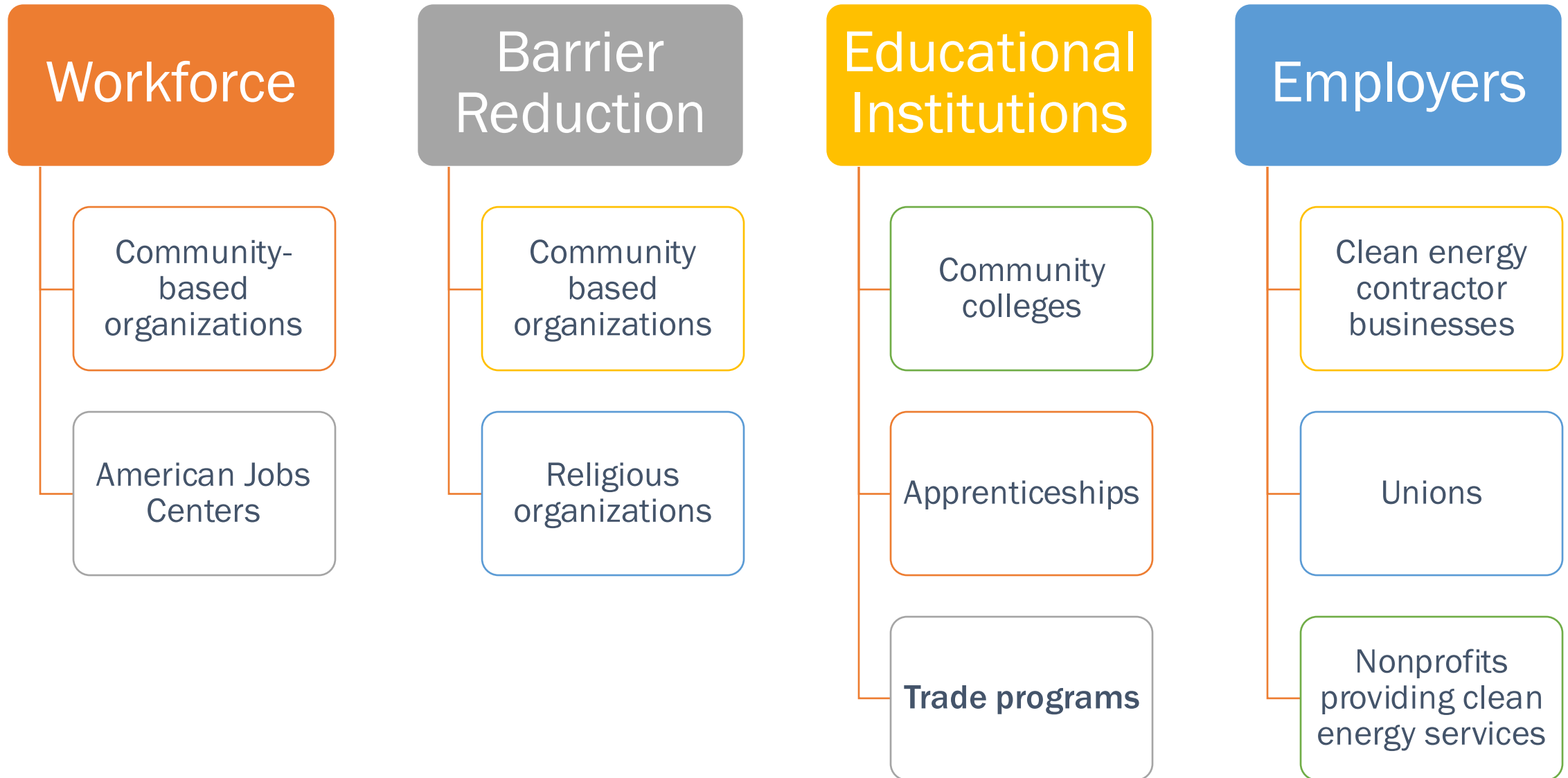


# Building your team

One organization can deliver all services OR you can partner with other organizations to provide different program elements.

Program elements	Got this covered	Need help
Coordination with CEJA workforce program administrators, employers, and other orgs		
Outreach & recruitment, application & intake		
Bridge program training and job-specific training		
Wrap-around support services and student support services		
Transition services		
Data entry & program administration		

# What organizations in your area might be interested in partnering to apply for workforce funding?



# Potential Partner Contact List

- Organizations that are interested in partnering
- Clean energy employers
- Apprenticeship programs
- NABCEP (Solar) certified training providers in Illinois
- Clean energy training programs (from inventory report)



# Preparing a Strong Proposal

## Respond to the content of the NOFO

- Your proposed program design should strongly align with the program description and requirements
- The review criteria should guide your proposal development.

## Tell your story

- Highlight the strengths of your team
- Make a case for your project and its potential impact

## Always think about staffing, budget and partnerships



# Applicant Submission Documents

Uniform Grant Application in fillable PDF format

Uniform Budget utilizing template provided by DCEO

Conflict of Interest Disclosure

Mandatory Disclosure

Executive summary

Technical Proposal

Work Plan & Curriculum Plan, utilizing template

Staffing Plan

Find all NOFO  
Materials and  
resources here:

<https://dceo.illinois.gov/aboutdceo/grantopportunities/grants.html>



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# Application Review Information

- Applicant Team Qualifications and Capacity (35%)
- Documentation of Need (10%)
- Project Quality and Integration (40%)
- Cost Effectiveness/Return on Investments (15%)



# Read the NOFO Carefully

- The notice of funding opportunity contains important information about the expected activities, eligibility criteria, and documents and organizational data needed from prospective partners.
- Be sure that you understand all the requirements.

## Close reading strategies

- Highlight
- Dissect
- Outline key points
- Ask questions
- Discuss with team





# Program requirements list the **WHAT** you'll need to do. Your proposal will cover the **HOW**.

Draw on your experience, **best practices** and **other resources** for ideas on **HOW** to deliver the program elements, such as:

- How you'll deliver work-based learning
- How you'll create inclusive outreach strategies
- How you'll coordinate with other programs
- How you'll deliver barrier reduction services
- How you'll make the training accessible



# For each task or requirement, consider implications for staffing, budget, and strategies

	Staff or partnerships	Budget items	Strategies (the “how”)
Recruiting			
Enrollment			
Training delivery			
Stipends			
Wrap-around supports			
Career services			



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Send questions to  
[ceo.ceja@illinois.gov](mailto:ceo.ceja@illinois.gov)

Look for the Q&A on the NOFO pages



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