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

Awarding Agency Name	Commerce And Econ Opp
Agency Contact	John O'Conner (CEO.GroceryInitiative@illinois.gov)
Announcement Type	Initial
Type of Assistance Instrument	Grant
Funding Opportunity Number	FY27-3
Funding Opportunity Title	Illinois Grocery Initiative
CSFA Number	420-35-3295
CSFA Popular Name	Illinois Grocery Initiative
Anticipated Number of Awards	5
Estimated Total Program Funding	$4,500,000
Award Range	$100000 - $1500000
Source of Funding	State
Cost Sharing or Matching Requirements	Yes
Indirect Costs Allowed	Yes
Restrictions on Indirect Costs	Yes : This grant has both Capital and Operational expenditures, Indirect Costs are ONLY allowed on Operational Expenditures, Indirect Costs ARE NOT allowed on Capital Expenditures.
Posted Date	09/10/2026
Application Date Range	09/10/2026 - 06/30/2027 : 5:00 PM
Grant Application Link	Please select the entire address below and paste it into the browser... https://dceo.illinois.gov/aboutdceo/grantopportunities/3295-4335.html
Technical Assistance Session	Offered : Yes Mandatory : No Date : 09/16/2026 : 2:00 PM Registration link : https://illinois.webex.com/weblink/register/r17580a349af08e3d74428ae232f12e12

Agency-specific Content for the Notice of Funding Opportunity

Grocery Rescue Program

NOFO ID: 3295-4335

For information about grants please visit:
https://dceo.illinois.gov/dceo-grants.html

A. Program Description

1. 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 improve availability of fresh food by providing grants to re-open recently closed grocery stores in areas that have low access to fresh food.

2. Program History

This program, along with the New Stores in Food Deserts and Equipment Upgrades programs, is authorized by Public Act 103-0561 as a component of the Illinois Grocery Initiative. This NOFO is the initial offering of the Grocery Rescue Program.

3. Program Description

The Grocery Rescue Program is intended to facilitate the re-opening of grocery stores in low-access census tracts, preventing closures from leading to a long-term reduction in availability of fresh food in the community and the potential formation of new food deserts. Eligible applicants may apply for a grant of up to $1.5 million that will assist in reestablishing a grocery store at a specific location that has experienced a grocery closure within the 12 months prior to application. Successful projects will reestablish availability of fresh foods, encourage economic stability and growth, and prevent existing buildings suitable for grocery store operations from falling into advanced states of disrepair.

4. Cost Sharing or Matching

Applicants are required to provide 25% of total project costs, representing a 1:3 match. These matching funds can come from any non-state sources such as local municipal funds, federal funds, or private investment (equity or debt). Such sources of funds shall be identified and documented in the application documents including the Uniform Budget. In-kind contributions and expenditures incurred prior to receipt and acceptance of the Notice of State Award (NOSA) cannot be counted towards the matching requirement.

5. Allowable and Unallowable Activities

Grant funds can be used to support:

- Acquisition, repair, and refurbishment of real property and durable equipment at a former grocery store location closed in the 12 months prior to application
- Purchase of energy-efficient HVAC (heating, ventilation & air conditioning) equipment, refrigeration equipment, and lighting
- Store operations prior to re-opening and for the first 12 months of operations.

6. Allowable and Unallowable Costs

Grant funds can be used to:

- Purchase real estate and durable equipment
- Support facility and equipment repair and maintenance
- Purchase energy-efficient HVAC, refrigeration, and lighting equipment
- Support operational costs incurred prior to re-opening and for the first 12 months of operations, including:
  - Employee wages
  - Utilities
  - Initial inventory of food.
  - Purchase of a point of sales systems that will accommodate Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Special Supplemental Nutrition Assistance for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) transactions.

Grant funds cannot be used to purchase equipment, supplies, or inventory unrelated to the provision of food. Examples include non-food initial inventory and equipment for lottery sales, etc.

7. Prior Incurred Costs

Allowable costs incurred from the date the Notice of State Award acceptance through the period of performance start date are allowed to be charged to the grant as long as they meet the requirements specified in 2 CFR 200 Uniform Administrative Requirements, Costs Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards ("2 CFR 200"), the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (30 ILCS 708/1 et seq.) ("GATA") and this NOFO.

Costs incurred prior to acceptance of the Notice of State Award are generally not eligible for reimbursement. The Department, at its own discretion, may allow for reimbursement of emergency pre-award expenditures intended to protect the integrity of the building (e.g., fixing roof leaks or restoring heat).

8. Payment Methodology

Grant funding will be provided on a reimbursement basis, as grantees submit paid invoices for expenditures consistent with the budget in the grant agreement. Upon receiving the NOSA, grantees may request that an advance of up to two months' worth of expenditures be incorporated into the grant agreement. Whether to include such an advance in the grant agreement will be determined on a case-by-case basis and at the sole discretion of the Department.

9. Relevant Program-Specific Rules and Regulations

This program is authorized by Public Act 103-0561 as a component of the Illinois Grocery Initiative. Administrative rules governing implementation of IGI programming are contained in Title 14, Subtitle C, Chapter 1, Part 645 of the Illinois Administrative Code.

Grants will be limited to projects that will result in the reestablishment of a new grocery store in a location that has experienced a grocery store closure in the 12 months prior to application. The following conditions must be met:

- Property or business owners who were involved in the recent store closure are not eligible.
- The project must be located in a low access census tract for fresh food. Low access tracts meet one of the following conditions:
  - the census tract is a rural tract, and at least 33% of the population of the tract or at least 500 residents in the tract reside more than 10 miles from the nearest grocery store; or

    - the census tract is an urban tract, and at least 33% of the population of the tract or at least 500 residents in the tract reside more than one-half mile from the nearest grocery store.
- The project must be located in a census tract with median family income of less than $116,620, which is 110% of the state median family income
- The store will be best classified as a supermarket or other grocery retailer in the 2022 North American Industry Classification System under code 445110
- The store cannot derive more than 30% of its revenue from alcohol and tobacco sales
- The store must contribute to diversity of fresh foods available in the community by selling fresh foods such as meats, fruits and vegetables that have not been processed in any manner.
- The store will be required to take appropriate steps in preparation of accepting both SNAP and WIC benefits when operational.

Note: Potential applicants can refer to IGI map to determine the census tract's food access status and median family income. Applicants can reach out to Department staff at **CEO.GroceryInitiative@illinois.gov** for assistance using the map or confirming that the map accurately reflects the former store location's status. The map can be found here: **https://www.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/24899dd171bf458aa2e0558a019f22d8#**

10. Performance Goals and Measures

Grantees will be required to submit performance data to the Department on a quarterly basis. Performance reporting may encompass both the implementation of projects supported by the grant and impacts on the community. Performance measures may include, but will not necessarily be limited to:

1. Project Milestones Completed, such as acquisition and/or renovation of property, equipment purchased and installed, and store opening
2. Quarterly food sales
3. Number of employees in full-time equivalents

11. Other Information

Grantees will be expected to continue grocery operations at the project location for at least three years following project completion. DCEO may seek to claw back grant funds if the store closes before that time.

DCEO has contracted with Western Illinois University (WIU) to provide technical assistance services and guidance for Illinois Grocery Initiative applicants and grantees. Applicants desiring assistance in preparing applications may contact WIU directly.

Western Illinois University
Sean Park
Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs
217-248-0079
ms-park@wiu.edu

B. Funding Information

This grant program utilizes state funds appropriated by Public Act 104-0464. Total amount of funding expected to be awarded through this NOFO is $4,500,000. Awards will range from $100,000 to $1,500,000. The Department expects to make 3-5 awards through this NOFO.

The period of performance is expected to be 2026 Q4 through 12/15/2027.

1. Indirect Cost Rate

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 in 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 15% 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.

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/businesses/small-businesses-self-employed/get-an-employer-identification-number**)

- 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 (**https://sam.gov**)
- Is in Good Standing with the Illinois Secretary of State, as applicable (**https://www.ilsos.gov/departments/business_services/corp.html**)
- Is not on the Illinois Stop Payment list
- 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).

Currently, federal memo M-21-20 allows entities to apply for grant awards without a valid UEI number. The UEI number must be obtained prior to grant execution. The State of Illinois has adopted this guidance for the issuance of state awards also.

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.

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.).

1. Eligible Applicants include:
Eligibility for this program will be constrained by geographic location, characteristics of the prospective store and its ownership, and the intended offerings of the store.

The following organization types are potentially eligible for this opportunity:

- Corporation – For Profit
- Corporation – Not For Profit
- Limited Liability Company
- All Limited Partnerships
- Agricultural Cooperative
- Local Government Entity
- Sole Proprietor
- Special Act Corporation

2. Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) and System for Award Management (SAM)
Each applicant (unless the applicant is exempt from those requirements under 2 CFR 25.110 or has an exception approved by the State) must:

- Be registered in SAM.gov. SAM.gov registrations must be set to "public."
- Provide a valid UEI number in the GATA Grantee Portal registration.
- Continue to maintain an active SAM.gov registration with current information at all times during which it has an active Federal, Federal pass-through or State award. DCEO 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 DCEO is ready to make a Federal pass-through or State award, the DCEO 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.

3. Other

Applicants may submit one application per location for this opportunity.

Applicants receiving an initial denial due to failure to meet Grant Accountability of Transparence Act requirements will have the opportunity to remedy such deficiencies prior to the application deadline and to be subsequently considered for an award. In addition, applicants receiving a denial due to a low merit review score will have a one-time opportunity to submit additional supporting documentation and receive a second review.

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:

John O'Conner
Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity
1011 S. 2nd St.
Springfield, IL 62704
Tele: 217-782-6022
Email: **CEO.GroceryInitiative@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 signed by the authorized signatory before submission
  - Can be printed, signed, and scanned
  - Can be signed digitally

☐ Uniform Budget utilizing the template provided by DCEO for this project
- The entire Excel document with all the tabs included, even if the tabs are not relevant to the grant opportunity, must be submitted
- Do not send a restricted version of the Uniform Budget
- Certification page must be signed by the authorized signatory before submission
  - Can be printed, signed, and scanned
  - Can be signed digitally

☐ Conflict of Interest Disclosure
- Conflict of Interest Disclosure must be signed by the authorized signatory before submission
  - Can be printed, signed, and scanned
  - Can be signed digitally

☐ Mandatory Disclosure
- Mandatory Disclosure must be signed by the authorized signatory before submission
  - Can be printed, signed, and scanned
  - Can be signed digitally

This Notice of Funding Opportunity also requires the submission of the following other programmatic specific items as part of a program application:

☐ Program Application

☐ Letters of Support. Applicants must provide at least two letters of support (LOS) from stakeholders in the community as part of their application. LOS provided under separate cover will not be considered. At least one LOS should come from an elected official (such as a mayor, state legislator, or alderman) serving the area. Additional LOS could come from community organizations, local businesses, local residents, etc.

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.

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

3. Submission Dates and Times

Applications for this opportunity must be submitted by 6/30/2027.

Application materials must be submitted to the Department via electronic form at **https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/b65b2f6461a0488cb9e02b9da45ed974**.

The Department has 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.

4. Other Submission Requirements

The applicant can receive a copy of their submitted application by checking the “Send me a copy of my responses” box at the bottom of the application submission form.

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

5. 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.

E. Application Review Information

1. Criteria

Grant proposals will be reviewed on a competitive basis. Each proposal will be scored on a 100% scale. The Department shall consider the following criteria when evaluating the application submittal: Need, Capacity, and Quality.

Capacity- The ability of the applicant to execute the project according to requirements of the grant program	
Experience of ownership/management team needed to successfully manage grants of a comparable scale and scope.	5
Experience of ownership/management team needed to effectively launch and operate the store envisioned by the application.	15
Ability of ownership/management team to tailor grocery services and offerings to identified food/grocery needs in targeted community.	7
Availability of required matching funds.	8
Need- Identification of stakeholders, facts, and evidence that demonstrate the proposal supports the grant program's purpose	
Poverty Rate (>=37% - 6 pts; 32-36.9% - 5 pts; 27-31.9% - 4 pts; 22-26.9% - 3 pts; 17-21.9% - 2 pts; 12-16.9% - 1 pt; < 12% - 0 pts)	6
Median Family Income (<$55,000 - 6 pts; $55,001-$64,000 - 5 pts; $64,001-$73,000 - 4 pts; $73,001-$82,000 - 3 pts; $82,001-$91,000 - 2 pts; $91,001-$100,000 - 1 pt; >$100,000 - 0 pts)	6
Driving distance to nearest grocery store (2 miles in urban tract or 20 miles in rural tract - 8 pts; 1 mile in urban tract or 10 miles in rural tract - 6 pts; 0.5 miles in urban tract or 5 miles in rural tract - 4 pts; 0.25 miles in urban tract or 2 miles in rural tract - 2 pts; <0.25 miles in urban tract or < 2 miles in rural tract - 0 pts)	8
Letters of Support (2 points for first LOS from elected official; 1 point apiece for additional LOS from stakeholders, including local residents. 5 points maximum)	5
Quality- The totality of features and characteristics of the project that indicate its ability to satisfy the requirements of the grant program	
Business plan is clear, including robust assessment of local demands, workforce needs, supply chain requirements, energy efficiency and any notable barriers to long term success of the store.	12
Scope of work for the project is clear, coherent, and well-aligned with the business plan.	8

Budget clarity and alignment with scope of work.	6
Budget is reasonable and supported by evidence.	7
Project will successfully address issues that led to closure of prior store, and will improve community access to fresh food for the long term.	7

2. Feedback

Applicants submitting proposals that do meet eligibility requirements will have the opportunity to remedy deficiencies and resubmit prior to the deadline.

3. 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 to applicants if they receive scores of 75 or higher. The Department may depart from this general standard as needed to promote regional balance across the state. For example, the Department may opt to select only the top-scoring project among several applicants in close proximity and may choose to fund a project scoring below 75 if an area of great need would otherwise not receive an award

As noted in Section C.3, applicants receiving denials due to a low merit review score will have a one-time opportunity to submit additional or revised application materials to earn a higher score.

After receiving such a denial, applicants may request feedback on their application by sending an email to **CEO.GroceryInitiative@illinois.gov**. The Department will advise the unsuccessful applicant regarding the criteria for which the applicant scored poorly and invite the applicant to submit additional or revised materials to improve their score. If the Department deems the additional or revised materials to be responsive and substantive, the application will be re-scored.

Applicants receiving feedback on complete and eligible applications submitted by 6/30/2027 will be granted a reasonable amount of time, as determined by the Department, to provide additional supporting information in response. Deadlines for additional supporting information, which will be specified in the Department's feedback, may be later than 6/30/2027 as appropriate.

The Merit Based Review process is subject to appeal per **https://dceo.illinois.gov/aboutdceo/grantopportunities/meritappreview.html**. However, competitive grant appeals are limited to the evaluation process. Evaluation scores may not be protested. Only the evaluation process is subject to appeal. The appeal must be submitted through the merit review appeal request form (**https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/6444bed39ef140c589f002f53b9bc092**) within 14 calendar days after the date that the grant award notice has been published.

4. Anticipated Announcement and State Award Dates

After the application period is closed, the Department will conduct a merit 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 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.
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 Admin Rules shall apply (See 44 IL Admin Code 7000.90).

G. State Awarding Agency Contact

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

H. Other Information

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

Please visit the following website for instructional videos that guide applicants through each step of applying for and administering a grant:
(**https://dceo.illinois.gov/aboutdceo/grantopportunities/learning-library.html**)

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