

Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity



Office of Accountability
Fall-2026

Quarterly Newsletter

Welcome to the first edition of the DCEO Office of Accountability (OA) quarterly newsletter. This newsletter will highlight recent accomplishments in our office and upcoming activity.

The Office of Accountability has several functions. We are the point of contact for applicants, grantees, and future applicants. We also strive to provide accurate guidance to DCEO staff in a timely efficient manner. Our Grant Help Desk operates daily during normal business hours, and we are available to answer most grant-related questions. Most questions are answered within 24-48 hours. Our Help Desk also offers several avenues for training opportunities for our grantees. The Grant Help Desk is a one stop shop for all GATA and grant related needs.

The Office of Accountability also houses our External Audits Unit and our External Audit & Resolution Unit. These units assist grantees with completing their annual audit requirements and are responsible for making sure that internal audit engagements of the Department by external entities run smoothly per 2 CFR 200 and other legislative requirements.

Finally, the DCEO Office of Accountability Monitoring Unit works diligently to ensure the standards put forth in 2 CFR 200 and the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act are adhered to by grantees and staff members.



UPCOMING TRAININGS

To join our [training invitation list](#), please follow the link below:



Virtual Office Hour Q & A - Tuesdays at 2pm:

Virtual Pre-Qualification Training – 1st Wednesday of the month 9AM

Virtual Revolving Topic Training – 3rd Wednesday of the month 9AM

October 21, 2026 – Indirect Cost Rates:

This training will introduce potential and current Grantees to the Indirect Cost Rate system, the different types of elections and requirements, and the roles and responsibilities of stakeholders through the review process.

Our Mission

“To enhance integrity, transparency, and accountability across DCEO programs”

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Contact Us

[Grant Help Desk Inquiry Form](#)



[DCEO Grant Help Desk Email](#)

ceo.granthelp@illinois.gov

Interested in requesting a specific grant-related topic training for your organization, workshop, or conference? Please complete the [Training Request Form](#) at least 6 weeks prior to your event to schedule a date.



Accountability in Action

Illinois Rural Water Association – Administrative Conference

On July 16th, 2026, Technical Support Manager Caitlin Justice joined several other agencies within the State of Illinois including the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, Illinois Department of Labor, and the Illinois Attorney General's Office at the Illinois Rural Water Association Annual Administrative Conference in Effingham, IL. Her presentation outlined elements of pre-qualification for State of Illinois grant opportunities, including registering in the federal system, SAM.gov.



Black Business Empowerment Expo

On August 15th, 2026, Chief Accountability Officer Jared Ebel joined several other DCEO staff members, including Office of Legislative Affairs Deputy Director, G. Tito Quiñones, at the first ever Black Business Empowerment Expo. His training presentation provided several elements including registration in the GATA Portal and other pre-qualification requirements, locating notice of funding opportunities, and an overview of the grant life cycle.



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Office of Accountability
Fall 2026 - Newsletter

Funding Opportunities

DCEO Apply for Funding Page



Catalogue of State Financial Assistance



To subscribe to a weekly mailing list of new opportunities, send a blank email message to:

subscribe-omb-gata-grants@lists.illinois.gov

Lake County Chamber of Commerce 2026 Annual Non-Profit Luncheon

On August 20th, 2026, Technical Support Manager Robin Vaughn visited the Lake County Chamber of Commerce 2026 Annual Non-Profit Luncheon to provide guidance and training to current and potential grantees. Her presentation outlined the process of locating and applying for notice of funding opportunities, pre-qualification, and other elements of the grant life cycle.



DCEO at the Illinois State Fair

On 08/18/2026, the Office of Accountability, Assistant Deputy Director Megan Buskirk, manned the DCEO table at the IL State Fair. We would like to say thank you to all the volunteers and visitors that attended. You all made this year exceptional! 😊



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Office of Accountability
Fall - 2026 Newsletter

Resources

DCEO Grantee Resource and Training Library



GATA Training Webpage



GATA Portal Access



Grant Help Desk Question of the Quarter

"I've been notified that my entity has a capital appropriation from the Capital Bill, what are my next steps?"

When appropriation funds are released to DCEO, your entity will be assigned a grant manager and will begin the grant agreement process. You may also receive an invitation to an onboarding training by the Office of Accountability. In the meantime, you can begin the pre-qualification process, which includes your entity's SAM.gov registration, FEIN, and Secretary of State's Certificate of Good Standing. Information on pre-qualification can be found on the DCEO Training and Resource page.



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JB Pritzker, Governor

