# Closing the Digital Divide in Illinois

BEAD Deep-Dive Webinar: State of Illinois GATA Requirements

October 9, 2024

# BEAD Deep Dive Webinar Series:

# Context and Goals

## Context:

To align with NTIA requirements, BEAD-funded Connect Illinois Round 4 **differs from Connect Illinois Rounds 1-3**

The Illinois Office of Broadband aims to **help all interested applicants get familiar** with these requirements ahead of the subgrantee process

## Goals:
Breaking down the BEAD process

- Walk through key elements and requirements of the Connect Illinois Round 4 subgrantee process

- Clarify specific components of the BEAD program requirements ahead of the subgrantee process

- Provide regular updates on Connect Illinois Round 4

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# BEAD is a $42B federal grant program that aims to bring high-speed internet to all Americans

## $42.45 billion
Funds provided for BEAD

**The Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program is a federal grant program that aims to get all Americans online** by funding partnerships between states or territories, communities, and stakeholders to build infrastructure where high-speed internet is currently unavailable

## Program highlights

### Eligible entities

- All 50 States, District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico
- Other Territories: U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

### Example eligible uses of funds

- Planning for the deployment of high-speed Internet, including conducting research, collecting data, outreach, and training
- Deploying or upgrading Internet in un/underserved areas
- Improving service to community anchor organizations
- Installing Internet and Wi-Fi in multi-unit residential buildings
- Workforce development, including Registered Apprenticeships and pre-apprenticeships, community college and/or vocational training for broadband-related occupations to support deployment, maintenance, and upgrades

# What are the goals of BEAD?

**The BEAD Program awarded Illinois $1.04 billion** to connect all unserved and underserved locations to broadband over the next 5 years

**Ensure universal coverage across all un/underserved locations in the state**, maximizing deployment of end-to-end fiber, and only using non-fiber where fiber costs are extremely high[1]

**Prioritize projects providing broadband access to unserved and underserved locations** and community anchor institutions, Wi-Fi equipment for Multi-Dwelling Units (MDUs) then other digital equity and inclusion priorities[2]

**Run subgrantee selection process within one year** of approval of the Initial Proposal, and complete implementation within four years of receipt of funds[3]

**Focus on improving broadband affordability** through a low-cost broadband service option, and a middle-class affordability plan[4]
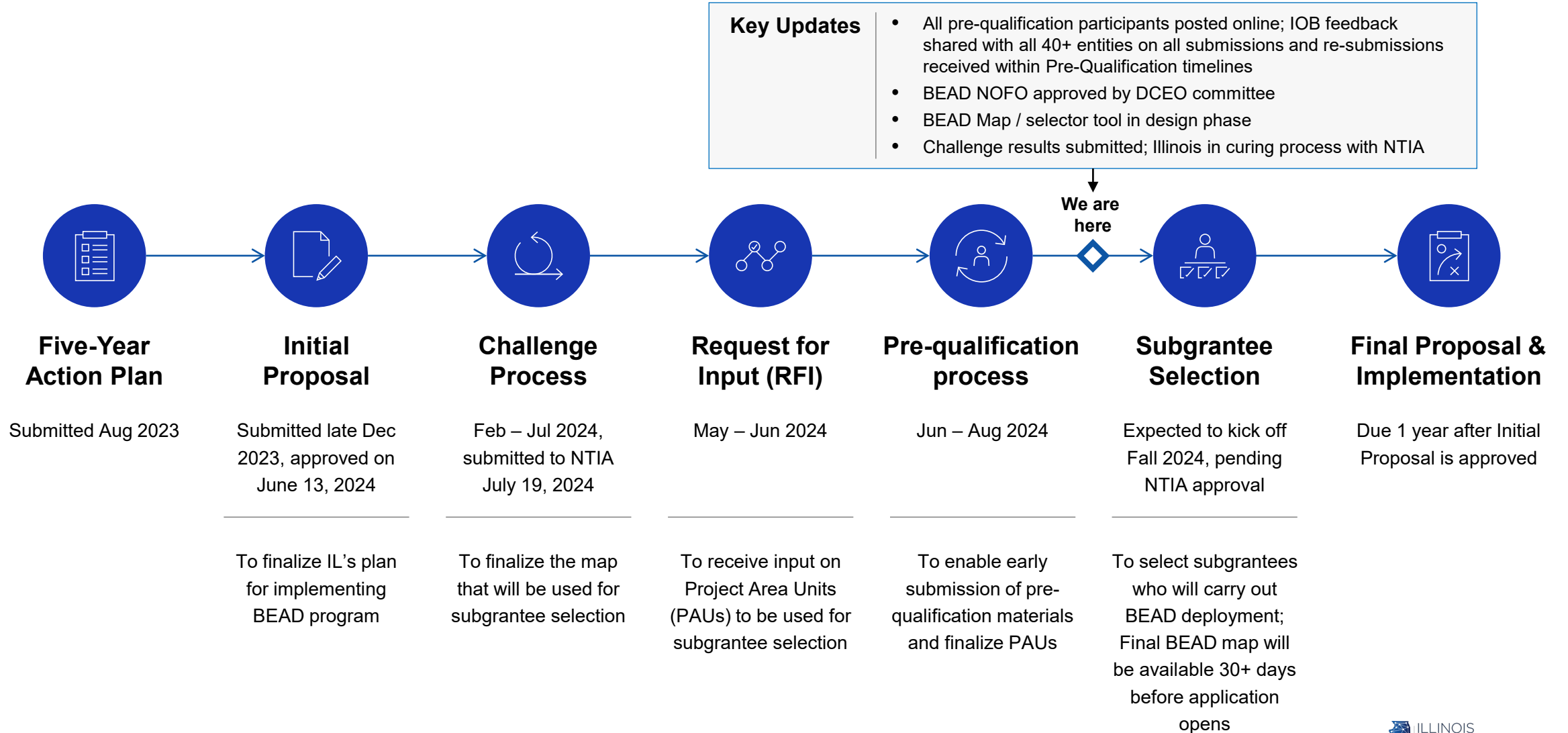
1. Page 14 of BEAD NOFO, on the definition of Priority Broadband Project
2. Page 33 of BEAD NOFO, on the allocation of grant funds
3. Page 65 of BEAD NOFO, on deployment deadlines and benchmarks
4. Page 42-46 of BEAD NOFO, on inclusion of affordability in the BEAD scoring criteria

Source: BEAD NOFO

# Overview of the BEAD-funded Connect Illinois Round 4 timeline

**PRELIMINARY TIMELINE - SUBJECT TO CHANGE**      **INFORMATION PROVIDED ON AN INFORMATIONAL BASIS AND DOES NOT SUPERCEDE ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS**

| **Key Updates** | • All pre-qualification participants posted online; IOB feedback shared with all 40+ entities on all submissions and re-submissions received within Pre-Qualification timelines |
| --- | --- |
| | • BEAD NOFO approved by DCEO committee |
| | • BEAD Map / selector tool in design phase |
| | • Challenge results submitted; Illinois in curing process with NTIA |

**We are here**

| **Five-Year Action Plan** | **Initial Proposal** | **Challenge Process** | **Request for Input (RFI)** | **Pre-qualification process** | **Subgrantee Selection** | **Final Proposal & Implementation** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Submitted Aug 2023 | Submitted late Dec 2023, approved on June 13, 2024 | Feb – Jul 2024, submitted to NTIA July 19, 2024 | May – Jun 2024 | Jun – Aug 2024 | Expected to kick off Fall 2024, pending NTIA approval | Due 1 year after Initial Proposal is approved |
| | To finalize IL's plan for implementing BEAD program | To finalize the map that will be used for subgrantee selection | To receive input on Project Area Units (PAUs) to be used for subgrantee selection | To enable early submission of pre-qualification materials and finalize PAUs | To select subgrantees who will carry out BEAD deployment; Final BEAD map will be available 30+ days before application opens | |

Source: NTIA Initial Proposal Webinar materials; Connect Illinois Initial Proposal Volume II

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# GATA, Pre-Qualification, and Other Requirements

## Office of Accountability

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# Overview

- Review the DCEO Grant Process

- How to register in the IL GATA Grantee Portal

- Pre-Qualification

- Notice of Funding Opportunity

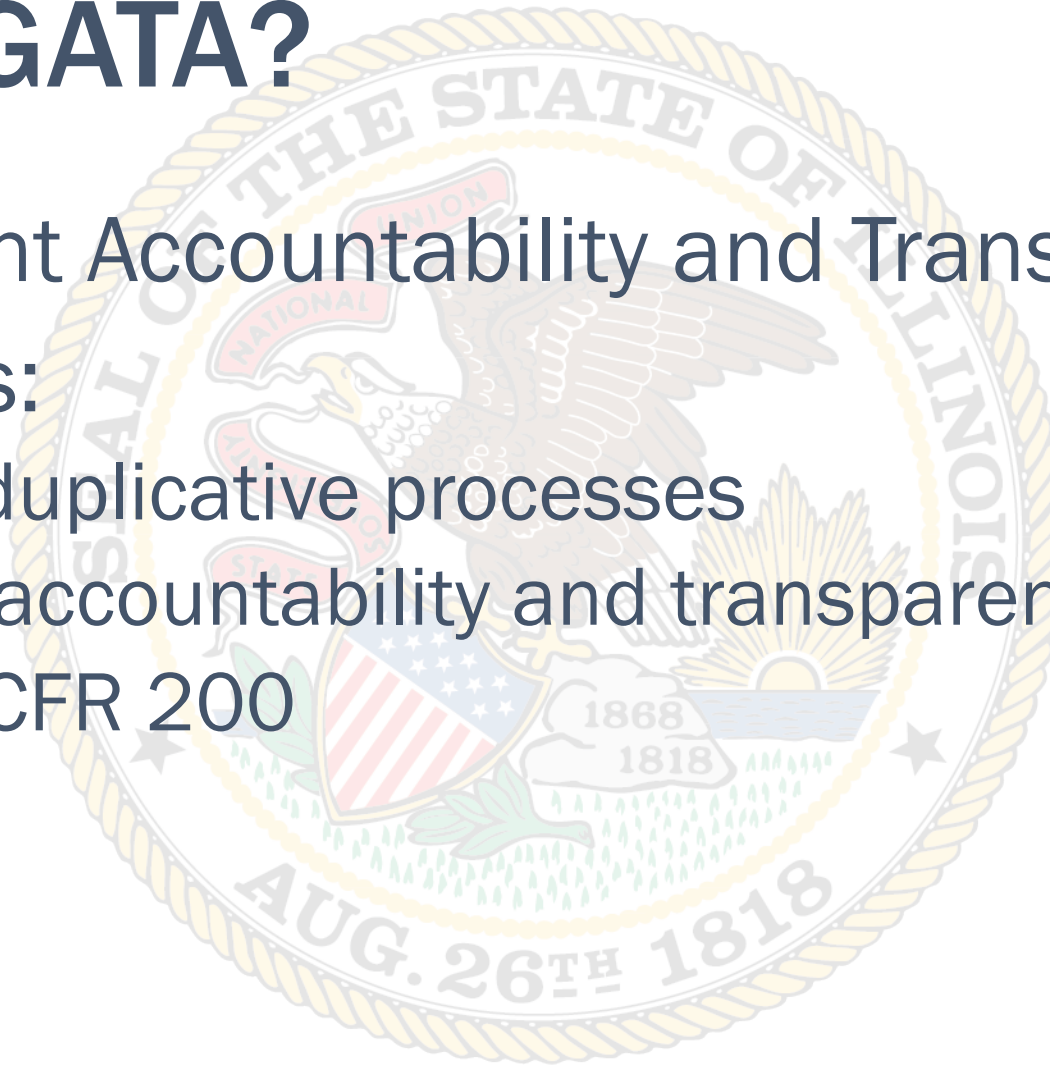- What to expect after Grant Award

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# Grants Process

**Pre-Qualification, Application Submission & Review**

- All Pre-Qualification items must be in good standing
- Fiscal and Administrative Assessment (ICQ)
- Application documents submitted
- Application reviewed by Merit Review Committee
- Applicants will receive notice from DCEO

**Grant Agreement**

- NOSA and Development of Grant Agreement
- Document will lay out all expectations and grant requirements
- Signatures from Grantee and DCEO

**Periodic Reporting**

- Implementation of project objectives
- Financial and Performance Reports
- Reimbursement of expenditures
- Annual Audit Reports

**Closeout of Grant**

- Grant closed once grant period ends

Source: Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity

**Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity**
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# What is GATA?

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

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# Getting Started in the GATA Grantee Portal

- **https://grants.illinois.gov/portal/**
  - Create Account

# 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](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/](https://gata.illinois.gov/)
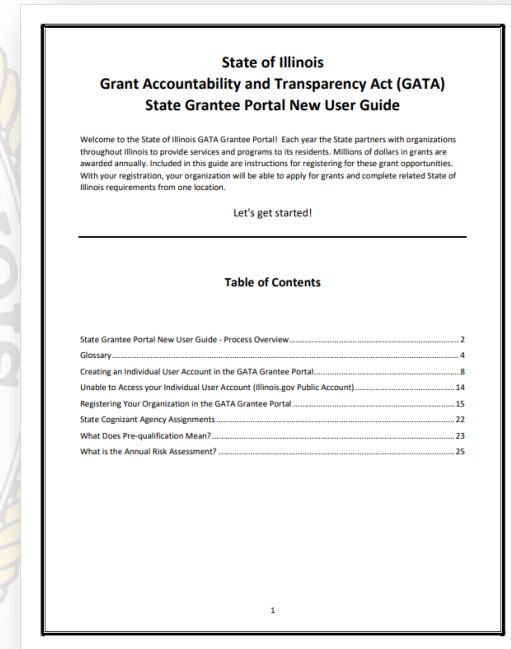
# Pre-Qualification

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

| PRE-QUALIFICATION INFORMATION | |
|---|---|
| SAM.gov Account: | Good until 2/23/2025 |
| Federal Employer ID (FEIN): | Good |
| Federal Excluded Parties List: | Good |
| Federal Delinquent Debt: | Good |
| Illinois Secretary of State: | Good |
| Illinois Stop Payment List: | Good |
| Illinois DHFS Sanction List: | Good |

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

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# Pre-Qualification in the GATA Grantee Portal

## 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 | Help |
| Federal Employer ID (FEIN) | Pending | Help |
| Federal Excluded Parties List | Good | Help |
| Illinois Secretary of State | Not Found | Help |
| Illinois Stop Payment List | Good | Help |
| Illinois DHFS Sanction List | Good | Help |

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.

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# 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 |

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# Federal Employer ID (FEIN)

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

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

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# 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) |
| Federal Excluded Parties List |
| Illinois Secretary of State |
| Illinois Stop Payment List |
| Illinois DHFS Sanction List |

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# 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](www.ilsos.gov)
- Not needed for governmental entities

| Requirement |
| --- |
| SAM.gov Account |
| Federal Employer ID (FEIN) |
| Federal Excluded Parties List |
| Illinois Secretary of State |
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# 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

| Requirement |
| --- |
| SAM.gov Account |
| Federal Employer ID (FEIN) |
| Federal Excluded Parties List |
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# Illinois DHFS Sanction List
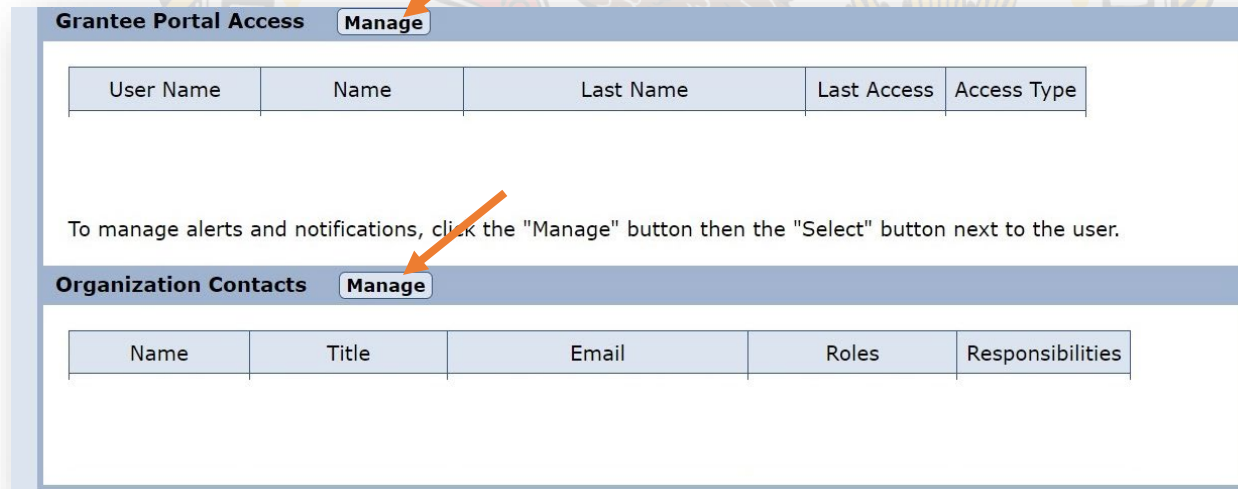
- Not eligible for Medicaid Reimbursement
- Administrative action taken against entity or individual
- Violation of:
  - Administrative Rule
  - Civil Law
  - Criminal Offense

| Requirement |
| --- |
| SAM.gov Account |
| Federal Employer ID (FEIN) |
| Federal Excluded Parties List |
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# Other GATA Grantee Portal Tips

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

| Grantee Portal Access | Manage | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| User Name | Name | Last Name | Last Access | Access Type |
| | | | | |

To manage alerts and notifications, click the "Manage" button then the "Select" button next to the user.

| Organization Contacts | Manage | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Name | Title | Email | Roles | Responsibilities |
| | | | | |

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# 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 Contacts
  - Other Information, if applicable

Other NOFOs can be found in the CSFA

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# Where to Find NOFOs

Source: Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity

# Application Submission Tips

- The NOFO contains all necessary information for application submission
  - Most NOFOs have a unique link for application submission.
  - Do not email application documents! Upload documents using link in NOFO.

- Questions?
  - Each NOFO lists a program contact
  - Technical questions – ceo.granthelp@illinois.gov

- Hard deadline!
  - If 5:00pm is the deadline, then 5:01pm is ineligible
  - Plan to submit at least a day in advance, leaving time for any technical difficulties.

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# 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 |
|------|----------|--------------|----------------|---------------|
| View | 2024 | 03-13-2023 | | |
| View | 2023 | 04-22-2022 | | |
| View | 2022 | 03-30-2021 | | |
| View | 2021 | 04-14-2020 | | |
| View | 2020 | 03-06-2019 | 02-25-2020 | |
| View | 2019 | 06-28-2018 | | |
| View | 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 |
|---------|-----------|----------|
| 02 - Quality of Management System | 8 | 0 |
| 03 - Financial and Programmatic Reporting | 6 | 0 |
| 04 - Ability to Effectively Implement Requirements | 29 | 0 |
| 05 - Audit | 5 | 0 |
| **All Sections** | **48** | **0** |

Printing the ICQ requires Adobe Acrobat Reader.

ICQ Assistance: Commerce And Econ Opp (ceo.gata@illinois.gov)

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# 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 | | | | |
| $1,000,000 or more | N/A | Single Audit | Program-Specific Audit | 9 months after grantee fiscal year end |
| Less than $1,000,000 | $500,000 or more | Generally Accepted Governmental Auditing Standards Financial Statement Audit | | 6 months after grantee fiscal year end |
| | $300,000 or more | General 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 grantee fiscal year end |

Source: Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity

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# DCEO Grantee Resource Site

https://dceo.illinois.gov/dceo-grants.html

- Current Grant Opportunities
- Video & Resource Library
- Upcoming Grant Trainings
  - Sign up for training emails
  - Office Hours (Tuesdays 2-3pm)
- Grant Help Desk
  - ceo.granthelp@illinois.gov



Source: Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity

**Stay informed!**

**Next Webinar:**
October 16, 12-1PM (every Wednesday)
Topic: Introduction to the Subgrantee Selection Process

**Sign up to receive updates from the**
**Illinois Office of Broadband**
https://bit.ly/IOBPartner