Illinois
Department of Commerce
& Economic Opportunity
OFFICE OF BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

ADVANCING INNOVATION IN MANUFACTURING JOBS

Program Launch
August 3, 2026

AIM Illinois

The Advancing Innovation in Manufacturing (AIM) program is an incentive program created to integrate cutting-edge technology into Illinois' manufacturing economy.

Designed for manufacturing companies who are ready to expand or relocate to Illinois, intended to spur innovation in growth industries and fast-growing sectors, including: automotive; aerospace; energy; life sciences; machine; fabricated metal; chemical; robotics; and the production of advanced materials manufacturing.

Offers an incentive based on investment goals geared to modernize, automate or streamline manufacturing processes.

Agenda

1. Review of Program
2. Review of Tiers
3. Application Overview
4. Frequently Asked Questions
5. Application Preview
6. Questions from Audience

What projects are eligible for AIM?

Projects should be capital improvements made to a new or an existing facility for the purpose of modernizing, upgrading, automating, or streamlining a manufacturing or production process.

Applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Current Illinois manufacturers or companies planning to relocate their business to Illinois
- Or an R&D businesses that result in manufacturing
- For taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2026
- Investments and job creation over a five-year period
- Making a qualified investment of $10 million or more in five years

What projects are eligible for AIM?

Qualified "capital improvement" means:

- The purchase, renovation, rehabilitation, or construction of permanent tangible land, buildings, structures, equipment, and furnishings at an approved project site in Illinois.
- Expenditures for goods or services that are normally capitalized, including organizational costs and research and development costs incurred in Illinois.
- For land, buildings, structures, and equipment that are leased, the term of the lease must equal or exceed the term of the agreement.
- The cost of the property shall be determined from the present value, using the corporate interest rate prevailing at the time of the application, of the lease payments.

Illinois
Department of Commerce
& Economic Opportunity
JB Pritzker, Governor

Why AIM?

- Are they a manufacturer or doing R&D with the intent to manufacturer focusing on sectors in five-year economic growth plan?
- Project includes investing in changing their production line to improve output
- Projects that are investing but might not have a large job creation amount
- Applicant is positioned to be profitable, and can use a tax credit in five years
- Simpler Program
- “No But For”
- Higher investment receives a greater benefit

Summary of AIM Incentive by Type

AIM Illinois Program	Investment Level at Project Site	Percent of Capital Investment Received in Credit	Place in Service Within
Tier 1	$10,000,000 or more, but less than $50,000,000	3 Percent	5 years
Tier 2	$50,000,000 or more, but less than $100,000,000	5 Percent	5 years
Tier 3	$100,000,000 or more	7 Percent	5 years

Incentive Defined – Where is the Value?

Once the companies place a project in service, the program provides an Illinois Corporate Income Tax credit based on the level of investment.

Higher investment thresholds receive a greater percentage in credit.

A company has five years to place a project in service.

One time tax credit can range from:

- Tier 1: $ 300,000 - $ 1,499,999
- Tier 2: $ 2,500,000 - $ 4,999,999
- Tier 3: $ 7,000,000 +

Application Overview

The application will follow many similarities as the EDGE, MICRO and REV program. Being a two-part application with the word form and excel supplemental to capture the job and investment details. The Application is designated in these sections:

1. Who is the applicant/s
2. What is the project
3. Why is it essential, advancing manufacturing and innovative
4. Where is this happening
5. Employment: Baseline and New Job Creation
6. Investment
7. Last Page Checklist (Attachments requested to accompany application)

Application Processing

Work with your local regional economic development team to learn more about AIM

Application and supplemental available on the DCEO Website

Application is submitted to Agnes.Masnik@Illinois.gov and CEO.AIM@illinois.gov

Upon completion of the application, it will be reviewed by IL DCEO Business Development Staff

Anticipate a four-week processing time for determination.

FAQ Part 1

What is a statewide baseline? The total number of full-time employees of the applicant and any related member employed by such entities in Illinois at the time of application for incentives under the Act.

How is new job creation tracked? For companies planning on creating new jobs, included that commitment in your application as part of the project. New job commitment will be part of the program agreement.

When can the department issue the tax credit? The Department may award credits under the Act after Jan. 1, 2027.

Can my project be retroactive? Companies may use investments starting with expenditures made beginning Jan. 1, 2026.

FAQ Part 2

How long can a credit be carried forward? Unused credit may be carried forward for a maximum of 10 years for use in future taxable years.

How long is the term of the agreement? A requirement that the taxpayer shall maintain operations at the project location for a minimum of 15 years.

How will the credit be determined? The credit amount shall be determined based on the total amount of the capital improvement investment made by the taxpayer.

FAQ Part 3

Can the credit apply to multiple locations? Yes, provided the activities at all locations are considered necessary to the project and meet the definition of "advanced manufacturing" and/or vertically integrated consistent with Department policy

If a company has an agreement under another tax credit program, do they need to terminate that agreement prior to applying for AIM? Companies can apply if the program agreement has expired, or if they voluntarily terminate of an earlier agreement, under programs such as EDGE, REV, or MICRO with projects located at the same address.

What if my total employment fluctuates or is seasonal? To be eligible for a certificate of verification, taxpayer needs to have maintained the statewide baseline. "Statewide Baseline" means the total number of full-time employees of the applicant and any related member employed by such entities in Illinois at the time of application for incentives under the Act.

FAQ Part 4

How do AIM incentives impact other investment credits that a company may earn from other programs? Qualifying for AIM credits makes the investment ineligible to receive EZ, River's Edge or HIB investment tax credits on traditional qualified property. Investment credits cannot be claimed twice.

What if the investment exceeds the amount in the agreement within the 5 years allotted? The tier amount is committed to in the application, which is put into the agreement, but if the AUP confirms investment goes beyond initial commitment tier, we intend to provide credits reflective of higher tier level met.

FAQ Part 5

What if a company becomes ineligible or stops operations after having already received past credits?

The credit will be suspended if the total number of new employees falls below a specified level until the number of new employees equals the agreement amount.

If, during the term of an agreement, the taxpayer ceases operations at a project location that is the subject of the agreement with the intent to terminate operations in the State, the Department and the Department of Revenue shall recapture from the taxpayer the entire credit amount awarded under that agreement prior to the date the taxpayer ceases operations.

AIM Illinois Contact

Agnes Masnik

Business Development Manager

Agnes.Masnik@illinois.gov

CEO.AIM@Illinois.gov

Website: https://dceo.illinois.gov/businesshelp/aim.html

JCAR Title 14, Subtitle ED, Chapter DCEO, Part 565