

Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO)



**Illinois
Department of Commerce
& Economic Opportunity**

Community Input Sought – Request for Information (RFI)

Jobs and Environmental Justice Grant Program

Please submit response to DCEO via the online form at:

<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/546b33f6e95f4d06b3b806ba305cfaaa>

Background

On September 15, 2021, Governor JB Pritzker signed the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act (P.A. 102-0662, referred herein as “CEJA”) into law, which is designed to equitably transition the state to 100 percent clean energy by 2050. Under CEJA, the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) is responsible for implementing several workforce development and community support programs designed to prepare the Illinois workforce for the transition to clean energy and to support Illinois communities impacted by the transition, including:

- Clean Jobs Workforce Hubs Network Program
- Clean Jobs Curriculum
- Climate Works Preapprenticeship Program
- Returning Residents Clean Jobs Training Program
- Clean Energy Contractor Incubator Program
- Clean Energy Primes Contractor Accelerator Program
- Energy Transition Navigators Program
- Energy Transition Barrier Reduction Program
- Energy Transition Community Grant Program
- Jobs and Environmental Justice Grant Program
- Displaced Energy Workers Bill of Rights
- Energy Transition Workforce Commission
- Energy Workforce Advisory Council
- Utility Job Training Programs (220 ILCS 5/16-108.12)
- Coal to Solar and Energy Storage Initiative Fund Grant Program

Scope & Objective: Input on the Jobs and Environmental Justice Grant Program

To ensure the design of the program best meets the needs of Illinoisans, this request for public information (RFI) seeks input on the **Jobs and Environmental Justice Grant Program** (Program), which was established by CEJA and will be implemented by DCEO. Per statute (20 ILCS 735/5-60), the Jobs and Environmental Justice Grant Program will provide upfront capital to support the development of projects, businesses, community organizations, and jobs creating opportunity for historically disadvantaged populations, and to provide seed capital to support community ownership of renewable energy projects.

This will consist of two separate subprograms:

- The **Equitable Energy Future Grant Program**, which will provide seed funding and pre-development funding opportunities for equity eligible contractors.
- The **Community Solar Energy Sovereignty Grant Program**, which will support the pre-development and development of community solar projects that promote community ownership and energy sovereignty.

DCEO is seeking information from stakeholders to ensure that this program meets its goal of helping remove barriers to project, community, and business development caused by a lack of capital for renewable energy projects.

Please note, the RFI is not an application for the program. There will be a future Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) released after which applicants will be able to compete through the process required by the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (30 ILCS 708) to receive a grant award. Responding to the RFI is not a prerequisite to participating in a future NOFO process and does not obligate DCEO to conduct a future NOFO process based on the responses received. Further, a response

to this RFI does not provide any advantages to the participant in any potential future NOFOs. All information received in a participant's response will be made available for public review and may be used by DCEO to inform implementation of the Energy Transition Community Grant Program.

Participant Organization Information

Please provide the following information for the organization or community submitting a response:

- The organization or community name
- Contact information, including telephone number, e-mail address, mailing address, city, and zip code
- A brief overview of your organization and/or community

Request for Information

All interested parties are encouraged to provide any comments or thoughts in areas where they can provide meaningful or helpful input, including program structure, definitions, eligibility, outreach, and more. Responses should not include confidential and/or proprietary information, as this information will be available for public review. Responses are not limited in word count, but brevity where possible is appreciated.

Process Overview and Stakeholder Submission

DCEO will review the responses for the purpose of identifying key concepts and information that may be beneficial to DCEO in designing and implementing the Jobs and Environmental Justice Grant Program.

Please provide a response to the "Request for Information" above in pdf or doc format. Responses to this RFI may be submitted via the online form at

<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/546b33f6e95f4d06b3b806ba305cfaaa>

Please provide your response by Wednesday, December 22, 2022. Responses submitted after this date may not be reviewed or considered.