

# Connecting HER Business to Illinois Organizations Guide

Powered by the [Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity](#) (DCEO) –  
[Office of Economic Equity & Empowerment](#) (OE3)

The resources and organizations listed below in this guide are not a complete list of all the available business resources and organizations who provide support in Illinois. Although many of the presented resources are tailored for women, many of the below resources are applicable to business owners from all backgrounds and communities. Resources and opportunities for different business stage levels, industries, revenue levels, etc. are included in this statewide tool. Please note that website addresses/URLs are subject to change as part of organizations' website updates. Additionally, the resources and organizations listed below are not an endorsement of the views, opinions, products, or services of any the entities below.

**Updated February 2025**

- **State of Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) | [link](#)**
  - To view upcoming events presented by the [Office of Economic Equity & Empowerment](#) (OE3) at DCEO, click [here](#).
  - For upcoming events and webinars presented by the [Illinois Small Business Development Centers](#) (IL SBDC), the [Illinois APEX Accelerator](#), and the [International Trade Centers](#) (ITC) networks, click [here](#).
  - To view upcoming events presented by the [Office of Regional Economic Development](#) (RED), click [here](#).
  - To view upcoming events presented by the [Office of Trade and Investment](#) (OTI), click [here](#).
  - To view upcoming events presented by the [Office of Broadband](#), click [here](#).
  - To view upcoming grant trainings presented by the [Office of Accountability](#), click [here](#).
- **State of Illinois Government's Resources for HER Illinois Business Guide | [link](#)**

*This guide includes state agencies and statewide offices.*
- **U.S. Federal & Illinois Local Governments' Resources for HER Illinois Business Guide | [link](#)**

*This guide includes the largest counties and cities in Illinois who can help connect you to local organizations in your community.*
- **1871 (Chicago) | [link](#)**
  - [upcoming events](#)

- **2112 (Chicago)** | [link](#)
  - [upcoming events](#)
- **37 Oaks (Chicago-based, national program)** | [link](#)
  - [upcoming events](#)
- **Abundance Setting (Chicago)** | [link](#)
- **Allies for Community Business (A4CB) (Chicago)** | [link](#)
  - [upcoming events](#)
- **American Business Immigration Coalition (ABIC) (national with Chicago HQs)** | [link](#)
- **Arlington Heights Memorial Library** | [link](#)
  - [upcoming events](#)
- **Arts Alliance of Illinois (statewide)** | [link](#)
  - [upcoming events](#)
- **Arts + Public Life at the University of Chicago** | [link](#)
  - [upcoming events](#)
- **Black Beauty Collective (hybrid with Chicago location)** | [link](#)
  - [upcoming events](#)
- **Black Women's Lawyers Association of Greater Chicago, Inc.** | [link](#)
  - [upcoming events](#)
- **BMO** | [link](#)
  - [upcoming events](#)
- **Bradley University's Turner School of Entrepreneurship and Innovation (Peoria)** | [link](#)
  - [upcoming events](#)
- **Bunker Labs (nationwide & based in Chicago)** | [link](#)
  - [upcoming events](#)
- **Business Navigator Alliance of Southcentral & Southeastern Illinois** | [link](#)
  - [upcoming events](#)
- **C200 (Chicago)** | [link](#)
- **Centralia Business & Professional Women, Inc. (Centralia)** | [link](#)
  - [upcoming events](#)
- **Champaign Public Library** | [link](#)
  - [upcoming events](#)
- **Chicago:Blend** | [link](#)
  - [upcoming events](#)

- **Chicago Business Journal** | [link](#)
  - [upcoming events](#)
- **Chicago Fashion Incubator** | [link](#)
  - [upcoming events](#)
- **Chicago Foundation for Women** | [link](#)
  - [upcoming events](#)
- **Chicago Innovation** | [link](#)
  - [upcoming events](#)
- **Chicago Latina Magazine** | [link](#)
- **Chicago Minority Supplier Development Council, Inc. (ChicagoMSDC)** | [link](#)
  - [upcoming events](#)
- **Chicago Public Library** | [link](#)
  - [upcoming events](#)
- **Chicago State University's Department of Mathematics and Computer Science (MCS)** (*Chicago's south side*) | [link](#)
- **Chicago United** | [link](#)
  - [upcoming events](#)
- **Chicago Women in Trades** | [link](#)
  - [upcoming events](#)
- **Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce** | [link](#)
  - [upcoming events](#)
- **Coleman Entrepreneurship Center at DePaul University's Driehaus College of Business** (*Chicago*) | [link](#)
  - [upcoming events](#)
- **Community Collective** (*western suburbs outside Chicago*) | [link](#)
  - [upcoming events](#)
- **Crain's Chicago Business** | [link](#)
  - [upcoming events](#)
- **CREW Chicago** | [link](#)
  - [upcoming events](#)
- **Decatur Regional Chamber of Commerce** (*Decatur*) | [link](#)
  - [upcoming events](#)
- **Distillery Labs** (*Peoria*) | [link](#)
  - [upcoming events](#)

- Dress for Success (*Chicago*) | [link](#)
- Ed Kaplan Family Institute for Innovation and Tech Entrepreneurship at Illinois Technology (*Chicago*) | [link](#)
  - [upcoming events](#)
- EIGERlab (*Rockford*) | [link](#)
  - [upcoming events](#)
- Elevate CCIC, Inc. (*Mattoon*) | [link](#)
  - [upcoming events](#)
- Ellevate Network Chicago | [link](#)
  - [upcoming events](#)
- Entrepreneur and Family Business Council (EFBC) at DePaul University's Driehaus College of Business (*Chicago*) | [link](#)
  - [upcoming events](#)
- EThOs @ The Citadel (*Marion*) | [link](#)
  - [upcoming events](#)
- EO Chicago | [link](#)
  - [upcoming events](#)
- Evergreen Climate Innovations (*Chicago*) | [link](#)
  - [upcoming events](#)
- Family Business Center at Loyola University Chicago | [link](#)
  - [upcoming events](#)
- Federation of Women Contractors (*Chicago region*) | [link](#)
  - [upcoming events](#)
- Female Strong (*Chicago*) | [link](#)
  - [upcoming events](#)
- First Women's Bank (*national, Chicago-based*) | [link](#)
  - [upcoming events](#)
- Founders First CDC Chicago (*national with a Chicago office*) | [link](#)
  - [upcoming events](#)
- Founders Network Chicago | [link](#)
  - [upcoming events](#)
- Founding Females (*central Illinois*) | [link](#)
  - [upcoming events](#)
- Fountaindale Public Library District (*Bolingbrook*) | [link](#)
  - [upcoming events](#)

- **Future Founders** (*national, with Chicago headquarters*) | [link](#)
  - [upcoming events](#)
- **gener8tor/ Distillery Labs** (*Peoria*) | [link](#)
- **Geneva Illinois Chamber of Commerce's Women in Business** (*Geneva*) | [link](#)
  - [upcoming events](#)
- **Good Food Catalyst** (*Chicago*) | [link](#)
  - [upcoming events](#)
- **Governor State University's Supply Chain Innovation Center and Business Incubator** (*University Park*) | [link](#)
- **Gray Matter Experience** (*Chicago*) | [link](#)
  - [upcoming events](#)
- **Grundy County Chamber of Commerce** (*Morris*) | [link](#)
  - [upcoming events](#)
- **Hustle Mommies** (*Chicago region-Mompreneur Council*) | [link](#)
  - [upcoming events](#)
- **IC U/Latinas** (*Chicago region*) | [link](#)
- **Illinois Agri-Women** (*statewide*) | [link](#)
  - [upcoming events](#)
- **Illinois Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives** | [link](#)
  - [upcoming events](#)
- **Illinois Chamber of Commerce** (*statewide with Chicago & Springfield offices*) | [link](#)
  - [upcoming events](#)
- **Illinois Extension** (*statewide*) | [link](#)
  - [upcoming events](#)
- **Illinois Institute of Rural Affairs** (*Macomb*) | [link](#)
  - [upcoming events](#)
- **Illinois Local** (*Springfield*) | [link](#)
  - [upcoming events](#)
- **Illinois Main Street** (*statewide with Chicago headquarters*) | [link](#)
  - [upcoming events](#)
- **Illinois Manufacturing Excellence Center (IMEC)** (*statewide*) | [link](#)
  - [upcoming events](#)

- **Illinois Minority Business Development Agency (IL MBDA) Business Center** (*statewide & based in Chicago region*) | [link](#)
  - [upcoming events](#)
- **Illinois Science & Technology Coalition (ISTC)** (*statewide, Chicago-based*) | [link](#)
  - [upcoming events](#)
- **Illinois Women in Cannabis** (*statewide, with Chicago office*) | [link](#)
  - [upcoming events](#)
- **Impact Global** (*Quincy*) | [link](#)
- **Innovate Springfield** | [link](#)
  - [upcoming events](#)
- **Ireland Network Chicago** | [link](#)
  - [upcoming events](#)
- **Iroquois Economic Development Association** (*Watseka*) | [link](#)
- **IWIRE, Industrial Women in Real Estate** (*Chicago area*) | [link](#)
- **Jackie Joyner Kersee Food Ag Nutrition Innovation Center** (*East St. Louis*) | [link](#)
- **Kankakee County Chamber of Commerce** (*Kankakee*) | [link](#)
  - [upcoming events](#)
- **Knox College's Bastian Family Center for Career Success** (*Galesburg*) | [link](#)
- **Lake Forest College's Oppenheimer Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation (OC)** (*Chicago region*) | [link](#)
  - [upcoming events](#)
- **Latina Executive Golf Organization (LEGO)** (*Chicago region*) | [link](#)
- **Lincoln Economic Advancement & Development, Inc. (LEAD)** (*Lincoln*) | [link](#)
- **Let's Talk Womxn Chicago** (*nationwide, with Chicago as first hub*) | [link](#)
  - [upcoming events](#)
- **LGBT Chamber of Commerce of Illinois** (*statewide with Chicago HQs*) | [link](#)
  - [upcoming events](#)
- **Lift Women's Foundation** (*Rock Island & Moline area*) | [link](#)
- **Loyola University's Ignite Lab** (*Chicago*) | [link](#)
  - [upcoming events](#)
- **Make City** (*Chicago*) | [link](#)
  - [upcoming events](#)
- **MATTER** (*Chicago*) | [link](#)
  - [upcoming events](#)

- **mHUB** (Chicago) | [link](#)
  - [upcoming events](#)
- **Millikin University's Center for Entrepreneurship** (Decatur) | [link](#)
  - [upcoming events](#)
- **Minority Business Development Center** (Bloomington and Peoria) | [link](#)
  - [upcoming events](#)
- **Monmouth Area Chamber of Commerce** (Monmouth) | [link](#)
  - [upcoming events](#)
- **National Association of Minority and Women Owned Law Firms (NAMWOLF)** (national, with Chicago headquarters) | [link](#)
  - [upcoming events](#)
- **National Association of Women Business Owners (NAWBO)-Central Illinois** | [link](#)
  - [upcoming events](#)
- **National Association of Women Business Owners (NAWBO)-Chicago** | [link](#)
  - [upcoming events](#)
- **Naturally Chicago** | [link](#)
  - [upcoming events](#)
- **New American Welcome Center of The University YMCA** (Champaign) | [link](#)
- **NextUp** (nationwide & Chicago-based) | [link](#)
  - [upcoming events](#)
- **Northeastern Illinois University's College of Business and Technology's Business Innovation & Growth (BIG) Center** (Chicago's northwde) | [link](#)
- **Northern Illinois University Office of Innovation** (DeKalb) | [link](#)
  - [upcoming events](#)
- **Northwest Illinois Economic Development** (Hanover) | [link](#)
  - [upcoming events](#)
- **Northwestern University's Innovation & New Ventures Office** (Chicago region) | [link](#)
  - [upcoming events](#)
- **Northwestern University Kellogg School of Management's John L. Ward Center for Family Enterprises** (Evanston) | [link](#)
  - [upcoming events](#)

- **Parkland College's Parkland Entrepreneurial Network (PEN)** (*Champaign*) | [link](#)
- **P33-Techrise** (*Chicago region*) | [link](#)
  - [upcoming events](#)
- **Pilot Project's Brewery Incubator** (*Chicago*) | [link](#)
  - [upcoming events](#)
- **Polish Women in Business** (*Chicago*) | [link](#)
  - [upcoming events](#)
- **Polsky Center for Entrepreneurship & Innovation at the University of** (*Chicago*) | [link](#)
  - [upcoming events](#)
- **Quincy Chamber of Commerce's Women Empowered** | [link](#)
  - [upcoming events](#)
- **Rebuild Foundation** (*Chicago*) | [link](#)
  - [upcoming events](#)
- **Refine Collective (refinecltv)** (*Chicago area*) | [link](#)
  - [upcoming events](#)
- **Revolution Institute** (*Chicago*) | [link](#)
- **Richland Community College's EnRich Minority Mentor Protégé Entrepreneurship Program** (*Decatur*) | [link](#)
- **Rockford Women's Small Business Networking Group** | [link](#)
- **Rustandy Center for Social Sector Innovation - Chicago Booth** | [link](#)
  - [upcoming events](#)
- **Schaumburg Public Library** | [link](#)
  - [upcoming events](#)
- **Skokie Public Library** | [link](#)
  - [upcoming events](#)
- **Small Business Advocacy Council (SBAC)** (*Chicago region*) | [link](#)
  - [upcoming events](#)
- **Small Business Majority** (*nationwide with Chicago office*) | [link](#)
  - [upcoming events](#)



- Southern Illinois University’s Research Park (*Carbondale*) | [link](#)
- *Springfield Business Journal* | [link](#)
  - [upcoming events](#)
- Startup Grind Chicago | [link](#)
  - [upcoming events](#)
- Sunshine Enterprises (*Chicago & Evanston*) | [link](#)
- Techstars Chicago | [link](#)
- The BOSS “Bringing Out Successful Sisters” Network (*nationwide & Chicago-based*) | [link](#)
  - [upcoming events](#)
- The Chicago Network | [link](#)
- The Founding Moms (*global, IL-based platform*) | [link](#)
- The Hatchery (*Chicago*) | [link](#)
  - [upcoming events](#)
- The TREP School (*Danville*) | [link](#)
- University of Illinois Chicago’ Entrepreneurial Support Program (*Chicago*) | [link](#)
- University of Illinois Extension (*statewide with main office in Urbana*) | [link](#)
  - [upcoming events](#)
- The University of Illinois’ Gies College of Business’s Origin Ventures Academy for Entrepreneurial Leadership including Women in Entrepreneurship (WIE Connect) (*Champaign*) | [link](#)
- The University of Illinois’ Grainger College of Engineering’s Technology Entrepreneur Center (*Urbana*) | [link](#)
  - [upcoming events](#)
- The University of Illinois’ Research Park (*Champaign*) | [link](#)
  - [upcoming events](#)
- The University of Illinois System’s Office of the Vice President for Economic Development & Innovation (*statewide with Chicago & Urbana offices*) | [link](#)
  - [resources](#)
- Union County Women in Business (*Union County in southern Illinois*) | [link](#)
  - [upcoming events](#)

- U.S. Department of Commerce's International Trade Administration's (ITA) U.S. Commercial Service (*Peoria office*) | [link](#)
  - [upcoming events](#)
- U.S. Department of Labor's Women's Bureau | [link](#)
  - [upcoming events](#)
- U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) – Illinois District office | [link](#)
  - [upcoming events](#)
- West Side Forward (*Chicago*) | [link](#)
  - [upcoming events](#)
- Women's Bar Association of Illinois | [link](#)
  - [upcoming events](#)
- Women's Business Development Center (WBDC) (*Midwest region with Chicago headquarters*) | [link](#)
  - [upcoming events](#)
- Women Council of Realtors-Chicago | [link](#)
  - [upcoming events](#)
- Women Council of Relators- Illinois | [link](#)
  - [upcoming events](#)
- WomenEmployed (WE) (*nationwide with Chicago headquarters*) | [link](#)
  - [upcoming events](#)
- Women Empowering Women (WEW) | [link](#)
  - Belleville chapter | [link](#)
  - Edwardsville chapter | [link](#)
  - O'Fallon chapter | [link](#)
- Women Entrepreneurs Central Illinois (*Springfield*) | [link](#)
  - [upcoming events](#)
- Women Entrepreneurs Grow Global (*national, Chicago-based*) | [link](#)
  - [upcoming events](#)
- Women Entrepreneurs Secret of Success (WESOS)-Chicago area chapters | [link](#)
  - [upcoming events of each chapter](#)
- Women in Entrepreneurship Institute at DePaul University's Driehaus College of Business (*Chicago region*) | [link](#)
  - [upcoming events](#)

- **Women in Manufacturing-Illinois chapter** | [link](#)
  - [upcoming events](#)
- **Women Tech Founders** (*nationwide, Chicago-based*) | [link](#)
  - [upcoming events](#)
- **World Business Chicago** | [link](#)
  - [upcoming events](#)
- **WorldChicago** | [link](#)
  - [upcoming events](#)
- **YWCA Champaign County** | [link](#)
- **YWCA Evanston/North Shore** | [link](#)
  - [upcoming events](#)
- **YWCA of McLean County** | [link](#)
  - [upcoming events](#)
- **YWCA Metropolitan Chicago** | [link](#)
  - [upcoming events](#)
- **YWCA Northwestern Illinois** (*Rockford*) | [link](#)
  - [upcoming events](#)
- **YWCA Pekin** | [link](#)
- **YWCA Quincy** | [link](#)
  - [upcoming events](#)

### **Women-Focused Organizations** (*with many having women focused programs*)

- Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) | [link](#)
  - DCEO's [Office of Minority Economic Empowerment](#) (OMEE) is the host of the statewide Illinois Women's Business Collective (ILWBC)
- Abundance Setting (*Chicago*) | [link](#)
- Black Women's Lawyers Association of Greater Chicago, Inc. | [link](#)
- BMO for Women | [link](#)
- C200 (*Chicago*) | [link](#)
- Centralia Business & Professional Women, Inc. (*Centralia*) | [link](#)
- Chicago Foundation for Women | [link](#)
- Chicago Women in Trades | [link](#)
- CREW Chicago (*commercial real estate women*) | [link](#)
- Dress for Success Chicago | [link](#)

- Ellevate Network Chicago | [link](#)
- Evanston Woman Magazine | [link](#)
- Federation of Women Contractors (*statewide with Chicago HQs*) | [link](#)
- Female Strong (*Chicago*) | [link](#)
- First Women's Bank (*national with Chicago HQs*) | [link](#)
- Founding Females (*Morton-Peoria area*) | [link](#)
- Geneva Illinois Chamber of Commerce's Women in Business (*Geneva*) | [link](#)
- Hustle Mommies (*Chicagoland-Mompreneur Council*) | [link](#)
- IC U/Latinas (*nationwide, Chicagoland based*) | [link](#)
- Illinois Agri-Women (*statewide*) | [link](#)
- Illinois Women in Cannabis (*statewide with Chicago HQs*) | [link](#)
- IWIRE, Industrial Women in Real Estate (*Chicago area*) | [link](#)
- Latina Executive Golf Organization (LEGO) (*Chicago region*) | [link](#)
- Let's Talk Womxn Chicago (*nationwide with Chicago as first location*) | [link](#)
- *lift* Women's Foundation (*Rock Island*) | [link](#)
- National Association of Minority and Women Owned Law Firms (NAMWOLF) (*national, with Chicago HQs*) | [link](#)
- National Association of Women Business Owners (NAWBO)-Central Illinois | [link](#)
- National Association of Women Business Owners (NAWBO)-Chicago | [link](#)
- Techstars Chicago | [link](#)
- The BOSS "Bringing Out Successful Sisters" Network (*national with Chicago HQs*) | [link](#)
- The Chicago Network | [link](#)
- The Founding Moms (*global, IL-based platform*) | [link](#)
- Union County Women in Business (*Jonesboro*) | [link](#)
- University of Illinois' Gies College of Business' Origin Ventures Academy for Entrepreneurial Leadership's Women in Entrepreneurship (WIE Connect) (*Champaign*) | [link](#)
- Women's Bar Association of Illinois | [link](#)
- Women's Business Development Center (WBDC) (*Midwest, with Chicago HQs*) | [link](#)
- Women Council of Realtors-Chicago | [link](#)
- Women Council of Relators- Illinois | [link](#)
- WomenEmployed (WE) (*national, with Chicago HQs*) | [link](#)
- Women Empowering Women (WEW) | [link](#)
  - *Belleville* chapter | [link](#)
  - *Edwardsville* chapter | [link](#)
  - *O'Fallon* chapter | [link](#)
- Women Entrepreneurs of Central Illinois (*Peoria*) | [link](#)
- Women Entrepreneurs Grow Global (*national & Chicago-based*) | [link](#)
- Women Entrepreneurs Secret of Success (WESOS)-Chicago area chapters | [link](#)
- Women in Entrepreneurship Institute at DePaul University's Driehaus College of Business (*Chicago*) | [link](#)
- Women in Manufacturing-Illinois chapter | [link](#)
- Women Tech Founders (*nationwide, Chicago-based*) | [link](#)
- YWCA Evanston/North Shore | [link](#)
- YWCA Metropolitan Chicago | [link](#)

- YWCA Northwestern Illinois (*Rockford*) | [link](#)
- YWCA Quincy | [link](#)
- YWCA of Champaign County (*Champaign*) | [link](#)
- YWCA of McLean County | [link](#)

## ***Minority Entrepreneurs and/or Women of Color Entrepreneurs***

- Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity (DCEO) – Office of Minority Economic Empowerment (OMEE) | [link](#)
- Black Beauty Collective (*hybrid with Chicago location*) | [link](#)
- Black Women’s Lawyers Association of Greater Chicago, Inc. | [link](#)
- BMO for Black & Latinx Businesses | [link](#)
- Chicago Minority Supplier Development Council, Inc. (ChicagoMSDC) | [link](#)
- Chicago United | [link](#)
- Hustle Mommies (*Chicagoland-Mompreneur Council*) | [link](#)
- IC U/Latinas (*nationwide, Chicago regional based*) | [link](#)
- The Illinois Minority Business Development Agency (IL MBDA) Business Center (*statewide with Elgin office*) | [link](#)
- Latina Executive Golf Organization (LEGO) (*Chicago region*) | [link](#)
- National Association of Minority and Women Owned Law Firms (NAMWOLF) (*Chicago*) | [link](#)
- The BOSS “Bringing Out Successful Sisters” Network (*national with Chicago HQs*) | [link](#)

## ***Veteran Entrepreneurs***

- Bunker Labs (*nationwide, with Chicago chapter*) | [link](#)
- Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity (DCEO) - Office of Minority Economic Empowerment (OMEE) | [link](#)
- U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) | [link](#)

## ***Youth Entrepreneurs & Innovators***

- Chicago Innovation | [link](#)
- Female Strong (*Chicago*) | [link](#)
- Future Founders (*Chicago*) | [link](#)
- Gray Matter Experience (*Chicago*) | [link](#)

## ***Immigrant and International Entrepreneurs***

- American Business Immigration Coalition (ABIC) (*national with Chicago HQs*) | [link](#)
- Ireland Network Chicago | [link](#)
- New American Welcome Center at the University YMCA (Champaign) | [link](#)
- Polish Women in Business (*Chicago*) | [link](#)
- WorldChicago | [link](#)

## **LGBTQIA+ Entrepreneurs**

- LGBT Chamber of Commerce of Illinois (*statewide with Chicago HQs*) | [link](#)

## **Family-owned Businesses**

- Entrepreneur and Family Business Council (EFBC) at DePaul University's Driehaus College of Business (*Chicago based*) | [link](#)
- Family Business Center at Loyola University | [link](#) (*national, Chicago-based*)

## **Mompreneurs**

- Hustle Mommies | [link](#) (*national, Chicago-based*)
- The Founding Moms (*global, IL-based platform*) | [link](#)

## **Agriculture and Rural Entrepreneurs**

- Illinois Agri-Women (*statewide*) | [link](#)
- Illinois Institute of Rural Affairs ( [link](#) ) IL SBDC at WIU (*Macomb*) | [link](#)

## **Industry-based**

- 2112 (*creative industry- Chicago*) | [link](#)
- 37 Oaks (*e-commerce - Chicago-based*) | [link](#)
- Abundance Setting (*hospitality/restaurant - Chicago*) | [link](#)
- Arts Alliance of Illinois (*statewide*) | [link](#)
- Arts + Public Life at the University of Chicago | [link](#)
- Black Beauty Collective (*hybrid with Chicago location*) | [link](#)
- Black Women's Lawyers Association of Greater Chicago, Inc. | [link](#)
- Chicago Fashion Incubator | [link](#)
- Chicago Women in Trades | [link](#)
- CREW Chicago (*commercial real estate women*) | [link](#)
- EO Chicago | [link](#)
- Evergreen Climate Innovations (*Chicago*) | [link](#)
- Federation of Women Contractors (*statewide with Chicago HQs*) | [link](#)
- Gender Equality in Tech (GET) Cities Chicago | [link](#)
- Good Food Catalyst (*Chicago*) | [link](#)
- Illinois Manufacturing Excellence Center (IMEC) (*statewide*) | [link](#)
- Illinois Women in Cannabis (*statewide with Chicago HQs*) | [link](#)
- IWIRE, Industrial Women in Real Estate (*Chicago area*) | [link](#)
- Jackie Joyner Kersee Food Ag Nutrition Innovation Center (*East St. Louis*) | [link](#)
- Let's Talk Womxn Chicago (*nationwide with Chicago as first location*) | [link](#)
- MATTER (*healthcare startups - Chicago*) | [link](#)
- mHUB (*manufacturing - Chicago*) | [link](#)

- National Association of Minority and Women Owned Law Firms (NAMWOLF) (*national, with Chicago HQs*) | [link](#)
- Naturally Chicago (CPG food – Chicago) | [link](#)
- Pilot Project’s Brewery Incubator (*Chicago*) | [link](#)
- Punch List Consulting (*construction & trades - Chicago-based*) | [link](#)
- Rebuild Foundation (*Chicago arts led platform in Chicago’s south side*) | [link](#)
- Revolution Institute (*manufacturing - Chicago*) | [link](#)
- Techstars Chicago | [link](#)
- The Hatchery (*food startups - Chicago*) | [link](#)
- Women Tech Founders (*nationwide, Chicago-based*) | [link](#)
- Women's Bar Association of Illinois | [link](#)
- Women Council of Realtors-Chicago | [link](#)
- Women Council of Relators- Illinois | [link](#)
- Women in Manufacturing-Illinois chapter | [link](#)

### ***Financial Institutions/Funders***

- First Women's Bank (*national with Chicago HQs*) | [link](#)
- Associated Bank | [link](#)
- Bank of America | [link](#)
- BMO | [link](#)
- Chase | [link](#)
- Chicago:Blend | [link](#)
- Fifth Third Bank | [link](#)
- Founders First CDC Chicago (*national with a Chicago office*) | [link](#)

### ***University-affiliated***

- Chicago State University’s Department of Mathematics and Computer Science (MCS) (*Chicago’s south side*) | [link](#)
- Bradley University's Turner School of Entrepreneurship and Innovation (*Peoria*) | [link](#)
- Coleman Entrepreneurship Center at DePaul University’s Driehaus College of Business (*Chicago*) | [link](#)
- Entrepreneur and Family Business Council (EFBC) at DePaul University’s Driehaus College of Business (*Chicago*) | [link](#)
- Ed Kaplan Family Institute for Innovation and Tech Entrepreneurship at Illinois Technology (*Chicago*) | [link](#)
- Governor State University's Supply Chain Innovation Center and Business Incubator (*University Park*) | [link](#)
- Knox College's Bastian Family Center for Career Success (*Galesburg*) | [link](#)
- Lake Forest College’s Oppenheimer Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation (OC) (*northern Chicago suburbs*) | [link](#)
- Family Business Center at Loyola University Chicago (*national, with Chicago HQs*) | [link](#)
- Millikin University's Center for Entrepreneurship (*Decatur*) | [link](#)
- Northeastern Illinois University's College of Business and Technology’s Business Innovation & Growth (BIG) Center (*Chicago*) | [link](#)
- Northern Illinois University's Office of Innovation (*DeKalb*) | [link](#)
- Northwestern University's Innovation & New Ventures Office (*Evanston*) | [link](#)
- Parkland College's Parkland Entrepreneurial Network (PEN) (*Champaign*) | [link](#)
- Polsky Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation at the University of Chicago | [link](#)

- Richland Community College's EnRich Minority Mentor Protégé Entrepreneurship Program (*Decatur*) | [link](#)
- Rustandy Center for Social Sector Innovation at the University of Chicago's Booth School of Business (*Chicago*) | [link](#)
- Southern Illinois University's Research Park (*Carbondale*) | [link](#)
- University of Illinois-Chicago's Entrepreneurial Support Program (*Chicago*) | [link](#)
- University of Illinois' Gies College of Business' Origin Ventures Academy for Entrepreneurial Leadership's Women in Entrepreneurship (WIE Connect) (*Champaign*) | [link](#)
- University of Illinois System's Office of the Vice President for Economic Development & Innovation (*statewide with Chicago & Urbana offices*) | [link](#)
- University of Illinois' Grainger College of Engineering's Technology Entrepreneur Center (*Urbana*) | [link](#)
- University of Illinois' Research Park (*Champaign*) | [link](#)

## ***Outside the Chicago Area***

### **Central Region in Illinois**

- Lincoln Economic Advancement & Development, Inc. (LEAD) (*Lincoln*) | [link](#)

#### **Decatur**

- Decatur Regional Chamber of Commerce (*Decatur*) | [link](#)
- Millikin University's Center for Entrepreneurship (*Decatur*) | [link](#)
- Richland Community College's EnRich Minority Mentor Protégé Entrepreneurship Program | [link](#)

#### **Springfield**

- Illinois Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives (*statewide with Springfield office*) | [link](#)
- Illinois Chamber of Commerce (*statewide with Springfield & Chicago offices*) | [link](#)
- Illinois Local (*Springfield*) | [link](#)
- Innovate Springfield | [link](#)
- *Springfield Business Journal* | [link](#)

### **East Central Region in Illinois**

- Iroquois Economic Development Association (*Watseka*) | [link](#)
- The TREP School (*Danville*) | [link](#)

#### **Champaign and Urbana**

- Champaign Public Library | [link](#)
- New American Welcome Center at the University YMCA (*Champaign*) | [link](#)
- Parkland College's Parkland Entrepreneurial Network (PEN) (*Champaign*) | [link](#)
- University of Illinois' Gies College of Business' Origin Ventures Academy for Entrepreneurial Leadership's Women in Entrepreneurship (WIE Connect) (*Champaign*) | [link](#)
- University of Illinois System's Office of the Vice President for Economic Development & Innovation (*statewide with Urbana & Chicago offices*) | [link](#)



- University of Illinois's Grainger College of Engineering's Technology Entrepreneur Center (*Urbana*) | [link](#)
- University of Illinois' Research Park (*Champaign*) | [link](#)
- YWCA Champaign County (*Champaign*) | [link](#)

## North Central Region in Illinois

- YWCA of McLean County | [link](#)

### **Peoria**

- Bradley University's Turner School of Entrepreneurship and Innovation | [link](#)
- Distillery Labs (*Peoria*) | [link](#)
- gener8tor/ Distillery Labs (*Peoria*) | [link](#)
- Founding Females | [link](#)
- National Association of Women Business Owners (NAWBO)-Central Illinois | [link](#)
- Women Entrepreneurs of Central Illinois (*Peoria*) | [link](#)

## Northern Stateline Region in Illinois

### **Rockford**

- EIGERlab (*Rockford*) | [link](#)
- Positive Reflections Community Outreach Foundation (*Rockford*) | [link](#)
- YWCA Northwestern Illinois (*Rockford*) | [link](#)

## Northwest Region in Illinois

- *lift* Women's Foundation (*Rock Island*) | [link](#)
- Northwest Illinois Economic Development (*Hanover*) | [link](#)

## Southeast Region in Illinois

- Business Navigator Alliance of Southcentral & Southeastern Illinois | [link](#)
- Centralia Business & Professional Women, Inc. (*Centralia*) | [link](#)
- Elevate CCIC, Inc. (*Mattoon*) | [link](#)

## Southern Region in Illinois

- EThOs @ The Citadel | [link](#)
- Southern Illinois University's Research Park (*Carbondale*) | [link](#)
- Union County Women in Business (*Jonesboro*) | [link](#)

## Southwest Region in Illinois

- Jackie Joyner Kersee Food Ag Nutrition Innovation Center (*East St. Louis*) | [link](#)
- Women Empowering Women (WEW) | [link](#)
  - *Belleville* chapter | [link](#)
  - *Edwardsville* chapter | [link](#)
  - *O'Fallon* chapter | [link](#)

## [West Central Region in Illinois](#)

### **Galesburg**

- Knox College's Bastian Family Center for Career Success (*Galesburg*) | [link](#)

### **Macomb**

- Illinois Institute of Rural Affairs ([link](#)) IL SBDC at WIU (*Macomb*) | [link](#)
- Monmouth Area Chamber of Commerce (*Monmouth*) | [link](#)

### **Quincy**

- Impact Global (*Quincy*) | [link](#)
- Quincy Chamber of Commerce's Women Empowered | [link](#)
- YWCA Quincy | [link](#)

## [Northeast Region in Illinois](#)

*includes the Chicago region, DeKalb, Kankakee, and Morris*

- Abundance Setting (*Chicago*) | [link](#)
- Allies for Community Business (A4CB) (*Chicago*) | [link](#)
- American Business Immigration Coalition (ABIC) (*national with Chicago HQs*) | [link](#)
- Arlington Heights Memorial Library | [link](#)
- Arts Alliance of Illinois (*statewide*) | [link](#)
- Arts + Public Life at the University of Chicago | [link](#)
- Black Beauty Collective (*hybrid with Chicago location*) | [link](#)
- Black Women's Lawyers Association of Greater Chicago, Inc. | [link](#)
- C200 (*Chicago*) | [link](#)
- Chicago:Blend | [link](#)
- *Chicago Business Journal* | [link](#)
- Chicago Fashion Incubator | [link](#)
- Chicago Foundation for Women | [link](#)
- Chicago Innovation | [link](#)
- Chicago Minority Supplier Development Council, Inc. (ChicagoMSDC) | [link](#)
- Chicago Public Library | [link](#)
- Chicago State University's Department of Mathematics and Computer Science (MCS) (*Chicago's south side*) | [link](#)
- Chicago United | [link](#)
- Chicago Women in Trades | [link](#)
- Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce | [link](#)
- Coleman Entrepreneurship Center at DePaul University's Driehaus College of Business (*Chicago*) | [link](#)
- Community Collective (*western Chicago suburbs*) | [link](#)
- *Crain's Chicago Business* | [link](#)

- CREW Chicago | [link](#)
- Entrepreneur and Family Business Council (EFBC) at DePaul University's Driehaus College of Business (*Chicago*) | [link](#)
- Dress for Success Chicago | [link](#)
- Ed Kaplan Family Institute for Innovation and Tech Entrepreneurship at Illinois Technology (*Chicago*) | [link](#)
- Ellevate Network Chicago | [link](#)
- Evanston Woman Magazine | [link](#)
- Evergreen Climate Innovations (*Chicago*) | [link](#)
- Family Business Center at Loyola University Chicago (*national, with Chicago HQs*) | [link](#)
- Federation of Women Contractors (*statewide with Chicago HQs*) | [link](#)
- Female Strong (*Chicago*) | [link](#)
- First Women's Bank (*national with Chicago HQs*) | [link](#)
- Founders First CDC Chicago (*national with a Chicago office*) | [link](#)
- Founders Network Chicago | [link](#)
- Fountaindale Public Library District (*Bolingbrook*) | [link](#)
- Future Founders (*Chicago*) | [link](#)
- Geneva Illinois Chamber of Commerce's Women in Business (*Geneva*) | [link](#)
- Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses Chicago (*nationwide with Chicago chapter*) | [link](#)
- Good Food Catalyst (*Chicago*) | [link](#)
- Governor State University's Supply Chain Innovation Center and Business Incubator (*University Park*) | [link](#)
- Gray Matter Experience (*Chicago*) | [link](#)
- Grundy County Chamber of Commerce (*Morris*) | [link](#)
- Hustle Mommies (*Chicagoland-Mompreneur Council*) | [link](#)
- IC U/Latinas (*nationwide, Chicago regional based*) | [link](#)
- Illinois Chamber of Commerce (*statewide with Chicago & Springfield offices*) | [link](#)
- Illinois Women in Cannabis (*statewide with Chicago HQs*) | [link](#)
- IWIRE, Industrial Women in Real Estate (*Chicago area*) | [link](#)
- Ireland Network Chicago | [link](#)
- Kankakee County Chamber of Commerce (*Kankakee*) | [link](#)
- Lake Forest College's Oppenheimer Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation (OC) (*Chicagoland*) | [link](#)
- Latina Executive Golf Organization (LEGO) (*Chicago region*) | [link](#)
- Let's Talk Womxn Chicago (*nationwide with Chicago as first location*) | [link](#)
- LGBT Chamber of Commerce of Illinois (*statewide with Chicago HQs*) | [link](#)
- Make City (*Chicago*) | [link](#)
- MATTER (*Chicago*) | [link](#)
- mHUB (*Chicago*) | [link](#)
- National Association of Minority and Women Owned Law Firms (NAMWOLF) (*Chicago*) | [link](#)
- National Association of Women Business Owners (NAWBO)-Chicago | [link](#)
- Naturally Chicago | [link](#)
- Next Street (*national, with Chicago office*) | [link](#)
- NextUp (*nationwide with Chicago HQs*) | [link](#)
- Northeastern Illinois University's College of Business and Technology's Business Innovation & Growth (BIG) Center (*Chicago*) | [link](#)

- Northern Illinois University's Office of Innovation (*DeKalb*) | [link](#)
- Northwestern University's Innovation & New Ventures Office (*Evanston*) | [link](#)
- Novel Messaging (Chicago) | [link](#)
- Obama Foundation (*global, with Chicago HQs*) | [link](#)
- P33 (*Chicago*) | P33 [link](#) and Techrise [link](#)
- Pilot Project's Brewery Incubator (*Chicago*) | [link](#)
- Polish Women in Business (*Chicago*) | [link](#)
- Polsky Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation at the University of Chicago | [link](#)
- Punch List Consulting (*Chicago-based*) | [link](#)
- Rebuild Foundation (*Chicago arts led platform in Chicago's south side*) | [link](#)
- Refine Collective (refinecltv) (*nationwide with Chicago base*) | [link](#)
- Revolution Institute (*Chicago*) | [link](#)
- Rustandy Center for Social Sector Innovation at the University of Chicago's Booth School of Business (*Chicago*) | [link](#)
- Schaumburg Public Library | [link](#)
- Skokie Public Library | [link](#)
- Small Business Advocacy Council (SBAC) (*Chicago region*) | [link](#)
- Small Business Majority (*nationwide with Chicago office*) | [link](#)
- Startup Grind Chicago | [link](#)
- Techstars Chicago | [link](#)
- The Aux (*Evanston*) | [link](#)
- The BOSS "Bringing Out Successful Sisters" Network (*national with Chicago HQs*) | [link](#)
- The Chicago Network | [link](#)
- The Hatchery (*Chicago*) | [link](#)
- The Founding Moms (*global, IL-based platform*) | [link](#)
- The Illinois Minority Business Development Agency (IL MBDA) Business Center (*statewide with Elgin office*) | [link](#)
- University of Illinois Chicago' Entrepreneurial Support Program (*Chicago*) | [link](#)
- West Side Forward (*Chicago*) | [link](#)
- Women's Business Development Center (WBDC) (*Midwest, with Chicago HQs*) | [link](#)
- Women Council of Realtors-Chicago | [link](#)
- WomenEmployed (WE) (*national, with Chicago HQs*) | [link](#)
- Women Entrepreneurs Grow Global (*national & Chicago-based*) | [link](#)
- Women Entrepreneurs Secret of Success (WESOS)-Chicago area chapters | [link](#)
- Women in Entrepreneurship Institute at DePaul University's Driehaus College of Business (*Chicagoland*) | [link](#)
- Women Tech Founders (*nationwide, Chicago-based*) | [link](#)
- World Business Chicago (WBC) | [link](#)
- WorldChicago | [link](#)
- YWCA Evanston/North Shore | [link](#)
- YWCA Metropolitan Chicago | [link](#)
- 1871 (*Chicago*) | [link](#)
- 37 Oaks (*IL-based*) | [link](#)

## **Additional Supporting Organizations** *(below is not a complete list of all the organizations in Illinois)*

- 36 Squared | [link](#)
- Adelante Center for Entrepreneurship | [link](#)
- African American Business Association (AABA) | [link](#)
- Alianza Hispanoamericana NFP, Inc. | [link](#)
- Allies for Community Business | [link](#)
- American Arab Chamber of Commerce of Illinois | [link](#)
- AMIGOS DE LENS | [link](#)
- Arab American Business & Professional Association | [link](#)
- Artfully Gifted Foundation | [link](#)
- Asian American Chamber of Commerce of Illinois (AACCL) | [link](#)
- Asian Real Estate Association of America (AREAA) (Chicago) | [link](#)
- Aurora Regional Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (ARHCC) | [link](#)
- Back of the Yards Neighborhood Council | [link](#)
- Belvidere Chamber of Commerce | [link](#)
- Berwyn Development Corporation | [link](#)
- Binational Institute of Human Development | [link](#)
- Black Business Alliance Peoria (BBAPeoria) Chapter | [link](#)
- Black Chamber of Commerce of Lake County (BCCLC) | [link](#)
- Black Chamber of Commerce of Southern Illinois | [link](#)
- Breakthrough | [link](#)
- Built In Chicago | [link](#)
- Center for Capacity Building on Minorities with Disabilities Research | [link](#)
- Center for Changing Lives (CCL) | [link](#)
- Center for Entrepreneurship and Social Impact at Northern Illinois University | [link](#)
- Centro de Trabajadores Unidos: United Workers' Center | [link](#)
- Champaign County Black Chamber of Commerce (CCBCC) | [link](#)
- Chicago Chinatown Chamber of Commerce | [link](#)
- Chicago Latina Moms | [link](#)
- Chicago Southland Business Incubator's 4343 Ascending House | [link](#)
- Chicago Urban League | [link](#)
- Chicago Veterans | [link](#)
- Chicagoland Black Chamber of Commerce | [link](#)
- Chicagoland Food & Beverage Network | [link](#)
- Coalition for a Better Chinese American Community's Small Business Development Program | [link](#)
- Coles Together | [link](#)
- Cook County Black Chamber of Commerce | [link](#)
- Economic Strategies Development Corporation (ESDC) | [link](#)
- Elgin Area Chamber | [link](#)
- Elgin Hispanic Network (EHN) | [link](#)
- Evanston Latinx Business Alliance | [link](#)

- Foundation of Little Village (*formerly known as Little Village Foundation*) | [link](#)
- Fox Valley SCORE | [link](#)
- Greater Decatur Black Chamber of Commerce | [link](#)
- Greater Kankakee Black Chamber of Commerce (G.K.B.C.C.) | [link](#)
- Greater Peoria Hispanic Chamber of Commerce | [link](#)
- Greater Quad Cities Hispanic Chamber of Commerce | [link](#)
- Greater Southwest Development Corporation | [link](#)
- Growth Dimensions - Economic Development Belvidere & Boone County | [link](#)
- GWDC (*formerly known as Greater Waukegan Development Coalition*) | [link](#)
- High Road Restaurants | [link](#)
- Highwood Chamber of Commerce | [link](#)
- Hispanic American Construction Industry Association (HACIA) | [link](#)
- Hispanic Business Leaders Committee- Sauk Valley Area Chamber of Commerce | [link](#)
- Hispanic Business Network – Chicago | [link](#)
- Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Metropolitan St. Louis | [link](#)
- Hispanic Chamber of Lake County | [link](#)
- Hispanic Connections Networking Group-Woodstock Chamber of Commerce & Industry | [link](#)
- Hispanic/Latino Resource Center at SIU | [link](#)
- Hispanic Leaders Group of Greater St. Louis | [link](#)
- Illinois Black Chamber of Commerce | [link](#)
- Illinois Hispanic Chamber of Commerce | [link](#)
- Illinois Migrant Council (IMC) | [link](#)
- Illinois Restaurant Association | [link](#)
- Illinois Small Business Development Center (SBDC) at Chinese Mutual Aid Association (CMAA) | [link](#)
- Illinois State Black Chamber of Commerce (ILBCC) | [link](#)
- Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Chicago | [link](#)
- Joliet City Center Partnership | [link](#)
- Joliet LEDA – Latino Economic Development Association | [link](#)
- Latino Business Group-DeKalb Chamber of Commerce | [link](#)
- Latino Round Table of Southwestern Illinois | [link](#)
- Latinos Progresando | [link](#)
- Little Village Chamber of Commerce | [link](#)
- Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) Chicago | [link](#)
- Melrose Park Chamber of Commerce and Community Development | [link](#)
- Mexico Americanos Saliendo Adelante (MASA) | [link](#)
- Midwest Hispanic Chamber of Commerce | [link](#)
- Minority Business Development Center-Peoria | [link](#)
- MongolianBusiness Council of Chicago | [link](#)
- Mujeres Artesanas con Carrillo | [link](#)
- Mujeres Latinas en Acción | [link](#)

- Native American Chamber of Commerce of Illinois | [link](#)
- New American Welcome Center at the University YMCA-University of Illinois Champaign Urbana | [link](#)
- Next Street | [link](#)
- North River Commission | [link](#)
- Northern Kane County Chamber of Commerce (NKCCC) | [link](#)
- Northwest Hispanic Chamber of Commerce | [link](#)
- Northwest Side Community Development Corporation | [link](#)
- Peoria Black Chamber of Commerce | [link](#)
- Philippine American Chamber of Commerce of Greater Chicago | [link](#)
- Pilsen Chamber of Commerce | [link](#)
- PODER | [link](#)
- Polish Women in Business | [link](#)
- Puerto Rican Cultural Center | [link](#)
- Quad County African American Chamber of Commerce (QCAACC) | [link](#)
- Rockford Black Chamber of Commerce | [link](#)
- Rockford Regional Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (RRHCC) | [link](#)
- Rogers Park Business Alliance's GROW/PROGRESANDO | [link](#)
- Self-Help Federal Credit Union | [link](#)
- Six Corners Association | [link](#)
- South Asian American Chamber of Commerce of Illinois | [link](#)
- Southland Black Chamber of Commerce & Industry | [link](#)
- Southwest Collective | [link](#)
- Southwest Suburban Immigrant Project | [link](#)
- Springfield Black Chamber of Commerce (SBCC) | [link](#)
- Street Vendors Association of Chicago (SVAC) | [link](#)
- Sunshine Enterprises | [link](#)
- Supply Chain Innovation Center and Business Incubator (SCICBI) at Governors State University | [link](#)
- Taiwanese American Chamber of Commerce of Greater Chicago | [link](#)
- Telpochcalli Community Education Project (TCEP) | [link](#)
- The Bronzeville Incubator | [link](#)
- The Chicago Network | [link](#)
- The Resurrection Project | [link](#)
- The United States Pan Asian American Chamber of Commerce Education Foundation - Midwest Region | [link](#)
- The USDOT Small Business Transportation Resource Center (SBTRC) for the Great Lakes Region at the
- Universidad Popular | [link](#)
- Will County Center for Economic Development Corporation | [link](#)

Please contact us anytime if you're looking for a different business resource. We're here to support-connect-advance Illinois women-owned businesses, future women business owners, and aspiring female entrepreneurs throughout the state!



**Illinois**  
**Department of Commerce**  
 & Economic Opportunity  
 OFFICE OF ECONOMIC EQUITY & EMPOWERMENT

**Office of Economic  
 Equity and Empowerment  
 (OE3), formerly OMEE**

*Serving minorities-,  
 women-, veteran-owned  
 businesses, businesses owned  
 by persons with disabilities,  
 and other underserved  
 communities.*

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## [Team OE3 from the Illinois Office of Economic Equity & Empowerment \(OE3\)](#)

at the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO)

The Illinois Office of Economic Equity & Empowerment (OE3) is committed to providing minority-, women-, persons with disabilities and veteran-owned small businesses and entrepreneurs across the state with equitable access to opportunities and resources. Through dynamic partnerships, targeted outreach, and tailored programs and initiatives, OE3 aims to create an inclusive business ecosystem for communities that have traditionally faced systemic barriers to entry and growth. This investment spurs local economic development in underserved areas resulting in a revitalized and thriving Illinois economy.

- [Click here](#) to connect with Team OE3.
- To view upcoming events hosted by Team OE3, [click here](#).

## [Team RED from the Illinois Regional Economic Development \(RED\)](#) at the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO)

The Illinois Office of Regional Economic Development (Team RED), lives and works in the communities they serve and are charged with facilitating economic development efforts in their regions, in addition to providing communities with front-line access to state programs and services. Team RED serves as an Economic Development Concierge for the State of Illinois. To help provide localized assistance, the State of Illinois is divided into 10 economic development regions.

- As Team RED is located throughout Illinois, [click here to connect](#) with Team RED.
- To view upcoming events hosted by Team RED, [click here](#).

## [Team EIT from the Office of Entrepreneurship, Innovation & Technology \(EIT\)](#) at the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO)

The Illinois Office of Entrepreneurship, Innovation & Technology (EIT), supports entrepreneurs, innovators, and small businesses in Illinois by providing concierge services, information, and technical support. Programs and services provided through EIT include:

- [The Illinois Small Business Development Centers \(SBDC\)](#) offers at no cost one-on-one business advising. The IL SBDCs are centers located across the state which offer assistance with business, management, and marketing plans; financial assessment and guidance; in-depth business training and more. The IL SBDCs also provides specialized services in technology, innovation, and entrepreneurial development. Business consultation is available to businesses of all stages/sizes/industries/etc. as well as for future business owners & entrepreneurs and those who have an idea. [Click here](#) to find the nearest IL SBDC by address or zip code. For upcoming IL SBDC events & webinars, [click here](#).

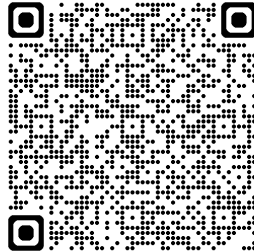
- The [Illinois APEX Accelerator](#) (formerly known as the Illinois Procurement Technical Assistance Centers “PTAC”) are a portal for small businesses looking to enter the world of government contracting. The centers provide one-on-one counseling, technical information, marketing assistance and training to existing businesses interested in selling their goods and services to local, state, and/or federal government agencies. The primary mission of the Illinois APEX Accelerator is to serve as the axis for existing and new business to enter and strengthen the Government Industrial Base (GIB) and Defense Industrial Base (DIB), by accelerating innovation, fostering ingenuity, and establishing resilient and diverse supply chains. [Click here](#) to find the nearest IL APEX Accelerator by address or zip code. For upcoming IL APEX Accelerator events & webinars, [click here](#).
- [The First Stop Business Information Center](#) is a single statewide resource for entrepreneurs and businesses to obtain comprehensive regulatory and permitting information. Business specialists provide professional guidance to entrepreneurs by helping them identify and navigate regulatory requirements for their business and link them to state and local resources.
- [The Illinois International Trade Centers](#) provide assistance with international trade and exporting. The centers offer information, counseling and training to existing and new-to-export companies interested in pursuing international trade opportunities.
- The [Small Business Environmental Assistance Program \(SBEAP\)](#) provides free confidential information and services to help small businesses understand and comply with their environmental obligations.

### [Team OTI from the Illinois Office of Trade & Investment \(OTI\)](#) at the Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity (DCEO)

The Illinois Office of Trade & Investment (OTI), provides export assistance to companies interested in growing their global footprint. Through a network of trade specialist located in Chicago and in established regional foreign offices, OTI provides businesses with lead generation support and connects companies to foreign governments, chambers of commerce and other strategic partners around the world. Our expert team also leads trade missions, curated overseas tradeshows, and outreach events and seminars.

- As Team OTI is located both in Illinois and abroad, [click here](#) to connect with Team OTI.
- To attend upcoming OTI events, [click here](#).

**Scan below** to access this Connecting HER Business to Illinois Organizations Guide (*accelerator/cohort/mentoring programs & networking opportunities*) on your phone, watch and/or tablet:



**Scan below** to access different resource guides for Illinois women-owned businesses on your phone, watch, and/or tablet, which can also be found at the very end of the OE3 Business Resource Library [webpage](https://dceo.illinois.gov/oe3/business-resource-library.html#resources):

<https://dceo.illinois.gov/oe3/business-resource-library.html#resources>

- Connecting HER to Illinois Business Resources Guide | [link](#)  
*a statewide centralized guide which includes the below resources guides*
- Conectando a Ella con recursos de negocios en Illinois / Connecting HER to Illinois Business Resources Guide in Spanish | [link](#)  
*a statewide centralized guide which includes the below resources guides in Spanish*
- State of Illinois Government's Resources Guide for HER Illinois Business | [link](#)  
*includes different state agencies and offices who provide programs and services for businesses*
- U.S. Federal & Illinois Local Governments' Resources Guide for HER Illinois Business | [link](#)  
*includes the largest counties and cities in Illinois, as well as contractor and vendor opportunities in those regions*
- Financial Capital Resources Guide for HER Illinois Business | [link](#)  
*includes grant opportunities, loan programs, crowdfunding platforms, etc.*
- Social Capital Resources Guide for HER Illinois Business | [link](#)  
*includes accelerator/cohort/mentoring programs & networking opportunities*

