

# Connecting HER to Illinois Business Resources

## U.S. Federal & Illinois Local Governments' Resources Guide for HER Illinois Business as of March 2024

powered by the [Office of Minority Economic Empowerment \(OMEE\)](#) at the  
[Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity \(DCEO\)](#)

### U.S. Federal Government Resources for Businesses

Below is not a complete list of all the U.S. federal agencies including its offices, programs, services, tools, upcoming, events, etc. supporting business owners. Please note that website addresses/URLs are subject to change as part of organizations' website updates.

- **Sam.Gov** | [link](#)  
The System for Award Management (SAM.gov) is an official website of the U.S. federal government. As there is no cost to use SAM.gov., you can use the centralize website to register to do business with the U.S. federal government, update/renew/check the status of your entity registration, look for contractor opportunities with U.S. federal agencies, and much more.
- **USA.Gov** | [link](#)  
The U.S. federal government's free, centralize website lists U.S. federal government agencies' grant opportunities.
- **U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA)-Illinois District Office** | [link](#) | [upcoming events](#)
  - Business guide | [link](#)
  - Funding programs | [link](#)
  - Local assistance including the Office of Women's Business Ownership (OWBO) | [link](#)
  - Federal contracting | [link](#)
  - Learning platforms and mentoring programs | [link](#)
  - Minority-owned businesses | [link](#)
  - Office of Veterans Business Development (OVBD) | [link](#)
  - LGBTQ-owned businesses | [link](#)
  - Rural businesses | [link](#)

- **U.S. Department of Commerce** | [link](#)
  - services for businesses | [link](#)
    - obtaining financing | [link](#)
  - bureaus and offices | [link](#)
    - International Trade Administration (ITA) | [link](#) | [upcoming events](#)
    - Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) | [link](#) | [upcoming events](#)
    - U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) | [link](#) | [upcoming events](#)
      - Inventor and Entrepreneur Resources | [link](#)
- **U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA)** | [link](#)
  - The EDA provides resources and opportunities for organizations who support entrepreneurs.
- **U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)** | [link](#)
  - Initiatives and Highlighted Programs | [link](#)
    - Women in Agriculture | [link](#)
  - Grant & Loans | [link](#)
- **U.S. General Services Administration (GSA)** | [link](#)
  - features training resources for businesses, how to register your business with the federal government, subcontracting and set asides information, and much more

## Illinois Local Governments' Resources for Businesses

Below is a partial list of the largest counties and cities in Illinois. Please note that website addresses/URLs are subject to change as part of organizations' website updates. As below is not a complete list of all the cities, counties, & local economic development corporations in Illinois who provide local resources for business owners and future entrepreneurs, feel free to contact a team member from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity's (DCEO) [Regional Economic Development](#) (RED) and/or [Office of Minority Economic Empowerment](#) (OMEE) to be directed to regional resources. Click [here](#) to get connected with team members.

### Counties

- Adams County: [link](#) | [vendor/contractor opportunities](#)
- Champaign County: [link](#) | [vendor/contractor opportunities](#)
- Cook County: [link](#) | [vendor/contractor bidding opportunities](#) | [upcoming events](#)
- DeKalb County: [link](#) | [vendor/contractor bidding opportunities](#)
- DuPage County: [link](#) | [vendor/contractor bidding opportunities](#)
- Grundy County: [link](#) | [vendor/contractor bidding opportunities](#)
- Kane County: [link](#) | [vendor/contractor bidding opportunities](#)
- Jackson County: [link](#) | [vendor/contractor bidding opportunities](#)
- Jo Daviess County: [link](#) | [vendor/contractor bidding opportunities](#)
- Kankakee County: [link](#) | [vendor/contractor opportunities](#)
- Lake County: [link](#) | [vendor/contractor opportunities](#)
- Logan County: [link](#) | [vendor/contractor opportunities](#)
- McLean County: [link](#) | [vendor/contractor opportunities](#)

- McHenry County: [link](#) | **vendor/contractor opportunities**
- Peoria County: [link](#) | **vendor/contractor bidding opportunities**
- Rock Island County: [link](#) | **vendor/contractor bidding opportunities**
- Sangamon County: [link](#) | **vendor/contractor bidding opportunities**
- Will County: [link](#) | **vendor/contractor bidding opportunities**
- Winnebago County: [link](#) | **vendor/contractor bidding opportunities**

## Cites & Villages

- Alton: [link](#) | **vendor/contractor opportunities**
- Addison: [link](#) | **vendor/contractor opportunities**
- Arlington Heights: [link](#) | **vendor/contractor opportunities**
- Aurora: [link](#) | **vendor/contractor opportunities**
- Bloomington: [link](#) | **vendor/contractor bidding opportunities**
- Carbondale: [link](#) | **vendor/contractor bidding opportunities**
- Centralia: [link](#) | **vendor/contractor bidding opportunities**
- Champaign: [link](#) | **vendor/contractor bidding opportunities**
- Chicago: [link](#) | **vendor/contractor bidding opportunities** | **upcoming events**
- Danville: [link](#) | **vendor/contractor bidding opportunities**
- Decatur: [link](#) | **vendor/contractor bidding opportunities**
- DeKalb: [link](#) | **vendor/contractor opportunities**
- Edwardsville: [link](#) | **vendor/contractor opportunities**
- Effingham: [link](#) | **vendor/contractor bidding opportunities**
- Galena: [link](#) | **vendor/contractor bidding opportunities**
- Geneva: [link](#) | **vendor/contractor bidding opportunities**
- Highland Park: [link](#) | **vendor/contractor bidding opportunities**
- Joliet: [link](#) | **vendor/contractor bidding opportunities**
- Kankakee: [link](#) | **vendor/contractor bidding opportunities**
- LaSalle: [link](#) | **vendor/contractor bidding opportunities**
- Lincoln: [link](#) | **vendor/contractor bidding opportunities**
- Macomb: [link](#) | **vendor/contractor bidding opportunities**
- Marion: [link](#) | **vendor/contractor bidding opportunities**
- Mattoon: [link](#) | **vendor/contractor bidding opportunities**
- Moline: [link](#) | **vendor/contractor bidding opportunities**
- Morris: [link](#) | **vendor/contractor bidding opportunities**
- Naperville: [link](#) | **vendor/contractor bidding opportunities**
- Peoria: [link](#) | **vendor/contractor bidding opportunities**
- Pontiac: [link](#) | **vendor/contractor bidding opportunities**
- Quincy: [link](#) | **vendor/contractor bidding opportunities**
- Rantoul: [link](#) | **vendor/contractor bidding opportunities**
- Rockford: [link](#) | **vendor/contractor bidding opportunities**
- Rock Island: [link](#) | **vendor/contractor opportunities**
- Skokie: [link](#) | **vendor/contractor opportunities**
- Springfield: [link](#) | **vendor/contractor bidding opportunities**

- Sterling: [link](#) | **vendor/contractor opportunities**
- Streator: [link](#) | **vendor/contractor bidding opportunities**
- Sycamore: [link](#) | **vendor/contractor bidding opportunities**
- Waukegan: [link](#) | **vendor/contractor opportunities**
- Wheaton: [link](#) | **vendor/contractor opportunities**
- Wilmington: [link](#) | **vendor/contractor opportunities**
- Woodstock: [link](#) | **vendor/contractor opportunities**

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!

**Michelle Lura White**: Women's Business Development Manager

*(Illinois' liaison to women-owned businesses and future women entrepreneurs)*

Office of Minority Economic Empowerment (OMEE), Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO)

[Michelle.White@illinois.gov](mailto:Michelle.White@illinois.gov) | 872.272.0094



**Office of Minority Economic Empowerment (OMEE)**

*Serving marginalized communities including minority, women, persons with disabilities, and veteran owned businesses.*

**General Inquiries**  
[CEO.OMEE@illinois.gov](mailto:CEO.OMEE@illinois.gov)

**Matthew Simpson**  
African American Business Development Manager  
*Also supports Veteran owned businesses*

C: 312.520.0434  
[matthew.simpson@illinois.gov](mailto:matthew.simpson@illinois.gov)

**Edwin Tumlos**  
Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) Business Development Manager  
*Also supports LGBTQIA+, Persons with Disabilities owned businesses*

C: 773.965.5069  
[edwin.tumlos@illinois.gov](mailto:edwin.tumlos@illinois.gov)

**Diana Alfaro**  
Latinx Business Development Manager  
*Also supports American Indian (Native American), Arab/MENA owned businesses*

C: 312.919.3620  
[diana.alfaro@illinois.gov](mailto:diana.alfaro@illinois.gov)

**Michelle Lura White**  
Women's Business Development Manager

C: 872.272.0094  
[michelle.white@illinois.gov](mailto:michelle.white@illinois.gov)

## Team OMEE from the [Office of Minority Economic Empowerment \(OMEE\)](#) at the Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity (DCEO)

The Office of Minority Economic Empowerment (OMEE) 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, OMEE 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 OMEE.
- To view upcoming events hosted by Team OMEE, [click here](#).

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

The Office of Regional Economic Development (Team RED) at the Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity (DCEO), 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 \(EIT\)](#)

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

The Office of Trade & Investment (OTI) at DCEO 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 tradeshow, and outreach events and seminars.

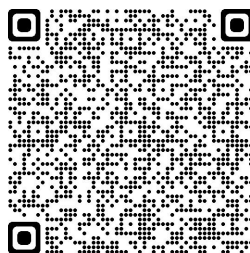
- As Team OTI is located both in Illinois and abroad, [click here](#) to connect with Team OTI.
- To attend upcoming OTI events, [click here](#).

## **Community Navigators**

Community Navigators support small businesses in Illinois who are identified as underserved including minority, rural, veteran, and women-owned businesses.

- [Click here](#) to find a Community Navigator near you.

**Scan below to access the State of Illinois Government's Resources Guide for HER Illinois Business on your phone, watch, and/or tablet:**



**Scan below** to access different resources guides on your phone, watch, and/or tablet. The guides can also be found at the very bottom of the OMEE Business Resource Library [webpage](#):

- Connecting HER to Illinois Business Resources Guide
- U.S. Federal & Illinois Local Governments' Resources Guide for HER Illinois Business
- Financial Capital Resources Guide for HER Illinois Business  
*(includes grant opportunities, loan programs, crowdfunding platforms, etc.)*
- Social Capital Resources Guide for HER Illinois Business  
*(includes accelerator/cohort/mentoring programs and networking opportunities)*

