



Federal & Local Illinois Governments' Resources for IL Women-Owned Businesses & Future Women Business Owners & Entrepreneurs as of August 2023

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

About DCEO's Programs & Services

The [Office of Minority Economic Empowerment \(OMEE\)](#) at the [Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity \(DCEO\)](#), is committed to providing minority-, women-, persons with disabilities and veteran-owned small businesses and entrepreneurs, overall marginalized owned businesses, 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. To learn about upcoming OMEE events, [click here](#). To get connected with Team OMEE, [click here](#).

Sign-up for e-updates from the Office of Minority Economic Empowerment (OMEE) at DCEO by visiting <https://bit.ly/3lphbpi> to receive updates for your business.

The [Office of 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.

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. To learn about upcoming RED events, [click here](#). Download a copy of the Illinois Economic Development Regional by clicking this [map](#) and to get connected with Team RED members who are located throughout Illinois, [click here](#).

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 7 well 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. Their expert team also leads trade missions, curated overseas tradeshow, and outreach events and seminars. The Office of Trade and Investment also administers the [Illinois State Trade & Export Program \(ISTEP\)](#), which is partially funded by the Small Business Administration (SBA) STEP grant, of which Illinois has been a top award recipient since 2011. The ISTEP program provides small businesses with both financial and technical assistance to increase their exports, including: Trade Missions (GTM), Individual Foreign Market Sales Missions (IFMSM), and Product Compliance (PC), Website Localization (WL) and Export Education Program (EEP). For learn about upcoming OTI events & webinars including trade missions, [click here](#).

DCEO's [Climate and Equitable Jobs Act \(CEJA\)](#) programming such as the future [Clean Energy Contractor Incubator Program](#) and [Clean Energy Primes Contractor Accelerator Program](#) will help Illinois' workforce prepare for and train for jobs in the clean energy industry and to provide support to workers and communities facing plant closures. These programs prioritize Illinoisians who live in communities that have historically faced economic barriers and environmental damage, bolstering a diverse workforce in the clean energy industry. [Click here](#) to receive updates about CEJA program implementation.

[The Small Business Community Navigators Program](#) is a support program for small businesses in the State of Illinois which targets businesses in Illinois that are identified as underserved including minority, rural, veteran, and women-owned businesses. The program is a hub and spoke model, bringing together community organizations from across the State of Illinois. The spokes will offer grassroots engagement with small businesses to assist with access to grants, financial planning, marketing outreach, and technical assistance. As community navigators provide 1:1 regional support service for small businesses, [click here](#) to find your community outreach with the B2B search which also includes listings by language or by county.

To learn about more about additional DCEO offices, programs, and services such as [Workforce Development](#), the [Illinois Film Office](#), [Illinois Works Contractor Resources](#), the [Illinois Adult-Use Cannabis Social Equity Program](#) etc., [click here](#).

Additional State of Illinois Government Resources/Programs/Upcoming Events

- **Illinois Biz Hub** | [link](#)
 - list/share your upcoming event by [clicking here](#)
- **State of Illinois Resources for Businesses** (*includes state agencies' resources*) | [link](#)

Federal Government Resources for Businesses

Below is not a complete list of all the U.S. federal agencies including its offices, programs, services, resources, upcoming events, etc. for business owners and entrepreneurs.

- **USA.Gov** | [link](#)
centralize website featuring U.S. federal government agencies' grant opportunities
- **Sam.Gov** | [link](#)
centralize website featuring U.S. federal government agencies' business contracting opportunities and registering your business with the federal government
- **U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA)-Illinois District Office** | [link](#) | [upcoming events](#)
 - Office of Women's Business Ownership (OWBO) | [link](#)
 - Ascent (*platform for women entrepreneurs*) | [link](#)
 - LGBTQ-owned businesses | [link](#)
 - Minority-owned businesses | [link](#)
 - Office of Veterans Business Development (OVBD) | [link](#)
 - Rural businesses | [link](#)
- **U.S. Department of Commerce** | [link](#)
 - services for businesses | [link](#)
 - bureaus and offices | [link](#)
 - International Trade Administration (ITA) | [link](#)
 - Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) | [link](#)
 - U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) | [link](#)

- **U.S. Department of Agriculture** | [link](#)
 - Initiatives and Highlighted Programs | [link](#)
 - Women in Agriculture | [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 not a complete list of all the cities, counties, & local economic development corporations in Illinois who provide local resources for business owners and entrepreneurs. Click on the hyperlinks to be directed to webpages.

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](#)

Cities & 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 federal and/or Illinois local government business resource. We're here to support you!

- **Michelle Lura White** | Women's Business Development Manager (Illinois' liaison to women-owned businesses and future women business owners & entrepreneurs)
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- Team OMEE from the **Office of Minority Economic Empowerment (OMEE)** at the Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity (DCEO)
 - [Click here](#) to connect with Team OMEE.



Office of Minority Economic Empowerment (OMEE)

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

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Diana Alfaro
 Latinx Business Development Manager

Also supports American Indian (Native American), Arab/MENA businesses

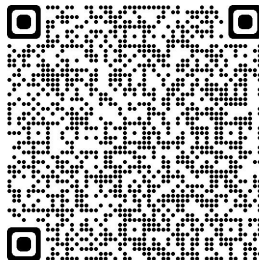
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- Team RED from the [Regional Economic Development \(RED\)](#) at the Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity (DCEO)
 - Team RED is located throughout Illinois. [Click here](#) to connect with Team RED.
- Team OTI from the [Office of Trade & Investment \(OTI\)](#) at the Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity (DCEO)
 - Team OTI is located in Illinois and abroad. [Click here](#) to connect with Team OTI.
- [Community Navigators](#)
 - Community Navigators are located throughout Illinois. [Click here](#) to find a Community Navigator.

Scan below to access this Federal & Local Governments' Resources for IL Women-Owned Businesses on your phone or tablet:



Scan below to access different resource guides for Illinois women-owned businesses on your phone or tablet, which can be found on the very bottom of the OMEE Business Library [webpage](#):

- State of Illinois (state government) Resources Guide for IL Women-Owned Businesses
- Financial Capital Resources Guide for Illinois Women-Owned Businesses
- Social Capital (mentoring & networking) Resources Guide for IL Women-Owned Businesses

