



Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity

JB Pritzker, Governor



Guide to Federal Agencies for Illinois Businesses

This guide provides websites and contacts for the most common federal agencies that current and aspiring business owners may need to engage with for services and compliance resources.

Taxes and Reporting

Internal Revenue Service (IRS)

Purpose: Administers federal business taxes, including income, payroll, and excise taxes. Issues Employer Identification Numbers (EINs) for business use, if needed.

- **Contact:**
Phone: 800-829-4933 (Business & Specialty Tax Line)
- **Website:** <https://www.irs.gov/businesses>

Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN)

Purpose: Collects and maintains Beneficial Ownership Information (BOI) reports. Enforces anti-money laundering rules for certain financial businesses.

- **Contact:**
Phone: 800-767-2825
Email: frc@fincen.gov
- **Website:** <https://www.fincen.gov/boi>

Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC)

Purpose: Regulates securities offerings, investment firms, and public company reporting. Businesses raising capital or advising investors must comply with SEC rules.

- **Contact:**
Phone: 800-732-0330
Email: help@sec.gov
- **Website:** <https://www.sec.gov>

Taxes and Reporting (cont.)

Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) – U.S. Department of Treasury

Purpose: Enforces trade sanctions. Businesses must avoid transactions with sanctioned individuals, entities, or countries and may need to screen customers and vendors against the OFAC Specially Designated Nationals (SDN) list.

- **Contact:**
Phone: 800-540-6322
 - **Website:** <https://ofac.treasury.gov>
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Financing and Banking

Small Business Administration (SBA)

Purpose: Provides small business funding through loans and guarantees, offers counseling and planning resources, and manages federal contracting and disaster assistance programs.

- **Contact:**
Phone: 800-827-5722
Email: answerdesk@sba.gov
 - **Website:** <https://www.sba.gov/>
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Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC)

Purpose: Regulates and insures banks and savings institutions. Businesses in banking and finance must comply with FDIC safety and consumer protection requirements.

- **Contact:**
Phone: 877-275-3342
 - **Website:** <https://www.fdic.gov>
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Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC) – U.S. Department of Treasury

Purpose: Regulates and supervises national banks and federal savings associations. Businesses operating as financial institutions must meet OCC compliance standards.

- **Contact:**
Phone: 202-649-6800
- **Website:** <https://www OCC.treas.gov>

Financing and Banking (cont.)

Federal Reserve System (The Fed)

Purpose: Regulates bank holding companies, financial services, and certain lending practices. Businesses in banking and financial services may be subject to Federal Reserve oversight.

- **Contact:**
Phone: 202-452-3000
 - **Website:** <https://www.federalreserve.gov>
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Employment and Labor

U.S. Department of Labor (DOL)

Purpose: Enforces federal workplace laws covering wages, overtime, benefits, nondiscrimination, and family leave. Businesses must comply with DOL standards in addition to state labor laws.

- **Contact:**
Phone: 866-487-2365
 - **Website:** <https://www.dol.gov>
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Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)

Purpose: Enforces federal workplace safety and health laws. Businesses must provide safe and healthy workplaces by complying with OSHA standards for training, hazard prevention, reporting, and inspections.

- **Contact:**
Phone: 800-321-6742
 - **Website:** <https://www.osha.gov>
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Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC)

Purpose: Enforces federal laws prohibiting workplace discrimination. Businesses with 15+ employees must comply with EEOC rules.

- **Contact:**
Phone: 800-669-4000
- **Website:** <https://www.eeoc.gov>

Employment and Labor (cont.)

National Labor Relations Board (NLRB)

Purpose: Oversees employer–employee relations during union activity and investigates unfair labor practices.

- **Contact:**
Phone: 202-273-1000
Email: publicinfo@nrlb.gov
 - **Website:** <https://www.nrlb.gov>
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Department of Homeland Security (DHS) / U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)

Purpose: Businesses that hire employees must use Form I-9 and may need to use E-Verify to confirm work authorization.

- **Contact:**
Phone: 800-375-5283
 - **Website:** <https://www.uscis.gov>
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Health, Safety, and Environment

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Purpose: Enforces regulations on emissions, water discharge, hazardous waste, and chemical reporting. Businesses must obtain permits and comply with EPA standards.

- **Contact:**
Phone: 800-368-5888
 - **Website:** <https://www.epa.gov/>
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Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

Purpose: Approves and regulates drugs, medical devices, cosmetics, and certain foods. Businesses must obtain FDA approval before marketing products and comply with labeling, packaging, and Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP).

- **Contact:**
Phone: 888-463-6332
Email: askCTP@fda.hhs.gov
- **Website:** <https://www.fda.gov/>

Health, Safety, and Environment (cont.)

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

Purpose: Enforces HIPAA privacy and security rules through the Office for Civil Rights (OCR). Businesses in healthcare, insurance, or handling medical data must comply.

- **Contact:**
Phone: 877-696-6775
 - **Website:** <https://www.hhs.gov/>
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Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA)

Purpose: Licenses and regulates the manufacture, distribution, and dispensing of controlled substances. Businesses handling these substances must obtain a DEA registration.

- **Contact:**
Phone: 800-882-9539
 - **Website:** <https://www.dea.gov/>
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U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)

Purpose: Sets energy efficiency standards for certain products, regulates nuclear materials, and provides grants and technical support for energy innovation. Businesses must meet DOE efficiency standards and obtain approvals for regulated energy activities.

- **Contact:**
Phone: 202-586-7377
 - **Website:** <https://www.energy.gov>
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U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) – Rural Development

Purpose: Provides loans, grants, and loan guarantees to help start, expand, or sustain rural businesses. Rural businesses may apply for financial support and technical assistance through local partnerships.

- **Contact:**
Phone: 800-414-1226
- **Website:** <https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/business-programs>

Trade, Transportation, and Imports/Exports

U.S. Department of Commerce – Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS)

Purpose: Licenses and regulates exports of goods, software, and technology. Businesses must obtain export licenses and comply with the Export Administration Regulations (EAR), which govern dual-use items and certain commercial exports.

- **Contact:**
Phone: 202-482-4811 (Export Counseling Division)
 - **Website:** <https://www.bis.doc.gov>
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U.S. Department of State – Directorate of Defense Trade Controls (DDTC)

Purpose: Administers the International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR). Businesses that manufacture, export, or broker defense articles or defense services must register with DDTC and obtain required licenses.

- **Contact:**
Phone: 202-663-2838
 - **Website:** <https://www.pmddtc.state.gov>
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U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP)

Purpose: Regulates businesses that import or export goods. Businesses must comply with customs duties, tariffs, labeling rules, and trade compliance requirements when shipping across U.S. borders.

- **Contact:**
Phone: 877-227-5511
 - **Website:** <https://www.cbp.gov/trade>
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Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA)

Purpose: Regulates interstate motor carriers, issues USDOT numbers, and enforces driver and vehicle safety requirements.

- **Contact:**
Phone: 800-832-5660
- **Website:** <https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/registration>

Trade, Transportation, and Imports/Exports (cont.)

Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA)

Purpose: Regulates and registers businesses that transport hazardous materials. Enforces safety and handling standards.

- **Contact:**
Phone: 800-467-4922
Email: infocntr@dot.gov
 - **Website:** <https://www.phmsa.dot.gov/>
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National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

Purpose: Oversees fisheries management and marine product import compliance. Businesses engaged in fishing, importing marine products, or Great Lakes activities must obtain permits and follow NOAA rules.

- **Contact:**
Phone: 301-427-8500
 - **Website:** <https://www.noaa.gov/>
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U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

Purpose: Issues permits for endangered species, migratory birds, and import or export of wildlife and related products. Businesses must obtain required permits for wildlife-related activities and trade.

- **Contact:**
Phone: 800-344-9453
- **Website:** <https://www.fws.gov/>

Licensing and Intellectual Property

Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB)

Purpose: Issues permits and collects taxes for businesses that produce, import, or wholesale alcohol. Approves product labels for alcoholic beverages.

- **Contact:**
Phone: 877-882-3277
 - **Website:** <https://www.ttb.gov>
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U.S. Patent & Trademark Office (USPTO)

Purpose: Registers trademarks and patents and administers protections for intellectual property. Businesses can file for registration to secure exclusive rights and protection.

- **Contact:**
Phone: 800-786-9199 (Trademark Assistance Center)

Email: usptoinfo@uspto.gov (general inquiries)
TrademarkAssistanceCenter@uspto.gov (trademark specific inquiries)
 - **Website:** <https://www.uspto.gov>
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Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives (ATF)

Purpose: Issues Federal Firearms Licenses (FFLs), regulates firearm and ammunition businesses, and enforces National Firearms Act (NFA) compliance.

- **Contact:**
Phone: 866-662-2750 (ATF Licensing Center)
Email: FFLC@atf.gov
 - **Website:** <https://www.atf.gov/>
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Federal Communications Commission (FCC)

Purpose: Licenses and regulates radio, television, satellite, broadband, and certain wireless communications. Businesses must obtain FCC licenses and comply with communication service regulations.

- **Contact:**
Phone: 888-225-5322
- **Website:** <https://www.fcc.gov/>

Licensing and Intellectual Property (cont.)

Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)

Purpose: Certifies and regulates air carriers, drone operations, aircraft maintenance, and flight schools. Businesses must obtain FAA certifications and comply with operational and safety standards.

- **Contact:**
Phone: 866-835-5322
 - **Website:** <https://www.faa.gov/>
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Consumer Protection and Fair Competition

Federal Trade Commission (FTC)

Purpose: Enforces consumer protection and antitrust laws. Businesses must avoid deceptive advertising, unfair competition, data privacy violations, and anticompetitive practices.

- **Contact:**
Phone: 877-382-4357
 - **Website:** <https://www.ftc.gov>
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Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB)

Purpose: Regulates businesses that offer consumer financial products or services. Businesses that offer consumer financial products must comply with CFPB disclosure, lending, and reporting rules, and respond to complaints filed through the bureau.

- **Contact:**
Phone: 855-729-2372 (Business & Regulatory Inquiries)
- **Website:** <https://www.consumerfinance.gov/compliance/>