



ILLINOIS TOLLWAY NEWS

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ILLINOIS TOLLWAY HOSTING OCTOBER 23 EVENT IN NAPERVILLE FOR SMALL AND DIVERSE BUSINESSES PURSUING STATE CONTRACTS

Workshops offer resources, enable one-on-one meetings with vendors, for firms seeking contracts to provide goods and services to the Tollway and other government agencies

DOWNERS GROVE, IL – The Illinois Tollway is hosting an October 23 Contracting with Government event in Naperville to connect small, diverse and veteran-owned firms with training and resources intended to expand their opportunities to provide goods and services to the Tollway and other government agencies.

During this event, the Tollway is partnering with other agencies to share annual procurement buying plans related to information technology and other needed services and goods, as well as offer workshops that will help businesses better understand how to navigate the state procurement processes and certification requirements.

More than 40 exhibitors, including representatives from state and county agencies, information technology vendors and local chambers of commerce, will be on hand from to provide information about contracting opportunities and resources available to assist business owners.

“We’re always working to provide more opportunities for small, diverse and veteran-owned firms to do business with the Tollway and other state agencies by providing the resources and information that will enable them to better compete for contracts,” said Illinois Tollway Executive Director Cassaundra Rouse. “This event helps us achieve that goal by offering entrepreneurs and business owners the opportunity to speak directly with staff from the Tollway and other state agencies about the steps they can take and the programs available to assist them as they seek state contracts. The Tollway is committed to broadening its pool of qualified contractors to reflect the diverse communities we serve across the region.”

Government agencies scheduled to participate include Illinois Commission on Equity and Inclusion, Illinois Department of Transportation, Illinois Chief Procurement Office for General Services, Illinois APEX Accelerator, Illinois Department of Central Management Services, Office of Economic Equity & Empowerment (OE3), City of Chicago, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, Forest Preserves of Cook County, Regional Transportation Authority and Chicago Transit Authority.

Additionally, information technology firms also will have representatives present, including Accenture, Cisco, CDW, Dell, DivIHN, ETC/Quarterhill, Krasan Consulting, Motorola, Presidio, Red Hat, SAP, SDI Presence and ServiceNow.

The October 23 event runs from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Matrix Club, 808 S. Illinois Route 59, in Naperville. On-site registration and check-in begin at 8 a.m. Interested businesses can register in advance via the Tollway’s website www.illinoistollway.com/contractingwithgovernment.

“I’m thrilled we’re hosting this here in Naperville,” said Naperville Mayor Scott Wehrli. “This event gives small and diverse businesses from across our city and our neighboring communities the know-how to

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pursue and win work with the Tollway and other public agencies. When they succeed, it paves the way to great paychecks for our area residents, which helps keep our local economy thriving. As a city, we share the Tollway's commitment to a fair, level playing field so every qualified firm, no matter its size or ownership, has a real shot at earning business from public agencies."

As part of the Contracting with Government event, a Learning Lab will be open all day to assist business owners in registering to obtain information about upcoming state contracting opportunities. Firms can also receive training in using the state's BidBuy system, where agencies to advertise and receive bids for the goods and services they require.

Entrepreneurs also can sign up for Quick Connect meetings that will enable them to speak personally with firms already doing business with state agencies to ask questions and obtain additional guidance about pursuing state contracts.

Additionally, the Illinois Tollway will provide access to its Technical Assistance providers to offer businesses development resources and assistance.

Contracting with Government participants can attend workshops offered by the Tollway and other state agencies outlining their procurement and contracting practices, as well as providing information on how businesses can register to participate in the state's Business Enterprise Program (BEP) or the Small Business Set-Aside Program.

Workshops offered will include:

- How to do Business with the Tollway: Goods and Services – Illinois Tollway
- Doing Business with the Tollway: a Deeper Dive – Illinois Tollway
- How to Get Business Enterprise Program and Veteran Certified – The Commission on Equity and Inclusion
- Navigating BidBuy and Small Business Registration in the Illinois Procurement Gateway – Chief Procurement Office for General Services
- Grants for Small Businesses – Office of Economic Equity & Empowerment
- Introducing Xchange Chicago – presented by P33, SDI and Comer Education Campus
- How to Do Business with Accenture – Accenture

As part of the event, the Illinois Tollway will have information available on expected procurements needed for the agency, including information technology, business systems, roadway and facilities departments. Vendors working in the Tollway's Job Order Contracting Program, which involves projects related to electrical, flooring, HVAC, masonry, plumbing, roofing and other general construction projects at Tollway facilities, will also be present at the event.

About the Illinois Tollway

The Illinois Tollway is a user-fee system that receives no state or federal funds for maintenance and operations. The agency maintains and operates 294 miles of roadways in 12 counties in Northern Illinois, including the Reagan Memorial Tollway (I-88), the Veterans Memorial Tollway (I-355), the Jane Addams Memorial Tollway (I-90), the Tri-State Tollway (I-94/I-294/I-80) and the Illinois Route 390 Tollway.

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