

State of Illinois

Office of Economic Equity & Empowerment (OE3)

Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO)



Illinois
Department of Commerce
& Economic Opportunity

JB Pritzker, Governor

Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO)



DCEO supports statewide economic development by offering resources and services to:

Businesses

Individuals

Communities

Contact Us



dceo.illinois.gov

Office of Economic Equity & Empowerment (OE3)

We advocate for equitable economic opportunities across the state of Illinois for minorities-, women-, veteran-owned businesses, businesses owned by persons with disabilities, eligible not-for-profit corporations, and other underserved communities.

Outreach & Advocacy

Grants & Loans

Contact Us



dceo.illinois.gov/oe3

Some of our programs:



Adult-Use Cannabis Social Equity Program

bit.ly/4sESZoT



bit.ly/3Pf7PUJ



bit.ly/4pzsdg8



bit.ly/48wkOrQ

State Small Business Credit Initiative (SSCBI) TA



bit.ly/4c0X3us

Small Business Capital & Infrastructure Program

Economic Empowerment Centers (EECs)



DCEO and OE3 launched the Illinois Economic Empowerment Centers Program (EEC Program) to provide grants to eligible career education agencies and not-for-profit corporations, including local development corporations, chambers of commerce, community-based business outreach centers and other community-based organizations.

The centers offer training, mentorship, support, resources and other enterprise-building opportunities to various individuals seeking to explore business enterprise opportunities.



About EECs

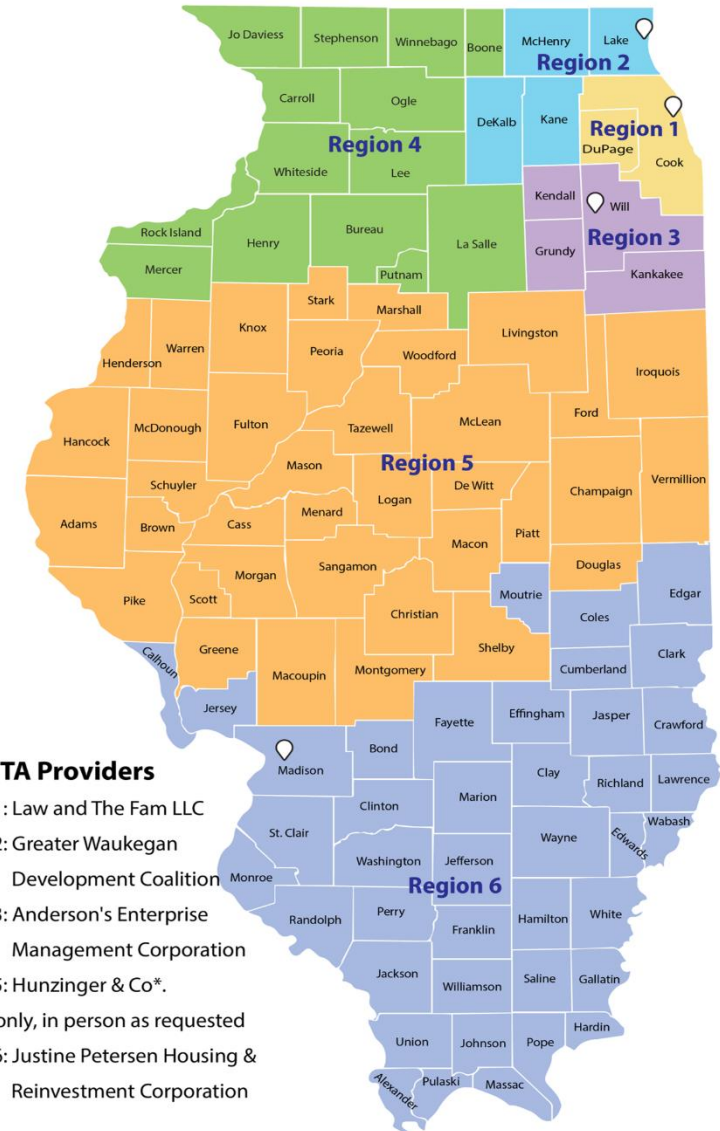


bit.ly/4pzsdg8

State Small Business Credit Initiative (SSBCI) TA

The SSBCI Technical Assistance (TA) Program will prioritize services that promote equitable economic opportunities for participating businesses across the state by enhancing their awareness and readiness to apply for and acquire capital, in addition to fostering entrepreneurial growth and enhancing financial and business management skills. Illinois' Loan TA Program has been developed to provide legal, accounting, and financial advisory services intended to help SEDI-owned businesses and VSBs access SSBCI capital or participate in other federal or other jurisdiction programs that support small businesses.

Additional information
about SSBCI TA
program will be
available soon



OE3 Business Tools

OE3 is a bridge between state services and external business resources, ensuring organizations can easily find the tools and support necessary to grow and operate effectively. The resources below highlight how OE3 connects businesses with both state agencies and a broad range of external partners.

Business Resource
Library

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



Business Resource
Guides

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



Business Basics
Video Series

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



Illinois Black
Business Survey

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





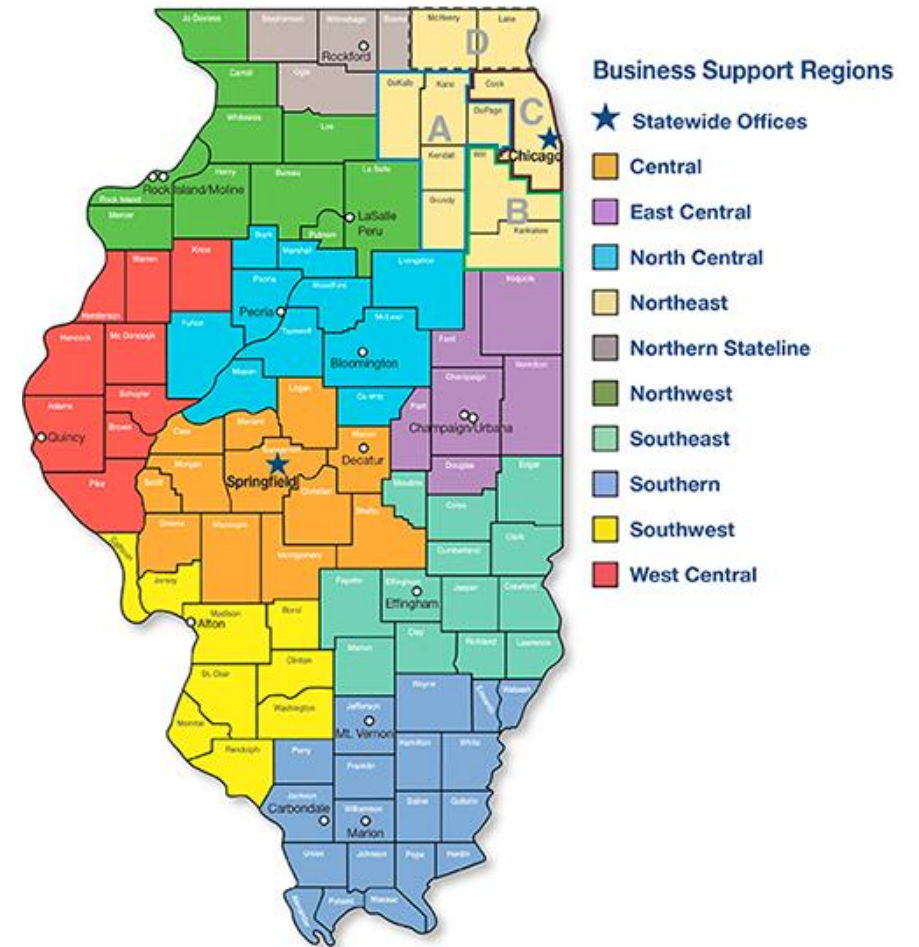
Additional DCEO Technical Assistance for Businesses



Regional Economic Development (RED)

What does Team RED do?

- Provides targeted counseling and regional engagement across 10 regions statewide
- Assists businesses with tax incentives, tax credits, and other capital opportunities
- Supports business retention, expansion, and attraction



Contact Us



bit.ly/4qoVsCr

Business Information Center

Business Information Center is a single statewide resource for entrepreneurs and businesses to obtain comprehensive regulatory, licensing, and permitting information.

Services Include:



Toll free helpline 800.252.2923 or email us at BIC@illinois.gov (English/Spanish)



Searchable guide of available programs and services



Starting Your Business in Illinois Handbook
(English/Spanish)



Helpful small business publications and guides



Searchable inventory of business requirements and resources.

Contact Us

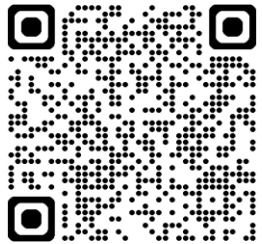


bit.ly/3KjS3Ge

Illinois Small Business Development Centers (SBDC)

The Illinois Small Business Development Centers (SBDC) network is comprised of strategically positioned locations across the state of Illinois that provide no-cost, confidential advising and training to **for-profit** small businesses and entrepreneurs at all business stages and revenue levels.

The Illinois SBDC is funded through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration & DCEO, and host organization.



Find SBDCs in your area:
bit.ly/44uAOJ2



Services SBDCs Provide:

(including but not limited to)



Business

- Business Plan Assistance
- Financial Analysis and Planning
- Web Integration Development
- Cybersecurity Mitigation
- Strategic Planning
- Assistance Accessing Capital
- Business Education and Training



Environment

- Environmental Assistance
- Disaster Preparedness



Marketing

- Market Expansion
- Marketing Assistance
- E-Commerce Strategies
- International Market Expansion



Regulation

- Regulatory Assistance
- Government Contracting
- Workplace Safety Protection

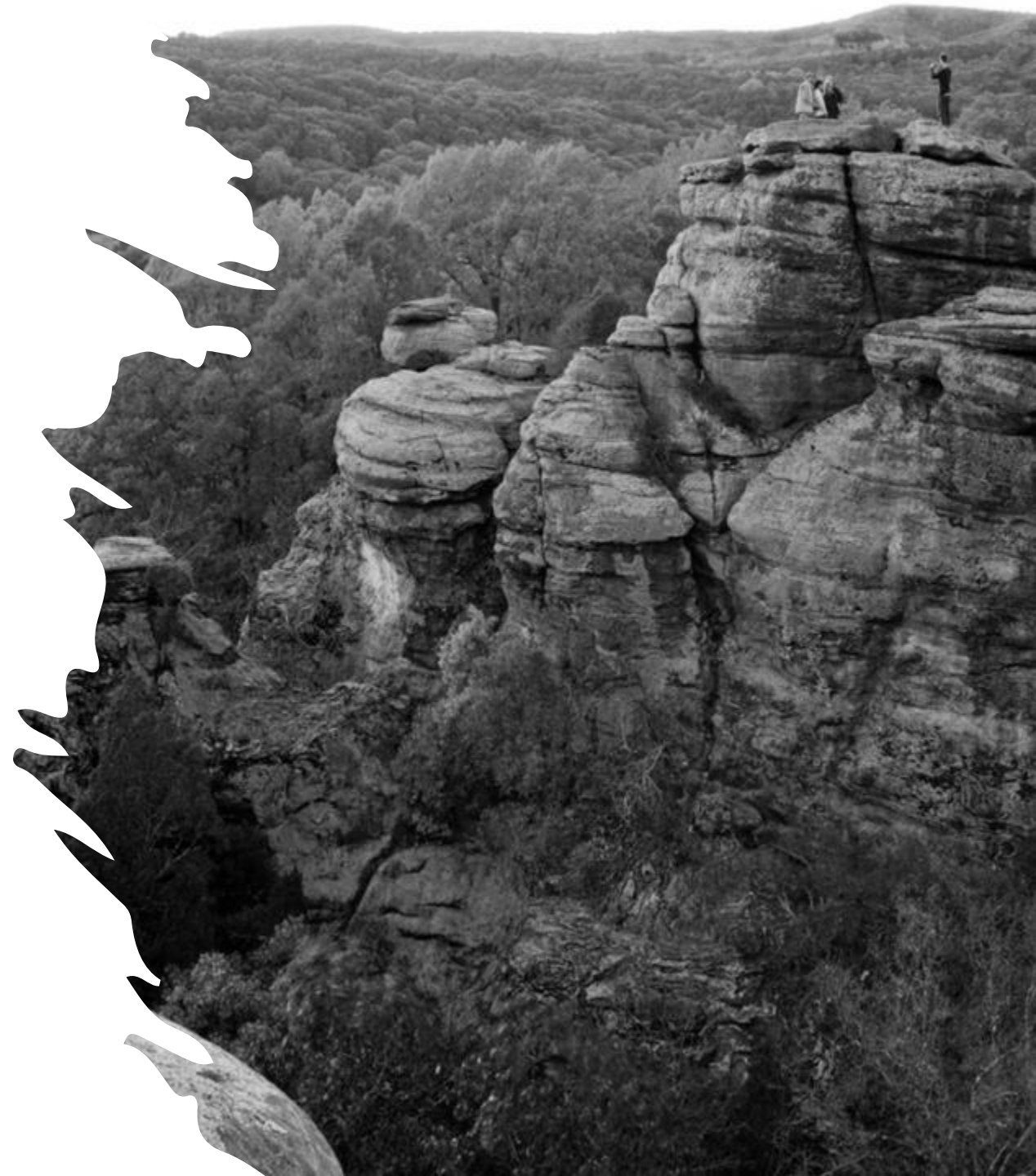
Small Business Environmental Assistance Program (SBEAP)

SBEAP assists small businesses understand and comply with environmental obligations.

Contact Us



bit.ly/4srqWZtF



Funding Opportunities, Training, & Resources

Funding Opportunities

Online with OE3



bit.ly/4st5ggB

OE3 Newsletter



bit.ly/3K6nXCO

DCEO Loans



bit.ly/3PrniBu

GATA



bit.ly/4bAVPWY

DCEO Grants



bit.ly/4gJG8MX

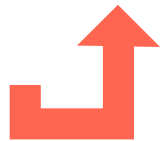
Advantage Illinois (AI) Participation Loan Program

The Advantage Illinois Participating Loan Program provides funding to borrowers who have difficulty accessing traditional funding sources. DCEO takes subordinate position thereby reducing lender risk. If your lender wants to participate, please let us know.

Maximum participation is the **lesser of 25%** of the project, 50% of the loan, or \$2 million



Maximum term is 7 years



Rate fixed at 2% below lender rate with a floor of 2%



Each \$50,000 participated, one FT job should be created or retained in the next two years



Maximum participation is the **lesser of 50%** of the project (all sources of funding), 50% of the loan, or \$2 million



Maximum term is 7 years



Rate fixed at 2% flat



Each \$65,000 participated, one FT job should be created or retained in the next two years.

Advantage Illinois is applicable for:

 <p>Real estate (must be 51% or more occupied by the business)</p>	 <p>Equipment</p>	 <p>Inventory</p>
 <p>Working Capital</p>	 <p>Leasehold Improvements</p>	 <p>Accounts Receivable</p>

Addresses the obstacles that hinder businesses from securing financing.

- Collateral and/or equity shortfalls
- Lack of historical cash flow (Start-up)
- Low credit score
- Negative Net Worth

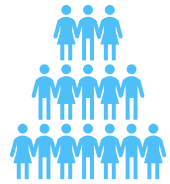


FAQs about Advantage Illinois:
bit.ly/46CLjLS

Climate Bank Finance Participation Loan Program

Financing for the start-up and/or expansion of ventures directly involving environmentally-supportive, “green” businesses, including those that address the adverse impacts of climate change. This program is overseen by DCEO and administered by the Illinois Finance Authority (IFA).

Maximum participation is the **lesser of 25%** of the total project, 50% of the loan, or \$2 million



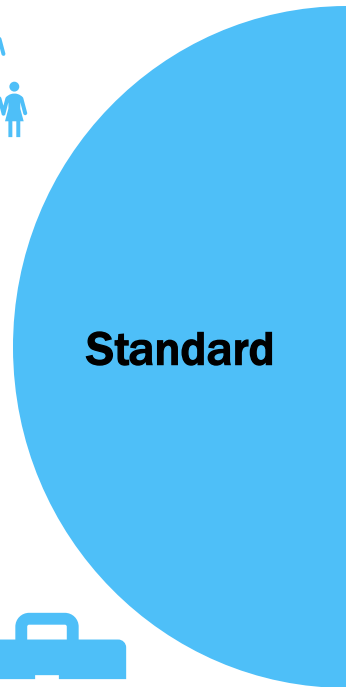
Maximum term is 7 years



Rate fixed at 2% per annum



Each \$50,000 participated, one FT job should be created or retained in the next two years



Maximum participation is the **lesser of 50%** of the total project, 50% of the loan, or \$2 million



Maximum term is 7 years



Rate fixed at 1% flat per annum



Each \$65,000 participated, one FT job should be created or retained in the next two years.



IFA CLIMATE BANK ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

Contact Us



bit.ly/4a6WIFW



Clean air/water projects and wastewater treatment



Production/installation/servicing of electric vehicles
and EV charging stations



Energy conservation



Broadband expansion for rural and other underserved
communities



Production/installation/servicing of wind/hydro/solar
equipment



Clean energy generation, alternative fuels, and
new battery technologies



Biomaterial production and sustainable
agricultural practices



Other efforts providing environmental benefit/counter
the impacts of climate change

Illinois Innovation Venture (INVENT) Fund

Program Design and Goal

- Focused on addressing barriers to accessing capital
- Lack of access/exposure to fundraising processes, particularly to very small businesses (VSBs), businesses owned by Socially and Economically Disadvantaged Individuals (SEDI)
- Capital Disadvantaged Businesses where founders represent disproportionately impacted areas or historically underrepresented groups
- Industry-specific challenges (e.g., long time horizon)
- Encourages public private collaboration

General Criteria

- Fundraising round up to \$20 million
- In good standing with the Illinois Secretary of State
- Principal place of business/headquarters is in Illinois, or is willing to move its principal HQ within two years
- At least 51% of the employees are based in Illinois
- DCEO is unable to invest without private capital participation



Contact Us





bit.ly/4iOjswE

Climate and Equitable Jobs Act (CEJA) Workforce and Contractor Programs




\$74M

Economic Development Jobs and Environmental Justice



-  Coal to Solar
-  Energy Transition Community Grant
-  Equitable Energy Future Grant
-  Solar Energy Sovereignty Grant

\$57M

Workforce Training Programs



-  Clean Jobs Workforce Network
-  Climate Works Pre-Apprenticeship
-  Returning Resident Clean Jobs
-  FEJA Workforce Programs

Workforce Support Programs

-  Energy Transition Navigators
-  Energy Transition Barrier Reduction

\$30M

Contractor Support Programs

-  Contractor Incubator
-  Contractor Primes Accelerator



Learn more

CEO.CEJA@illinois.gov

Grant Pre-Qualification Requirements:



PRE-QUALIFICATION INFORMATION	
SAM.gov Account:	Good
Federal Employer ID (FEIN):	Good
Federal Excluded Parties List:	Good
Federal Delinquent Debt:	Good
Illinois Secretary of State:	Good
Illinois Stop Payment List:	Good
Illinois DHFS Sanction List:	Good



In order to be pre-qualified, an applicant **MUST** be registered in GATA and be in “good” status for all requirements within GATA.

Training & Resources

OE3 Business Library

Videos, helpful guides, and links to information that will assist business owners as they build a successful company in Illinois.



bit.ly/4qGd0ez

DCEO Video Grant Trainings

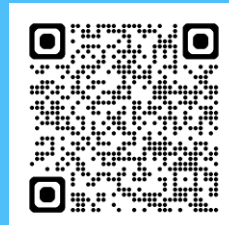
Training videos will introduce current and potential grantees to the content, functions, and processes of grant programs.



bit.ly/47JwJl3

DCEO Live Grant Trainings

DCEO offers three training options for current and potential grantees. Recording of past sessions are available.



bit.ly/4qJA24e

A grayscale photograph of an elderly woman with short white hair and glasses, wearing a dark top and a dark apron. She is standing in a rooftop garden with various plants and raised beds. In the background, there are several multi-story brick buildings under a clear sky. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent dark blue banner at the top and a white banner at the bottom right containing a logo and text.

Additional Program Opportunities Available



Office of Trade and Investment (OTI)

The Illinois Office of Trade and Investment (OTI) opens international markets for Illinois companies and organizations and promotes foreign direct investment to Illinois.

Services Include:

- Export Assistance and Education
- Illinois State Trade and Export Promotion (ISTEP) program
- International Promotion and Logistics Support
- Market Intelligence and International Protocol
- Foreign Direct Investment Promotion and Lead Generation
- Trade Mission Coordination
- Education Exchanges
- Sister State (and organization) agreement facilitation

Partners

- Economic Development Organizations, Local Chambers of Commerce, Industry Associations, and Universities
- Foreign Consulates, Chambers of Commerce, and International Trade Organizations
- Private sector service providers who provide either no charge or minimal cost export assistance programs



U.S. Small Business Administration

About OTI



bit.ly/400PPQ3/

Illinois State Trade and Export Promotion (ISTEP) Program

Qualified Illinois businesses can apply for OTI's ISTEP Program*, which provides financial reimbursements to companies to offset costs associated with export promotion activities.

- ✓ Group Trade Missions
- ✓ Individual Foreign Market Sales Missions
- ✓ Website Localization and eCommerce
- ✓ Product Certification
- ✓ EXIM Bank Export Credit Insurance
- ✓ Business Matchmaking and/or Market Intelligence



Contact Us



bit.ly/4pcZm1G

*Funded in part through a U.S. Small Business Administration grant





Illinois Office of Tourism

The **Illinois Office of Tourism** manages industry efforts that result in sustainable and significant economic and quality-of-life benefits for Illinois residents. Tourism grants are not open the entire year. It is important to check the availability of the grant before attempting to apply.

Tourism Grants

- Local Tourism and Convention Bureau Grant Program (LTCB)
- International Tourism Grants
- Tourism Private Sector Grants
- Tourism Marketing Partnership Grants
- Route 66 Grant
- Tourism Attraction Grant
- Tourism Incentive Grant

Contact Us



bit.ly/4rI07GI

*Tourism is solely funded by a percentage of the state hotel-motel tax.

Illinois Made



Illinois Made celebrates those makers, creators, and artisans who help craft Illinois by hand, inspiring visitors and fellow Illinoisans to discover more about the state by experiencing firsthand the passion that makes it thrive.

Examples of Illinois-made makers include



Artisans & Craftspeople



Food & Beverage Artisans



Farmers, Winemakers/Viticulturists



Global Makers



Would you like to join Illinois made or nominate a business?
Fill out the form at
<https://www.enjoyillinois.com/illinois-made/illinois-made-criteria/>

Contact Us



bit.ly/401todz

Business Enterprise Program (BEP) and Veterans Business Program (VBP) by the Illinois Commission on Equity and Inclusion (CEI)

What is the Business Enterprise Program?



The Business Enterprise Program is committed to fostering an inclusive and competitive business environment that will help businesses owned by Minorities, Women and Persons with Disabilities and Veterans increase their capacity, grow revenue, and enhance credentials.

About BEP



What is the Veterans Business Program?



The VBP is committed to fostering an inclusive, equitable and competitive business environment that will support qualified service disabled and veteran-owned business gain access to State of Illinois procurement contracting opportunities.

About VBP



Help Desk

312-814-4190

1-800-356-9206

CEI.BEP@illinois.gov

312-814-4190

1-800-356-9206

A grayscale photograph of two men in a coffee shop. The man on the left, wearing glasses and a dark apron over a light shirt, is smiling and pouring coffee from a metal pitcher into a glass coffee maker. The man on the right, with a beard and wearing a light jacket over a white shirt, is also smiling and standing next to a Chemex-style coffee maker. The background shows shelves with coffee supplies and a chalkboard with some text. The overall scene is bright and professional.

Additional Workforce Resources



Illinois workNet® Web Portal System

Illinois workNet (IwN) is the state's web portal system for workforce development.



Open to all job seekers, employers, and education and workforce partners



Home to Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) resources, services and tools.



Everyone benefits from the range of career and workforce development functions beginning with career exploration through adult career transition.

Contact Us



illinoisworknet.com



Contact Us



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Manager

*Also supports American
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Arab/MENA, LGBTQIA+-
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Markayle Tolliver

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Michelle Lura White

Women's Business
Development Manager



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872-272-0094



Erik Castelan

Latinx Business Development
Specialist



Erik.Castelan@illinois.gov



447-226-8404

*AAPI Business Development Manager to be hired

Office of Economic Equity & Empowerment



CEO.OE3@illinois.gov



Sign up for OE3 newsletter!
bit.ly/3K6nXCO