



ILLINOIS TOLLWAY NEWS

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ILLINOIS TOLLWAY HOSTING NOVEMBER 8 EVENT IN CHICAGO FOR SMALL AND DIVERSE BUSINESSES PURSUING STATE CONTRACTS

Workshops will offer information, resources for businesses seeking to provide goods and services including information technology to the Tollway and other government agencies

DOWNERS GROVE, IL – The Illinois Tollway is hosting a November 8 Contracting With Government workshop in Chicago to connect small, diverse and veteran-owned businesses with opportunities to grow their business by providing goods and services including information technology to the Tollway and other government agencies.

The event will share annual agency buying plans as well as provide resources and assistance to help businesses better understand how to navigate the procurement process and certification requirements in order to bid and participate in goods and services contracts.

"Small businesses are the backbone of our growing economy, and my administration remains committed to uplifting them," **said Governor JB Pritzker**. "By equipping small, diverse, and veteran-owned businesses with essential resources, this workshop empowers them to pursue valuable state contract opportunities to foster their growth within our economy. Thank you to all the partnering agencies for their dedicated efforts in supporting our entrepreneurs and I highly encourage interested businesses to attend and take advantage of this opportunity to grow and thrive."

"By creating opportunities for these businesses to grow, Illinois is building stronger communities and a more inclusive economy," **said Lt. Governor Juliana Stratton**. "This event gives small, diverse, and veteran-owned businesses a chance to connect with resources and explore state contracts. I encourage business owners to attend and see what's possible."

The Tollway is partnering with other agencies to offer workshops and presentations on contracting procedures and outline their upcoming anticipated procurements related to information technology and other needed services and goods. The agencies scheduled to participate include the Illinois Commission on Equity and Inclusion, the Illinois Department of Central Management Services, the Chief Procurement Office for General Services, Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO), Illinois Department of Innovation & Technology, the Illinois Department of Transportation and the Chicago Transit Authority.

Additionally, participants will have an opportunity to speak with representatives from the government agencies and with more than a dozen technology corporations, including Accenture LLP, CDWG, Cisco, Citrix, DivIHN Integration Inc., Duncan Solutions, Electronic Transaction Consultants, Great Arc, Presidio, Redhat, SAP, SDI, SHI, Stantec Consulting, Zion Cloud Solutions and Zones.

"We're providing the resources at this event that will help small, diverse and veteran-owned firms expand their opportunities to do business with the Tollway and other state agencies," **said Illinois Tollway Executive Director Cassandra Rouse**. "Entrepreneurs will be able to talk face-to-face with agency experts about the steps they can take to better compete for state contracts. This event is part of

the Tollway’s efforts to broaden our pool of contractors to include more small, diverse and veteran-owned businesses so our contractors more closely reflect the diverse communities we serve across Northern Illinois.”

The November 8 event runs from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the South Shore Cultural Center, 7059 S. Shore Drive, in Chicago. On-site registration and check-in begins at 9:30 a.m. Interested businesses can register in advance via the Tollway’s website www.illinoistollway.com/contractingwithgovernment.

Participants can attend a series of workshops offered by multiple state agencies outlining different aspects of 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 and also learn to use the state’s BidBuy system, which allows agencies to advertise and receive bids for the goods and services they require.

Among the workshops offered are:

- How To Do Business with the Tollway: Goods and Services – *Illinois Tollway Procurement*
- How to Get Business Enterprise Program (BEP) and Veteran Certified – *Illinois Commission on Equity and Inclusion*
- Joint Purchase Master Contracts – *Illinois Department of Central Management Services*
- Navigating BidBuy and the Small Business Registration in the Illinois Procurement Gateway – *Chief Procurement Office for General Services*
- IDOT Supportive Services and 2025 Purchasing Forecast – *Illinois Department of Transportation*

The Illinois Tollway will have information available on expected procurements needed for the agency in 2025 including information technology, business systems, roadway and facilities departments, as well as providing access to its Technical Assistance Program providers to offer businesses development assistance.

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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