

2026 DCEO Roadshow

Celebrating the Northeast Region



Illinois
Department of Commerce
& Economic Opportunity

JB Pritzker, Governor

Agenda

- Update on Economic Development Around the Region and State
- New Programs from DCEO & Upcoming Opportunities in FY27
- Technical Assistance from DCEO and Partners
- Illinois Economic Development Corp Update
- Illinois Office of Broadband Update
- USDA & Rural Economic Development



DCEO At-A-Glance

Mission:

Empowering all Illinoisians by attracting job creators, supporting small businesses, strengthening communities, and building a resilient workforce.

Statewide Reach:

- 📖 10 Economic Development Regions
- 🏢 15+ Program Offices + Numerous Operational Offices
- 🤝 Extensive Support Networks

Key Partners & Resources:

- 🛠️ Local Workforce Innovation Areas (LWIAs)
- 📁 Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs)
- 🏠 Community Action Agencies (CAAs)
- 🔗 Navigator & Partnership Entities



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Open for Business

Illinois' 2024 Economic Growth Plan

DCEO.Illinois.gov/EconPlan2024



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2024 Economic Growth Plan Goals

In this Five-Year Economic Growth Plan, Illinois outlines a roadmap to **attract record-level investments**, **create jobs** and **support communities** over the next five years while laying the foundation for economic growth for generations to come.



Focus on High Growth
Sectors and Continue
Overall Business
Climate Improvements



Advance
Comprehensive
Economic
Development
Efforts for
Business Growth
and Attraction



Promote Equitable
Growth by
Empowering Workers,
Entrepreneurs and
Communities



Build Out
the New
Clean
Energy
Economy



Growth Industries



LIFE
SCIENCES



QUANTUM
COMPUTING, AI, &
MICROELECTRONICS



CLEAN ENERGY
PRODUCTION &
MANUFACTURING



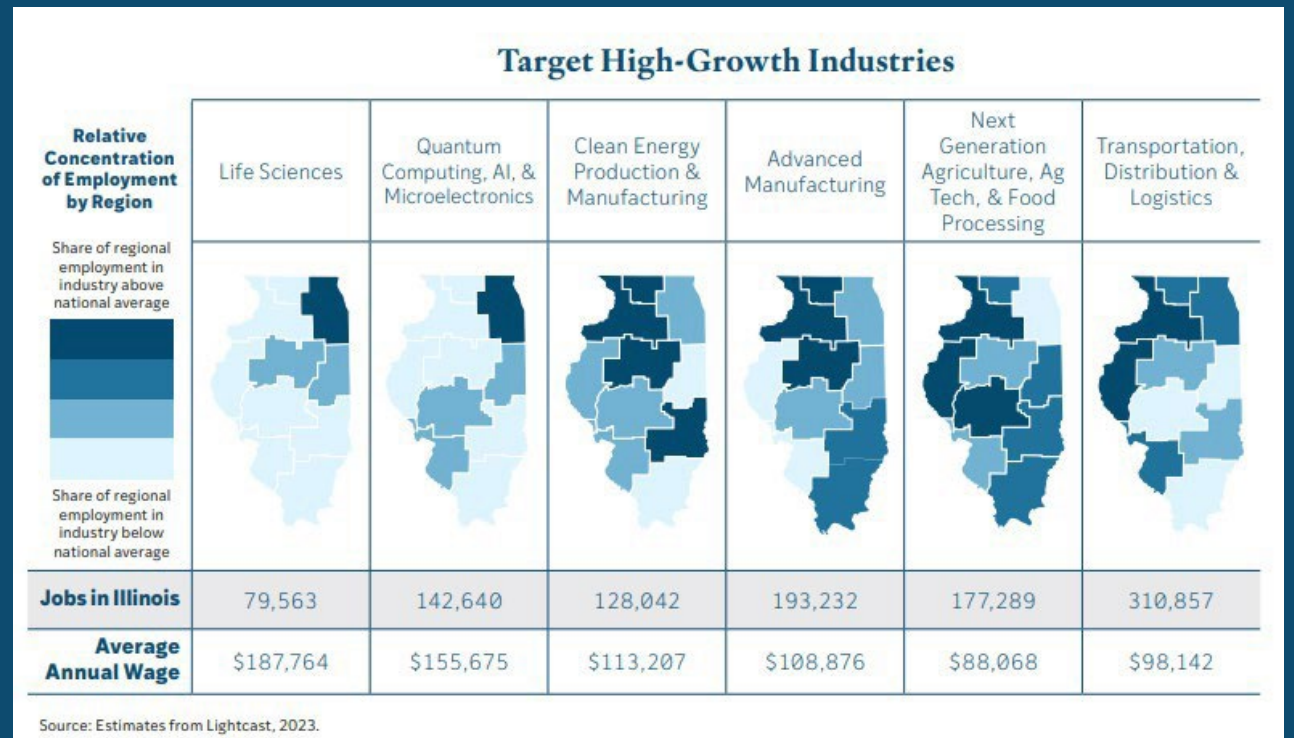
ADVANCED
MANUFACTURING



NEXT GENERATION
AGRICULTURE, AG
TECH, & FOOD
PROCESSING



TRANSPORTATION,
DISTRIBUTION, &
LOGISTICS



2025 Progress on Economic Growth Plan

- Surveyed stakeholders in June 2025 to gather feedback on the status of the Economic Growth Plan with the goal of identifying improvements to better align its strategies with the needs of Illinois Communities, businesses and regional partners.
- Overall, response was positive with four initiatives being highest priorities:
 - Continue investing in site readiness
 - Continue WIOA grant support for work-based learning & apprenticeships
 - Establish a grant program to revitalize vacant properties
 - Continue coordination with IL EDC and regional partners



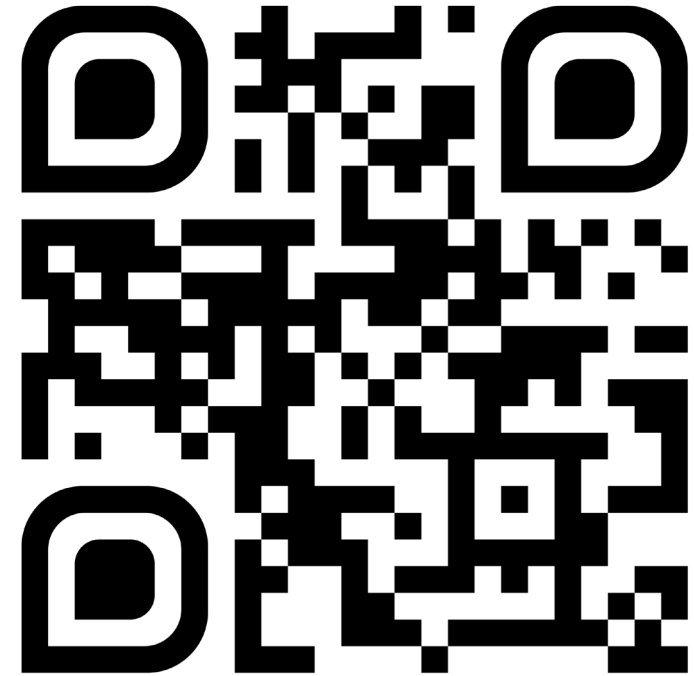
2025 Progress on Economic Growth Plan

- Appendix A lists 48 Proposed Action Items to implement plan
- 2025 Progress Report provides updates on all 48 items with some implemented and work progressing on others
- Highlights include:
 - Implementing Illinois Regional Site Readiness Strategy
 - Double the staff of Team RED
 - Establish an Advanced Manufacturing Investment Tax Credit
 - Establish a new SSBCI Technical Assistance program
 - Establish the Illinois Office of Rural Economic Development



2026 Update

We need your input for 2026



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Business Development Updates



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FY 2019-2026 Business Development Achievements

EDGE

CAPITAL INVESTMENT COMMITMENT

\$8.5 BILLION

JOB'S COMMITTED

16,696

REV

CAPITAL INVESTMENT

\$6.5 BILLION

JOB'S COMMITTED

5,717

MICRO

CAPITAL INVESTMENT

\$1.2 BILLION

JOB'S COMMITTED

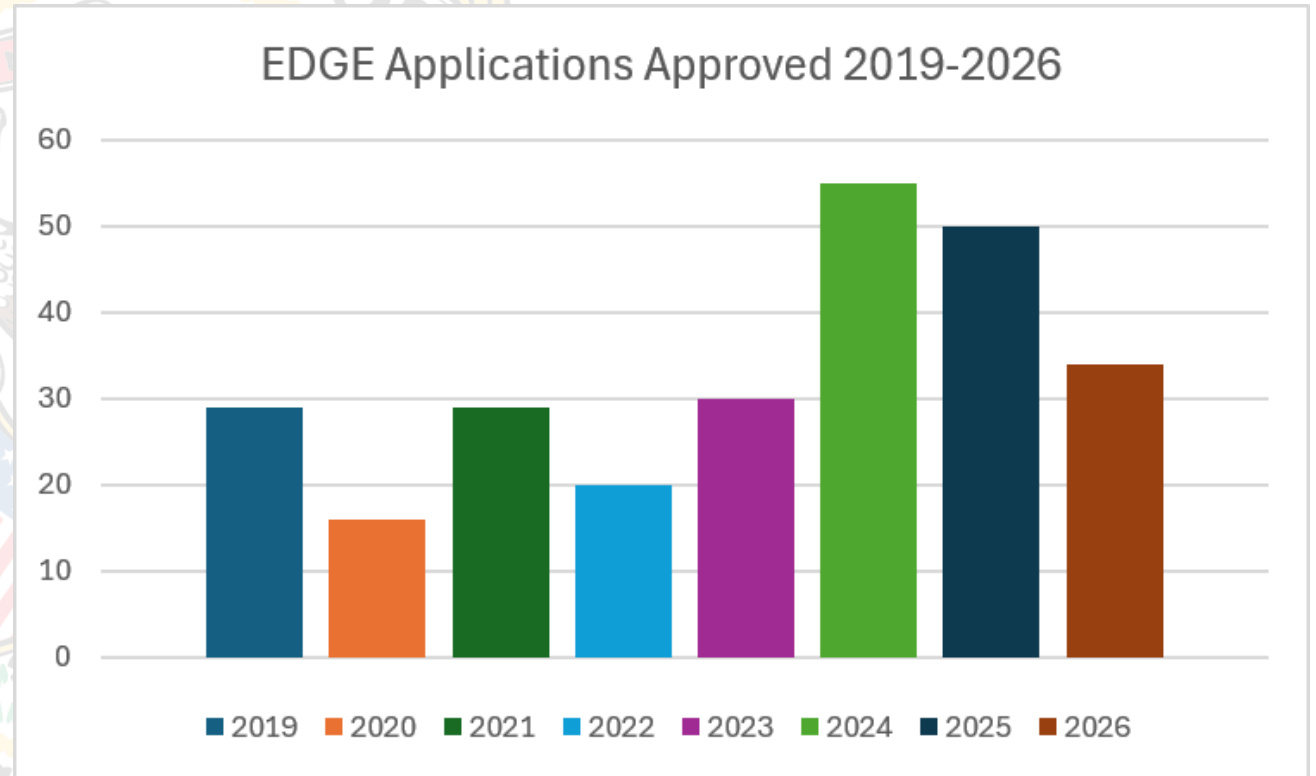
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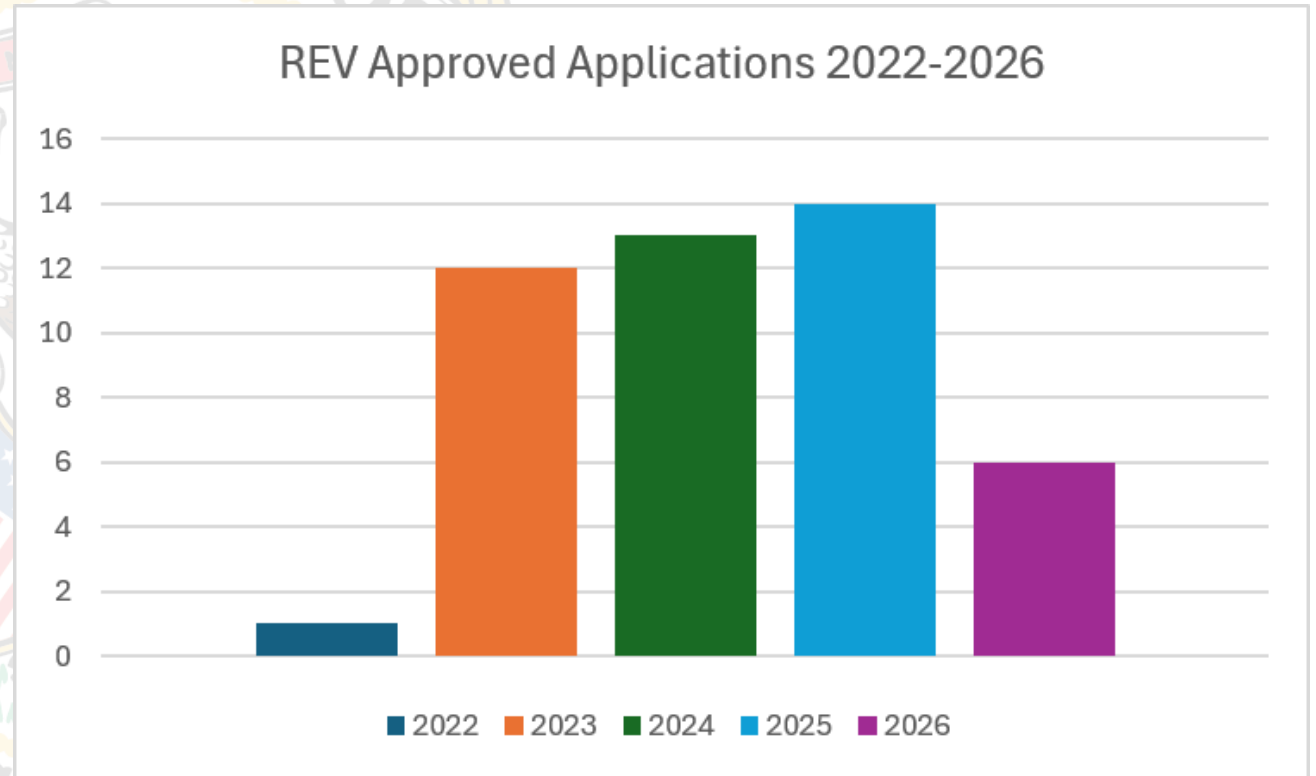
EDGE Applications Since 2019

Since 2019, 263 EDGE applications have been approved statewide, representing \$8.5 Billion in Capital Expenditures and the commitment of 16,696 jobs.



REV Applications Since 2022

Since 2022, 46 REV applications have been approved statewide, representing \$6.6 Billion in Capital Expenditures and the commitment of 5,717 jobs.



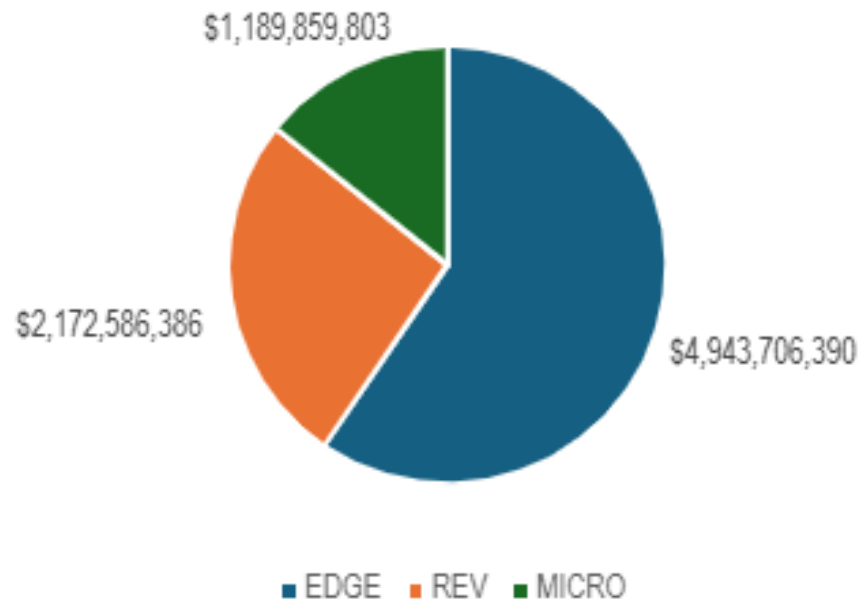
MICRO Applications Since 2024

Since 2024, 6 MICRO applications have been approved statewide, representing \$1.2 Billion in Capital Expenditures and the commitment of 318 jobs.



Business Development Investments – Northeast Region

Northeast Region Investment Total

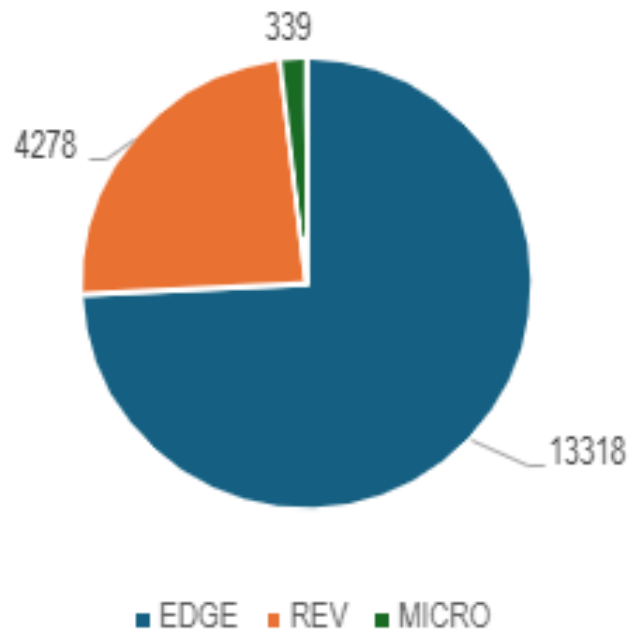


- Since 2019, the Northeast Region has seen a total of \$8.3 Billion in investments through the EDGE, REV, and MICRO programs.



Business Development Job Creation Target – Northeast Region

Northeast Region Employee Jobs Target

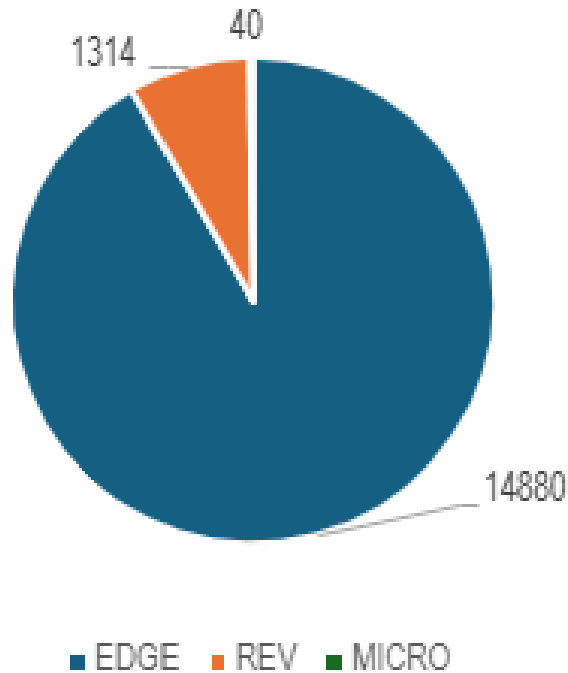


- Since 2019, the Northeast Region has a 17,935 targeted jobs created through the EDGE, REV, and MICRO programs.



Business Development Retained Employee Target – Northeast Region

Northeast Region Retained Employee Jobs Target



- Since 2019, the Northeast Region has 16,234 retained jobs through the EDGE, REV, and MICRO programs.



Regional Successes from the Past Year



Northeast Region Business Development Snapshot – since last roadshow

32

TOTAL PROJECTS

EDGE, REV Illinois and MICRO

5,829

NEW JOBS

45% of total job commitments

6,997

RETAINED JOBS

55% of total job commitments

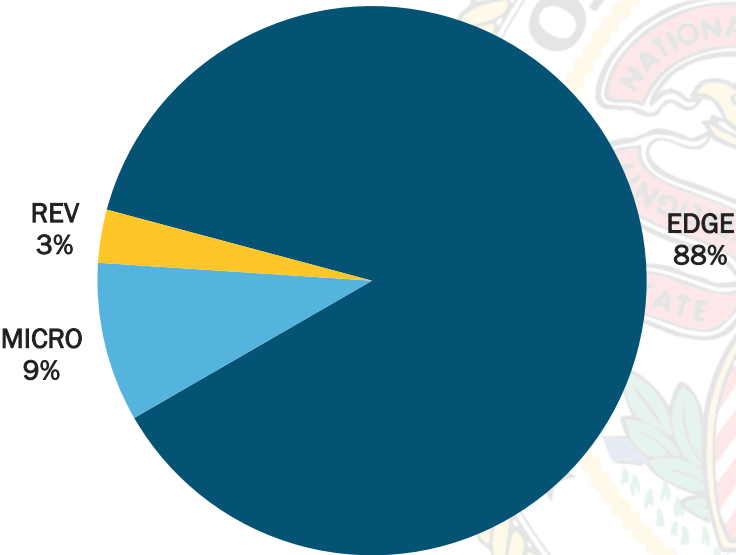
12,826 total job commitments



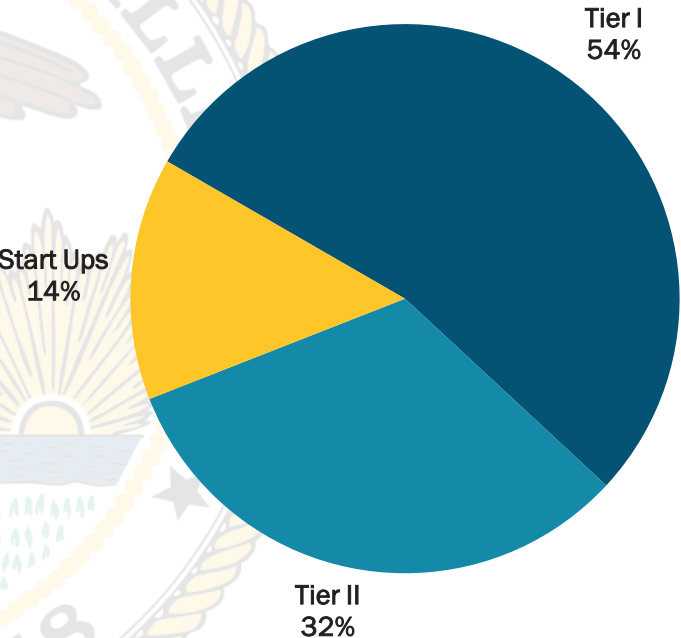
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Project Mix | Programs and EDGE Categories

ALL 32 PROJECTS | PROGRAM MIX



28 EDGE PROJECTS | CATEGORY MIX



Projects by Program | Period Comparison

PROGRAM	PRIOR PERIOD	CURRENT PERIOD	CHANGE
EDGE Tier I	24	15	-9 -38%
EDGE Tier II	3	9	+6 +200%
EDGE for Start Ups	1	4	+3 +300%
MICRO	2	3	+1 +50%
REV	1	1	No change

Current activity shifted from EDGE Tier I toward Tier II and EDGE for Start Ups.



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Period Comparison | Percent Change

CURRENT | OCT. 2025–AUG. 10, 2026

PRIOR FILE | OCT. 2024–OCT. 2025

TOTAL PROJECTS

+3%

31 → 32 projects

+1 project

NEW JOBS

+211%

1,872 → 5,829 jobs

+3,957 new jobs

RETAINED JOBS

+86%

3,764 → 6,997 jobs

+3,233 retained jobs

TOTAL JOB COMMITMENTS

+128%

5,636 → 12,826

+7,190 commitments

Compared with the prior roadshow period, nearly the same number of projects delivered more than twice the total job commitments—reflecting larger projects by job impact.



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Kankakee County & Nearby Wins

BD PROJECT

CSL Behring expands in Bradley

CSL Behring committed to 300 new jobs and 1,216 retained jobs in Bradley through an EDGE Tier II project, strengthening Kankakee County’s biopharmaceutical manufacturing base.

COMMUNITY WIN

\$990,000 advances the West Riverwalk

The City of Kankakee received an OSLAD grant for property acquisition, environmental work, pedestrian and bicycle paths, lighting, and safety improvements supporting broader riverfront redevelopment.

COMMUNITY WIN

\$2 million expands Harbor House shelter capacity

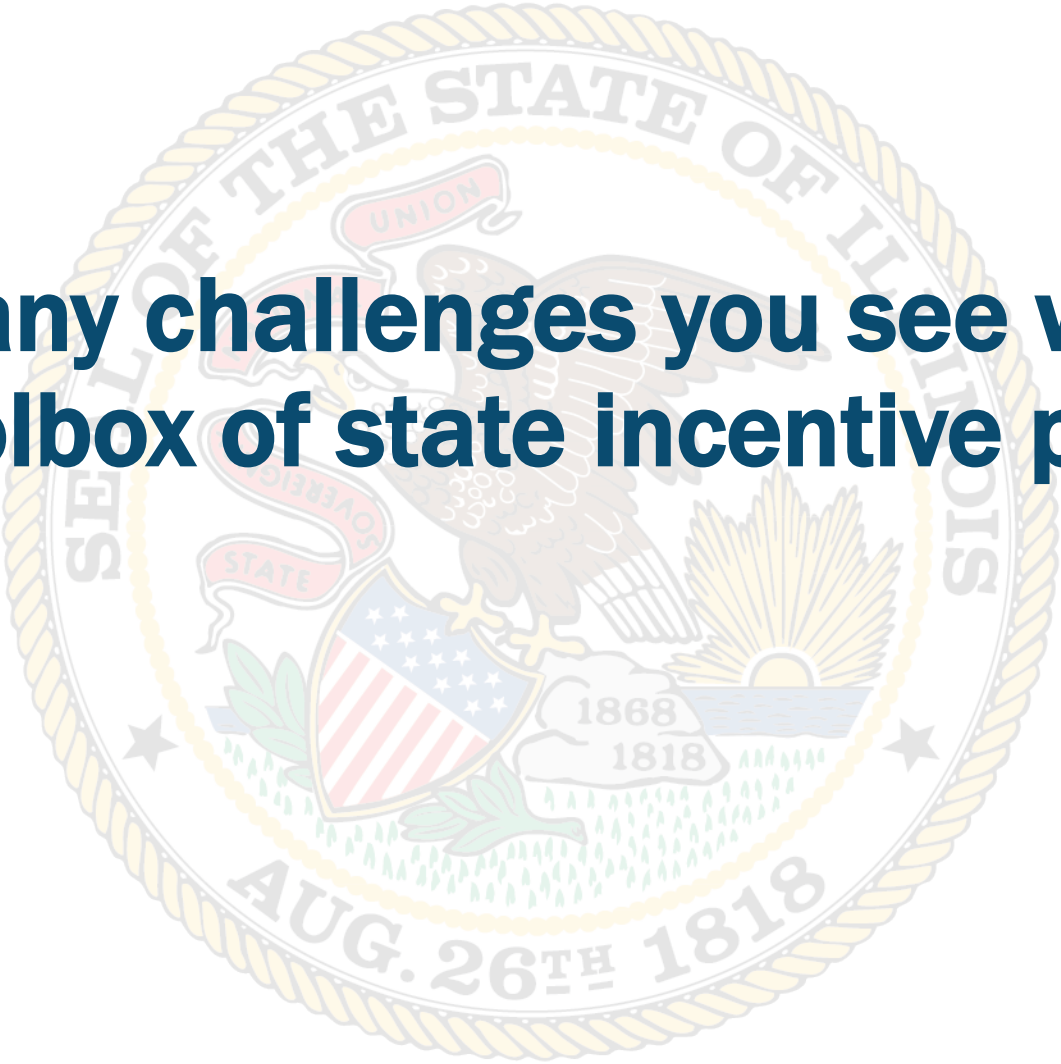
The City of Kankakee received a DCEO CDBG-CV grant to construct a new 12,000-square-foot Harbor House facility, expanding emergency shelter capacity and services for survivors of domestic violence.

BD PROJECT

New York City Deli opens in downtown Kankakee

New York City Deli opened a second location in downtown Kankakee following renovation of a 2,400-square-foot commercial space. The locally supported project adds restaurant jobs and new activity to the city’s downtown revitalization efforts without state incentives.



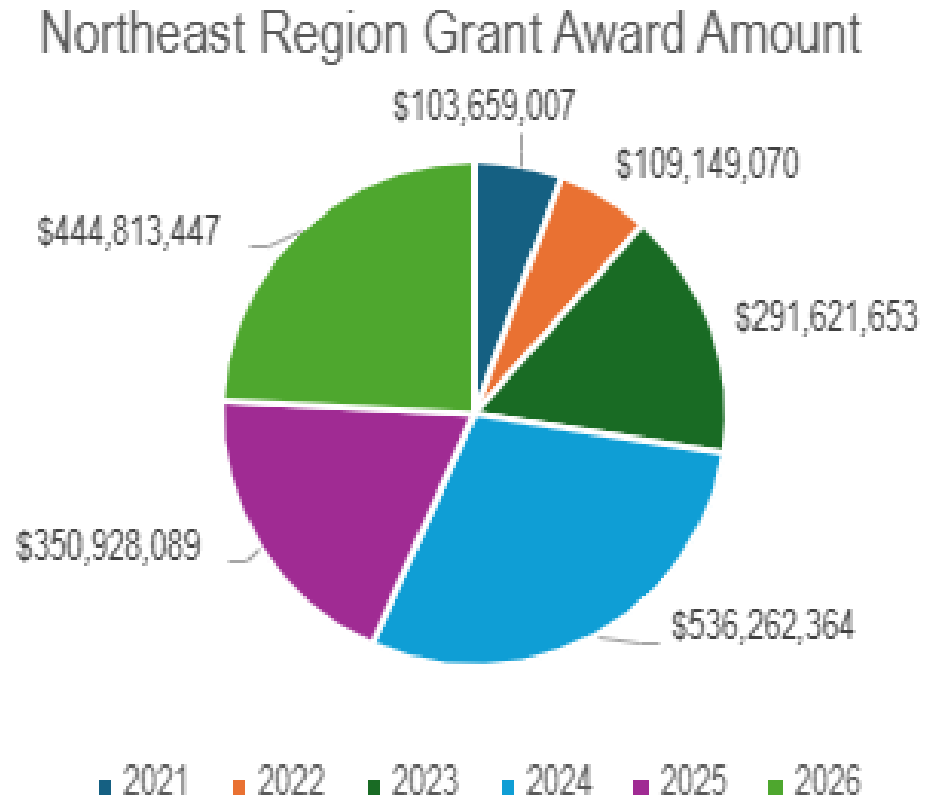
The seal of the State of Illinois is a large, faint watermark in the background. It features an eagle with wings spread, perched on a shield with red and white stripes and a blue chief with stars. The eagle is surrounded by a rope border. The text "SEAL OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS" is written around the top, and "AUG. 26TH 1818" is at the bottom. A banner above the eagle says "UNION", and another below it says "SOVEREIGNTY, NATIONALITY". The dates "1868" and "1818" are also visible.

What are any challenges you see with the current toolbox of state incentive programs?



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Grant Award Amounts 2021-2026



- Since 2021, the Northeast Region has received over \$1.83 billion in grant awards through DCEO programming.



What do you think is needed to increase grant awareness and grant applications within the region?



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New DCEO Programs and Upcoming Grant Opportunities



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Advancing Innovation in Manufacturing (AIM)



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Advancing Innovation in Manufacturing (AIM)

- Officially opened on August 3, 2026, AIM is the newest program in our Business Development toolbox.
- Offers incentives based on investment goals geared to modernize, automate, or streamline manufacturing processes.
 - Designed for manufacturing companies who are ready to expand or relocate to Illinois.
 - Intended to spur innovation in growth industries and fast-growing sectors:
 - ✓ Automotive manufacturing
 - ✓ Aerospace manufacturing
 - ✓ Chemical manufacturing
 - ✓ Robotics
 - ✓ Production of advanced metals



Advancing Innovation in Manufacturing (AIM)

- Eligible applicants meet the following criteria:
 - Current Illinois Manufacturers or companies planning to relocate their business to Illinois.
 - R & D businesses that result in manufacturing.
 - For taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2026.
 - Investments and job creation over a five-year period.
 - Making a qualified investment of \$10 million or more in five years.



Advancing Innovation in Manufacturing (AIM)

- Provides an Illinois Corporate Income Tax Credit based on level of investment:

AIM ILLINOIS PROGRAM	INVESTMENT LEVEL AT PROJECT SITE	PERCENT OF CAPITAL INVESTMENT IN CREDIT	PLACE IN SERVICE TIMEFRAME
Tier 1	\$10,000,000 to \$49,999,999	3 Percent	5 years
Tier 2	\$50,000,000 to \$99,999,999	5 Percent	5 years
Tier 3	\$100,000,000 or more	7 Percent	5 years



Opportunity Zones 2.0



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Opportunity Zones (OZs)

What is this?

Federal tax incentive program to spur investment in economically distressed census tracts.

What is the state's role?

Governors are responsible for designating 25% of the eligible census tracts in their states for the benefit.

How does a tract qualify?

Census tracts are eligible based on poverty rate or median family income in comparison to state-wide numbers.

Who picked current zones?

In 2018, Governor Rauner designated Illinois' current OZs.



Illinois' OZ 1.0 Lessons Learned

Over focused on geographic diversity & lack of investment readiness.

OZs were geographically diverse but were not always tracts that were most likely to attract investment.

Missing awareness & matchmaking.

Investors and developers reported (1) a lack of understanding the program & (2) how to find interested counterparts as reasons for underutilization.

Misalignment with recent investments & policies.

Missed opportunity to stack OZs over other federal benefits and state funding or incentives.

Examples of where it did work..

- **The Terminal** (Business Park) shared that OZ were critical to the success of their \$70M project.
- **RiseKit** secured a \$4.75M investment to build behavioral and skills-based machine learning models to help job seekers in underserved communities.
- **PNC Bank** invested \$15M into Ogden Commons in Chicago to build a mixed-use complex.



Illinois Opportunity Zone 2.0 Goal:

Designate census tracts that are the most likely to attract OZ investment in a way that is data-backed and locally-informed.

Quantitative

Weighed and mapped criteria that identified need, investment potential, and alignment with state investments.

Qualitative

DCEO hosted a census tract nomination portal this Spring that collected over 512 tract nominations.

** Designations made public and are due to U.S. Treasury Department by September 28th **



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Opportunity Zones Post-Designation

DCEO and partners will **amplify awareness, facilitate connections, and monitor efficacy.**

- Informational resources specific to IL's OZs created.
- OZ Matchmaking event(s) planned for communities, investors and developers.
- Training on incentive regularly facilitated for stakeholders and economic development organizations.



Regional Site Readiness Program

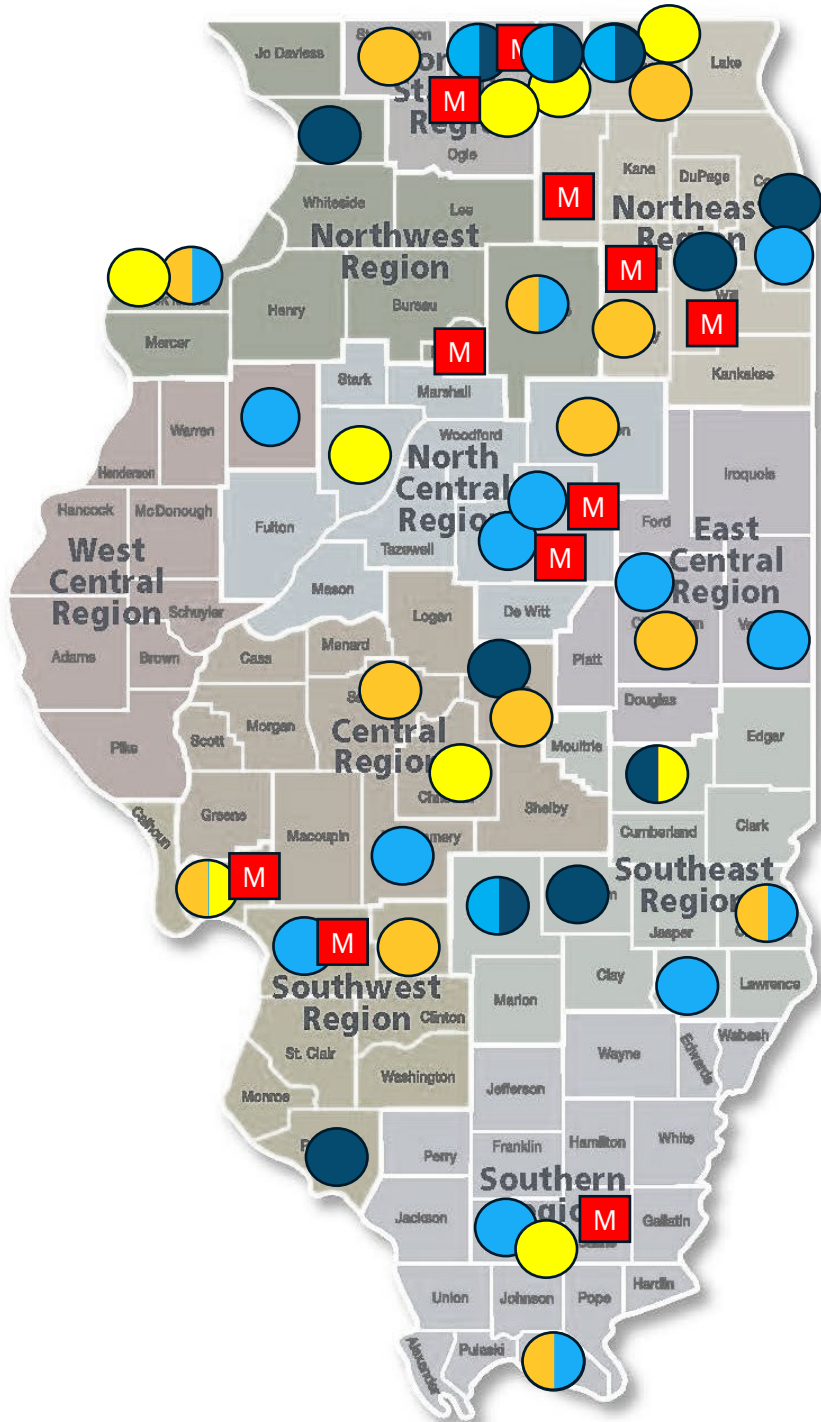


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Site Readiness in Illinois

- In FY2024, DCEO launched the \$40M **Megasites Program**, providing competitive grants to 11 sites
- In FY2025, DCEO launched the \$40M **Regional Site Readiness Program**, providing competitive grants to improve site readiness at 27 sites.
- In FY2026, DCEO launched the \$60M **Regional Site Readiness Program 2.0**. In FY26, we announced grant recipients to improve readiness at 30 sites.
- Total awarded to date: \$140 million to support 68 projects across all 10 economic dev. regions





Megasites, FY25 & FY26 RSRP Projects by Region

Region	Mega	Planning		Capital Ready		Totals
	FY24 M	FY25 	FY26 	FY25 	FY26 	
Northeast	3	2	2	3	2	12
Northern Stateline	2	1	2	2	2	9
Southeast	0	1	1	3	3	8
Northwest	1	2	2	1	2	8
Southern	1	3	1	1	2	8
Southwest	2	2	1	1	1	7
North Central	2	1	1	0	2	6
Central	0	2	1	1	1	5
East Central	0	1	1	0	2	4
West Central	0	0	0	0	1	1
Totals	11	15	12	12	18	68



Site Readiness For FY27

- Continue working with CMS on the Surplus to Success sites
 - Completing due diligence studies
 - RFP for A/E underway
- Continue working with Illinois EDC on their Vetted Sites program
- Develop new grant funding opportunity for the FY27 funding of \$100 million of capital funds.



The seal of the State of Illinois is a large, faint watermark in the background. It features an eagle with wings spread, perched on a shield with vertical stripes. Above the eagle is a banner with the word 'UNION'. Below the eagle is a banner with the date 'AUG. 26TH 1818'. The words 'OFFICE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS' are written around the top of the seal.

What suggestions do you have for the FY27 Site Readiness program design?



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Other Opportunities on the Horizon

- Rebuild Downtown & Main Street Capital Grant Program
- Multiple Tourism Grants
- Federal Grant Support Program (open now)
- Area Career Center Capital Grants
- CEJA Grant opportunities – Regional workshops to outline programs



DCEO & Partners Technical Assistance



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Statewide
Business
Assistance
Resources



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The Illinois Business Information Center is a state-wide resource that provides Regulatory Alerts, License and Permit Assistance, Resource Referrals, and Small Business Environmental Assistance.



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This is how we can help:



Resource Referrals

Not sure where to start, start here! Our business specialists will answer your questions or refer you to someone who can. Email us your questions: BIC@Illinois.gov

License & Permit Assistance

Explore our self-serve knowledge base of [answers to frequently asked questions](#) focused on license and permitting assistance. If you cannot find what you need, click on the "Ask a Question" button, and one of our business specialists will assist you.

Regulatory Alerts & Advocacy

We follow Illinois' regulatory developments, focusing on their impact on small businesses. [Sign up to receive weekly regulatory alerts.](#)

Environmental Assistance (SB)

Confidential, no cost, help with your small business environmental needs. Explore our [self-serve topics](#) or email us your questions: SBEAP@illinois.gov



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COMING
SOON



Illinois Business Navigator

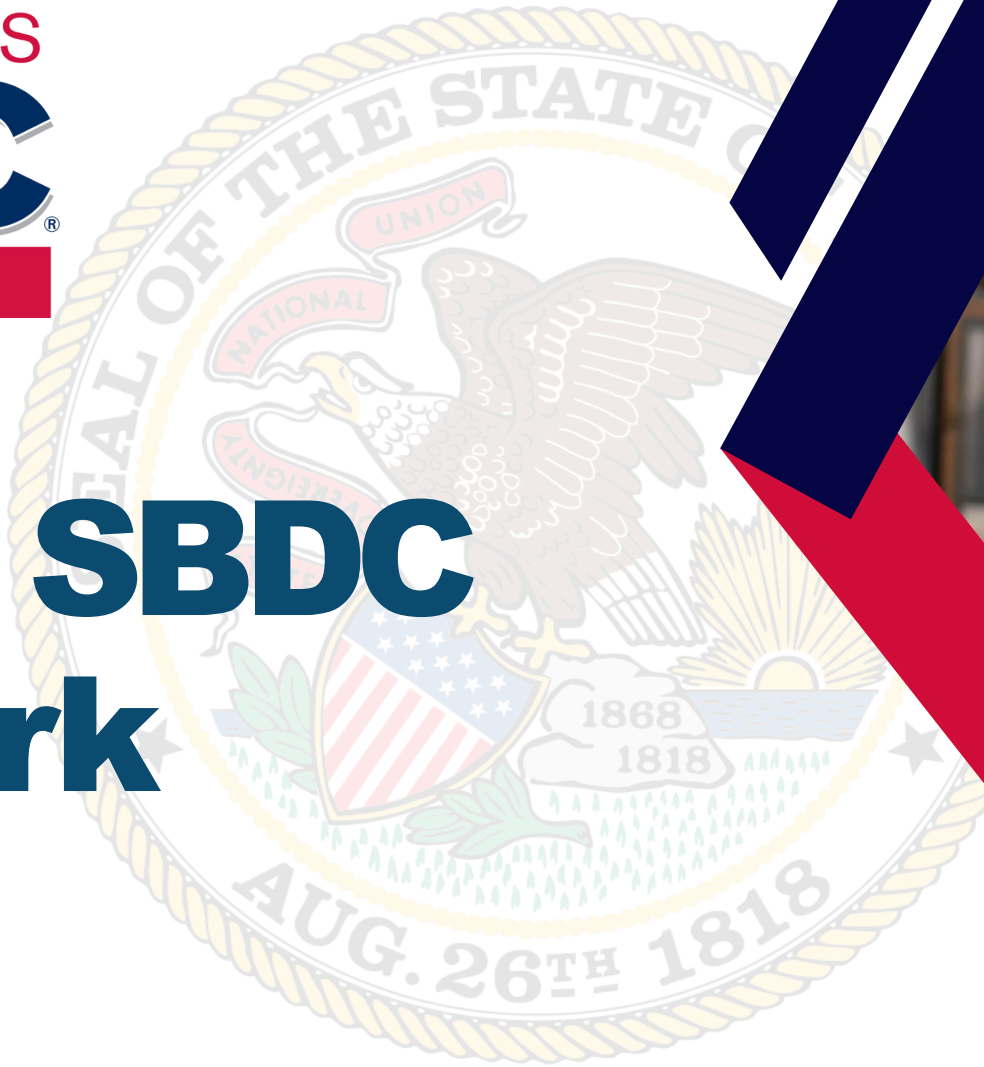
A centralized hub for business owners to understand permits, licenses, and other regulatory requirements.



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Illinois SBDC Network





Illinois SBDC Network Structure



America's SBDC



Local Host Partners



Illinois SBDC –
International Trade Centers



Illinois APEX Accelerator



CEJA Illinois

APEX Accelerator Services

One-on-One Counseling

- Determine Suitability for Contracting
- Marketing & Market Research
- Bid Match/Solicitation Finder
- Response to RFPs/Proposal Writing

Training via Workshops & Seminars

- Introduction to Government Contracting
- IDIQ Contracts/GSA Schedules
- Doing Business with DLA (DoD)
- Rules & Regulations (FAR)
- Post-Award Processes
- Contracting Accounting/Audits
- Teaming Arrangements, Joint Ventures, Mentor/Protégé, & Sub-contracting opportunities



Illinois Economic Empowerment Centers

- Provides grants to organizations that offer training, mentorship, support, resources and other enterprise-building opportunities to individuals seeking to explore business enterprise opportunities.
- EEC Program was developed to address the need for tailored support for socially & economically disadvantaged individuals (SEDI)-owned businesses, or Very Small Businesses, dislocated workers, and other groups
- Programs create an inclusive business ecosystem for marginalized communities traditionally facing systemic barriers
- Provide training in all aspects of business development and small business management



SSBCI Loan Technical Assistance Program

- Support Very Small Businesses (VSBs) and Socially and Economically Disadvantaged Individuals (SEDI-owned businesses) across the state.
- Provide technical assistance services, including legal, accounting, and financial advising, to VSBs and SEDI-owned businesses seeking to access federally funded loans across the state.
- Five providers are active across the state with a sixth that covers Cook and DuPage Counties expected to be announced this fall.





ILLINOIS
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Illinois Road Show

WHY ILLINOIS



TEAM ILLINOIS: A PARTNER IN GROWTH

Location Strategy & Site
Readiness

Investment & Incentive
Guidance

Talent & Education
Linkages

Government & Regulatory
Navigation

Market Research &
Intelligence

Strategic Visibility
& Communications

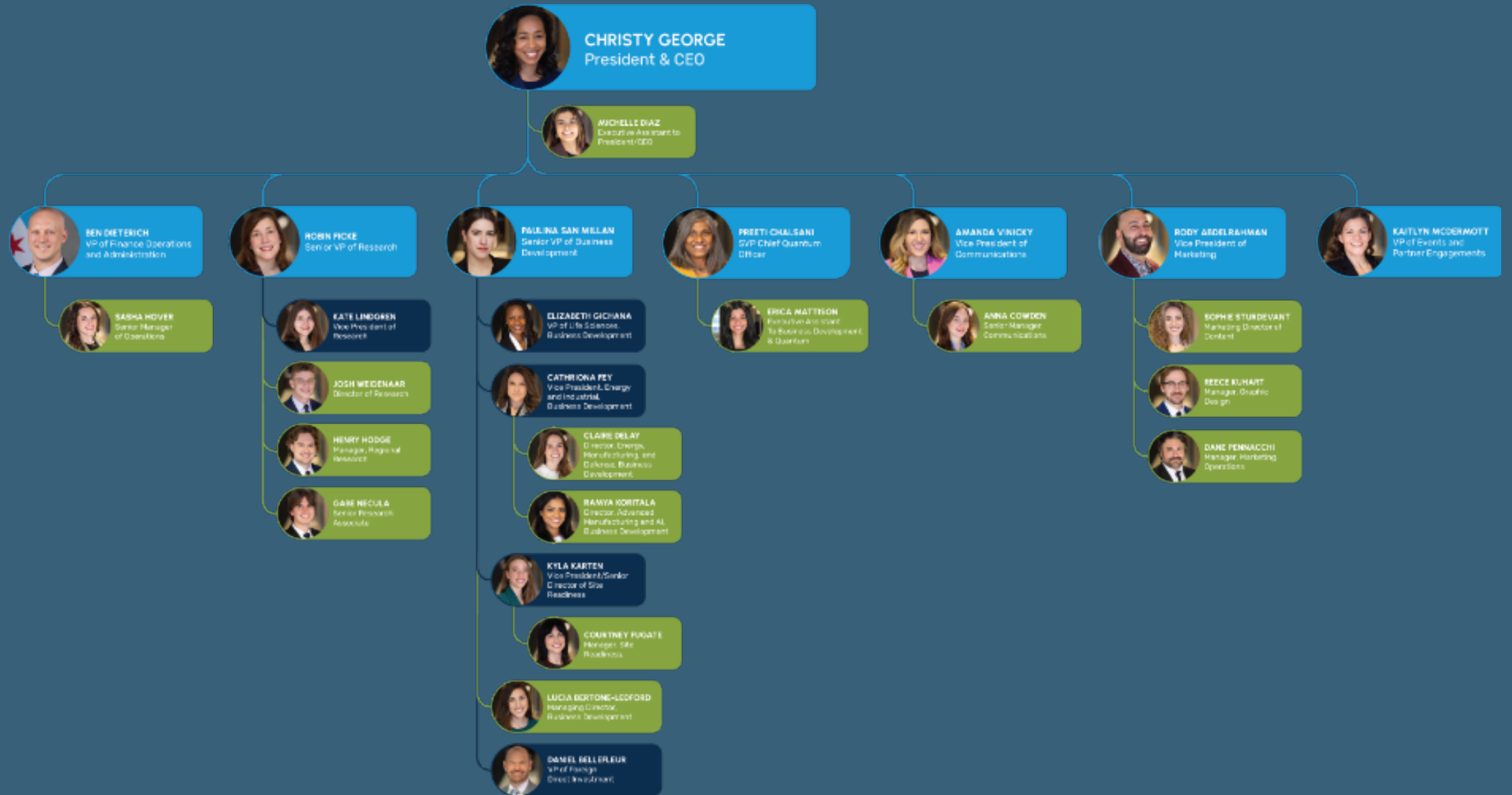
Supply Chain Integration &
Partner Connections

Ecosystem & Cluster
Development

As a public-private partnership, Illinois EDC serves as a central resource helping companies navigate opportunities, align with state and regional assets, and advance their investment projects from concept to completion.

Through collaboration, expertise, and statewide reach, the organization serves as a trusted partner for companies seeking to invest, expand, and thrive in the state's economy.





CONFERENCES & EVENTS

Dates	Event	Location
September 9–11, 2026	Midwest U.S.–Japan Association Conference	Indianapolis, IN
September 14–19, 2026	IMTS	Chicago, IL
September 15–17, 2026	Loupe Americas	Rosemont, IL
September 18, 2026	Chicago Maritime Manufacturing Summit (CMMS26)	Gurnee, IL
September 22–24, 2026	AIChE Commercializing Industrial Biotechnology Supporting Events	Chicago, IL
September 30, 2026	IEDA Site Selection & Consular Reception	Chicago, IL
October 7–9, 2026	Women in Economic Development Conference	Chicago, IL
October 14–15, 2026	Aerospace Rockford Conference	Rockford, IL
November 9–13, 2026	IEDA Basic Economic Development Course	Chicago, IL
November 10–11, 2026	Bio Builders	Chicago, IL
December 1, 2026	IMA Annual Luncheon	Chicago, IL
March 3-5, 2027	Site Selection Guild (Spring)	Las Vegas, NV
March 10, 2027	iFAB Tech Summit	Champaign, IL
May 2–5, 2027	SelectUSA Investment Summit	National Harbor, MD
June 2027 (TBD)	IEDA Annual Summit	Illinois
June 2027 (TBD)	FusionX Great Lakes	Chicago, IL
June 22–25, 2027	BIO International Convention	Philadelphia, PA

WHY ILLINOIS

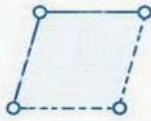
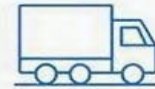
VETTED SITES OVERVIEW

**VETTED SITES PROGRAM**

Sites identified by Illinois EDC as the top sites in Illinois, based on eight site characteristics.

**GOAL**

Collect deep site information to expedite site selection and development, making Illinois a more attractive location for company growth.

EIGHT SITE CHARACTERISTICS**Acreage****Utilities****Logistics****Permitting & Entitlement****Workforce****Ownership****Local & State Incentives****Environmental & Topographic**

70+

Sites published and finding success through project locates



Submission Calls: Fall 2026 and Spring 2027

**CONTACTS**

Kyla Karten, VP, Site Readiness - Kyla.Karten@illinoisedc.org

Courtney Fugate, Manager, Site Readiness - Courtney.Fugate@illinoisedc.org

WHY ILLINOIS

PROPERTY DATABASE & RFI DISTRIBUTION



ZoomProspector hosts industrial property listings and our project proposal system, allowing brokers, EDOs, city, county, and municipal leaders to market properties and submit them to projects.

HOW DO I GET INVOLVED?



01 REQUEST CREDENTIALS

Request access to ZoomProspector and our project system.



02 COMPLETE TRAINING

Finish onboarding and learn how to use the platform effectively.



03 LIST YOUR PROPERTY

Add property details and make your listing visible to projects.



Email Courtney.Fugate@illinoisedc.org to get started.

REGIONAL RESEARCH PILOT PROGRAM

R2P2 is a new Illinois EDC Economic Research Center initiative focused on providing communities across Illinois with forward-looking economic research and strategic planning support.

R2P2 OFFERINGS

- **Foundational Research Products** including Community Profile, Job Postings, and Major Employers reports
- **Cluster Analysis** & industry prioritization support
- **Strategic Planning** assistance
- **Additional Resources** including economic impact modeling

PILOT PARTICIPANTS

- City of Rockford
- Economic Alliance of Kankakee County
- Greater Freeport Partnership
- Leadership Council Southwestern Illinois
- Grow Quad Cities
- Southern Illinois Now (SI Now)
- Springfield Sangamon Growth Alliance
- Vermilion Advantage

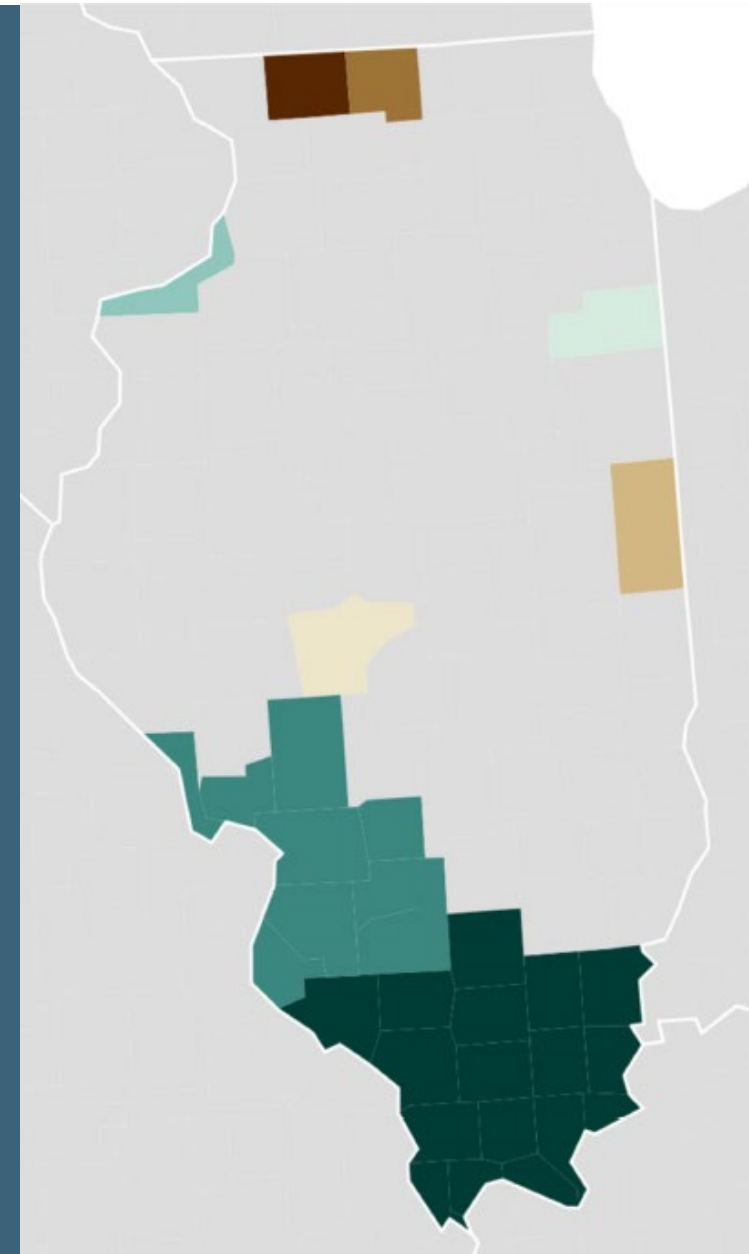
INTERESTED? GET IN TOUCH:



R2P2@IllinoisEDC.org



IllinoisEDC.org/Economic-Research-Center/R2P2



LET'S RECAP: HOW TO PARTNER WITH THE ILLINOIS EDC

- **Become a Team Illinois Partner:** Receive our outreach emails and complete training in Zoom Prospector by emailing Courtney.Fugate@illinoisedc.org
- **Site Identification & Site Readiness:** Submit Vetted Sites and connect with the Site Readiness Team
- **Why Illinois Resources:** Check out IllinoisEDC.org for information
- **Travel & Events:** Let us know about upcoming events you will be attending
- **Share Your Wins:** Send us your region's wins and announcements
- **Get Social:** Follow the Illinois EDC on social platforms



CONNECT
ILLINOIS

Broadband in Illinois: Connecting Communities



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OFFICE OF BROADBAND



ILLINOIS
BROADBAND
LAB

Our Mission

The Illinois Office of Broadband (or “IOB”) is committed to providing every Illinoisan with fast, reliable, and affordable internet by promoting:

- **Access** | Broadband infrastructure and device access
- **Adoption** | Increased subscription to broadband service and device ownership at affordable pricing
- **Use** | Increased use of internet-based tools to increase health, happiness, and well-being across Illinois



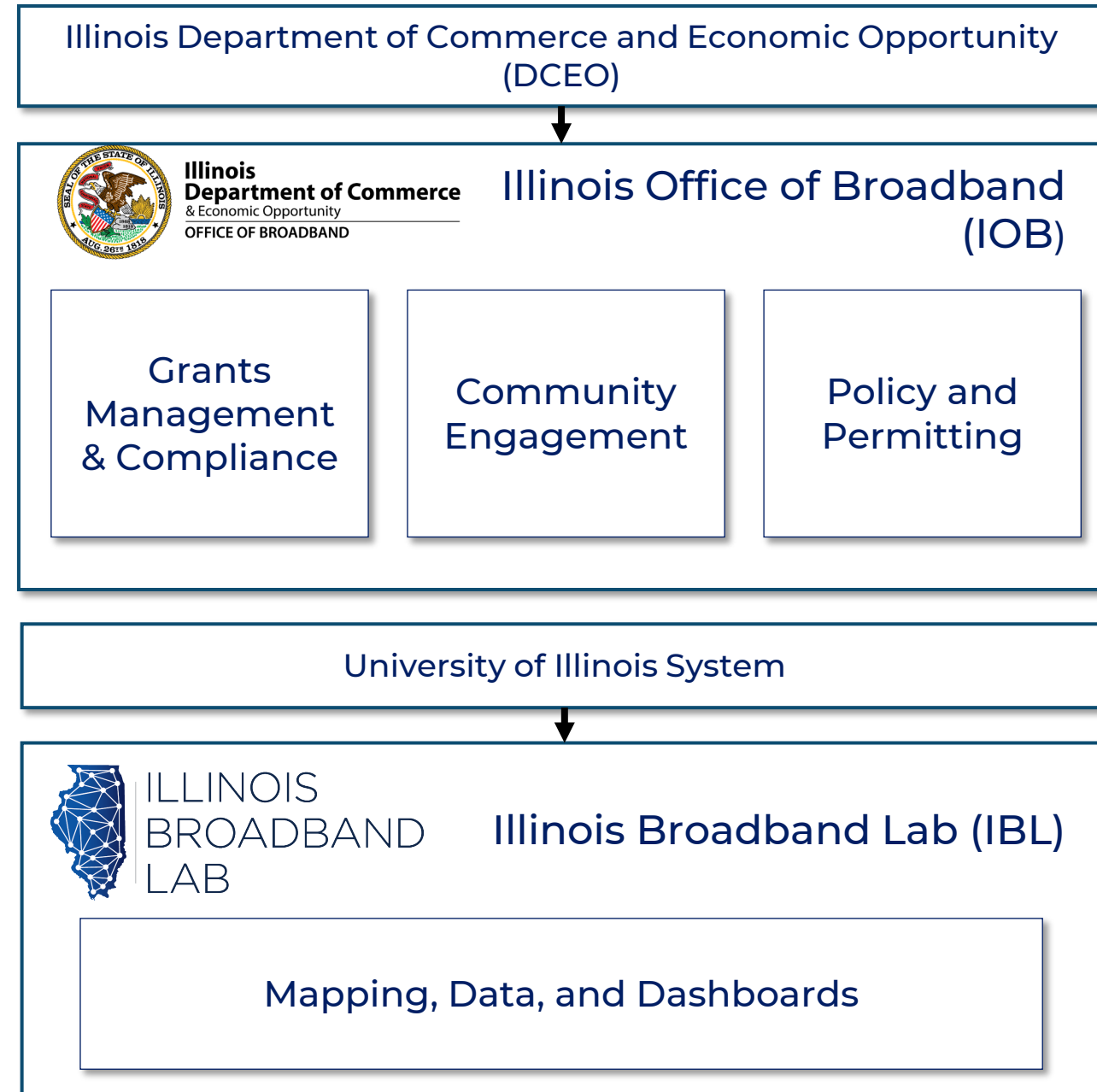
Illinois Office of Broadband

The IOB was founded in 2019, and is now one of the 50 state broadband offices tasked with carrying out \$1B+ in federal broadband infrastructure and digital equity programs

- Connect Illinois Broadband Grant Program (2020+)
- Digital Opportunities

Illinois Broadband Lab

A collaboration on broadband data, mapping, research, and publication driven by the Illinois Office of Broadband and the University of Illinois System.



Illinois Broadband Team



CONNECT
ILLINOIS

Broadband Access: Connect Illinois and BEAD



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ILLINOIS
BROADBAND
LAB

Why is broadband important?

One-to-One Devices
State Of The Art Tools
Remote Learning
Tech Learning
Career Pipeline Tools



Education

**Affordable, robust, and scalable
broadband can support what you
want to build for your community
today and into the future!**

Precision Agriculture
Agriculture Tech and GPS
Business Tools
Remote Monitoring and
Security



Agriculture

Industry and Business Site
Selection
Local Job Market Expansion
Small Business Tools
Remote Work Opportunities



Industry and Business

Telehealth and Remote Visits
Health Management Apps
Access to Records and
Databases
Faster Testing and Results



Healthcare

Rural 911 and Dispatch
Emergency Response to
Natural Disasters
Local Alerts and Information



Public Safety

Streaming and Live Events
Local and National News
Video Calling and
Conferencing
Online Gaming



Connection

Local Alerts and Information
Community Coordination
Local Events
Streaming Events
Access to Local Services



Community

Workforce Development
Training and Retraining
Local Job Market
Expansion
Expand Economic Base



Workforce

Broadband is Coming!

Over \$1 Billion is being invested to bring high-speed broadband to your community!

Broadband grants allow internet service providers to build their networks in unserved areas, lowering their overhead cost.

Connect Illinois Grant Program

80

Funded
projects

45K+

Locations
slated to be
connected

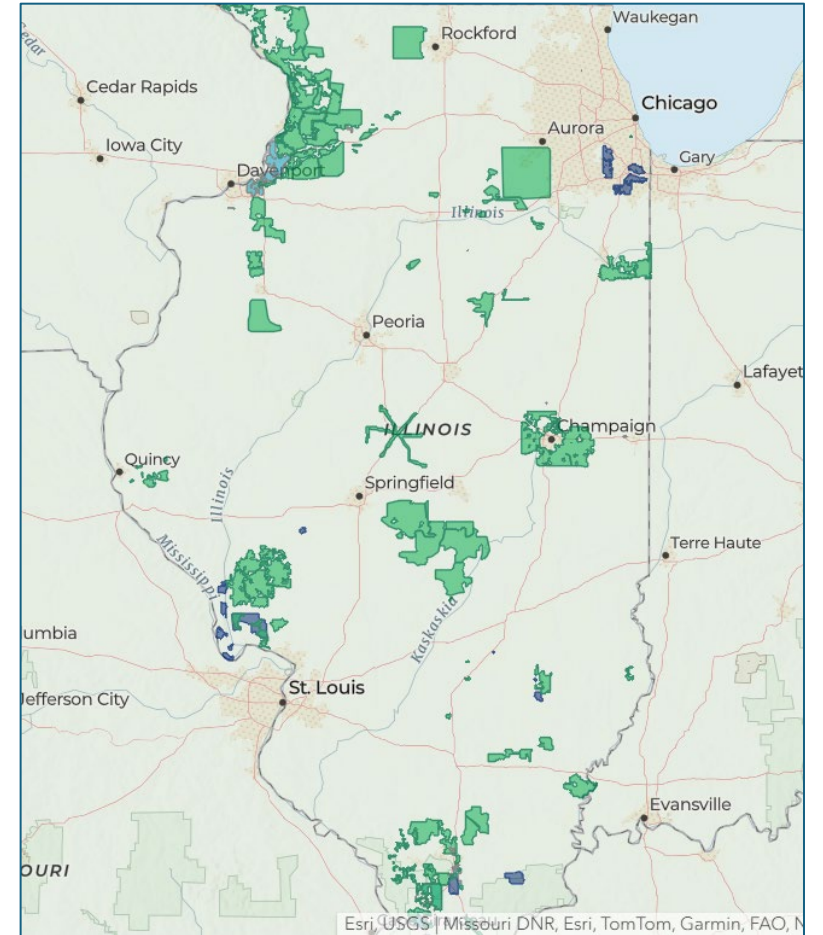
20K+

Locations
connected
so far

\$387M

Funding
allocated

Connect Illinois Project Map



Blue: Rounds 1-2
Green: Round 3

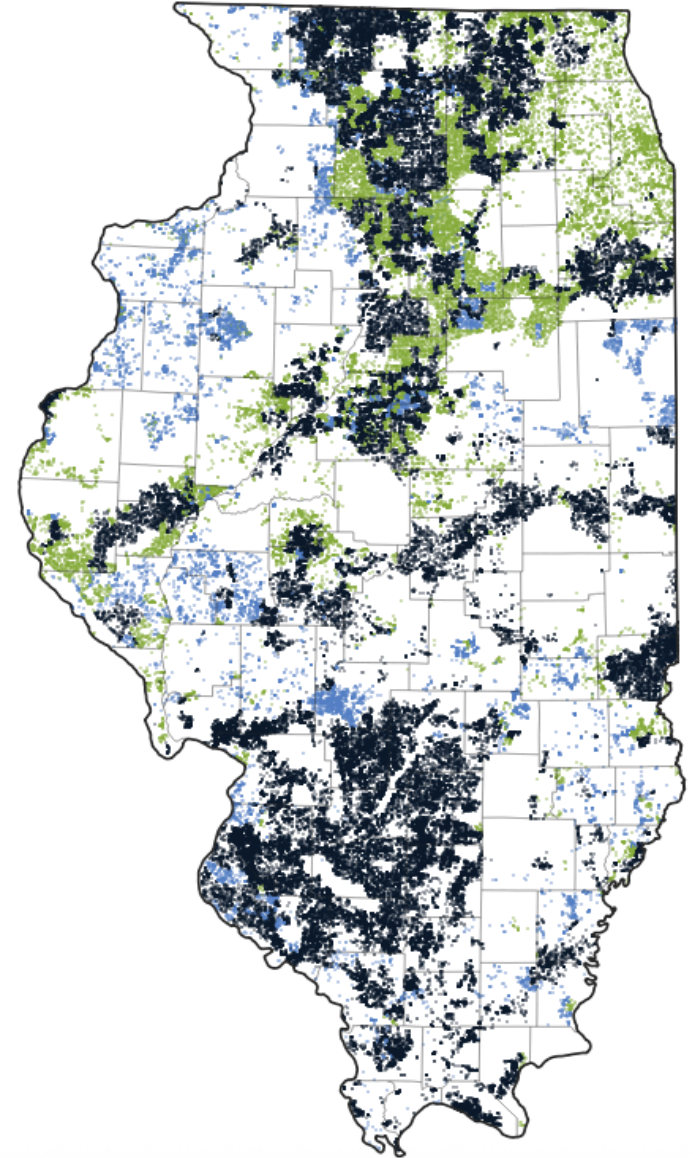
Broadband is Coming!

Over \$1 Billion is being invested to bring high-speed broadband to your community!

Connect Illinois Grant Program

Round 4 of Connect Illinois is well on its way, funded by federal Broadband Equity Access & Deployment (BEAD) program

The BEAD program seeks to connect unserved and underserved households and locations with high speed, reliable broadband



CONNECT
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Illinois Tech Reuse Network



Illinois
Department of Commerce
& Economic Opportunity
OFFICE OF BROADBAND

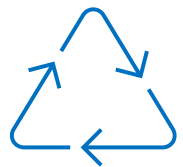


ILLINOIS
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LAB



Illinois Tech Reuse Network

The [Illinois Tech Reuse Network](#) facilitates the collection of retired computers, laptops, and other devices, refurbishes them, and then distributes them for free or a low cost to households in need of technology.



Retired
devices
donated



Picked up by a
participating
organization or
dropped off at
a donation site



Data sanitized
through
certified
process



Device
refurbished



Devices
distributed to
community
members



**Illinois
Tech Reuse
Network**

Progress Update:

490

Devices Collected

Donor Recognition:

- Northbrook Public Library 2x donor
- Kankakee County Community Services
- Evergreen Park Public Library
- Harvard Diggins Library
- Polo CUSD #222
- Palatine Community Consolidated School District 15
- Hinckley Public Library District
- Village of Sauget
- Champaign Farm Bureau
- Effingham County Health Department

CONNECT
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Eliminating the Digital Divide Fund (EDDF)



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The Digital Divide in Illinois

1,000,000+

Illinoisans **do not have a laptop or tablet**



500,000+

Illinoisans identified that they are missing at least **one key digital skill**



700,000+

Illinoisans have had to **stop paying their internet bill** because of cost





EDDF

Eliminating the
Digital Divide Fund

One Illinois, Fully Connected

Funded by donations, the EDDF will fund digital equity initiatives, such as digital skills classes or providing devices to low-income households, throughout the state.

Donations may come from subscribers via their internet service provider, or from private donations.

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Broadband Workforce



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Illinois Workforce Gap

General Construction Jobs:
1,500 more people needed

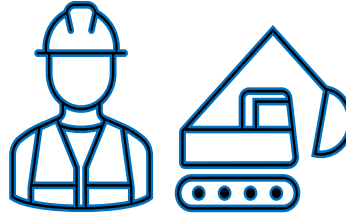
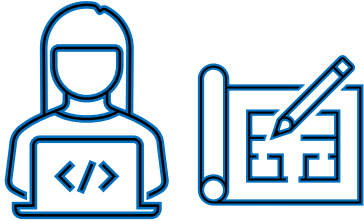


Technician Specific Jobs:
1,400 more people needed



If support roles in locating, permitting, project management etc.
are included, these numbers may need to be **3-5x higher!**

Illinois Broadband Workforce



Pre-Construction

- Engineers and Designers
- Permitting Specialists
- Surveyors
- Project Managers

Construction

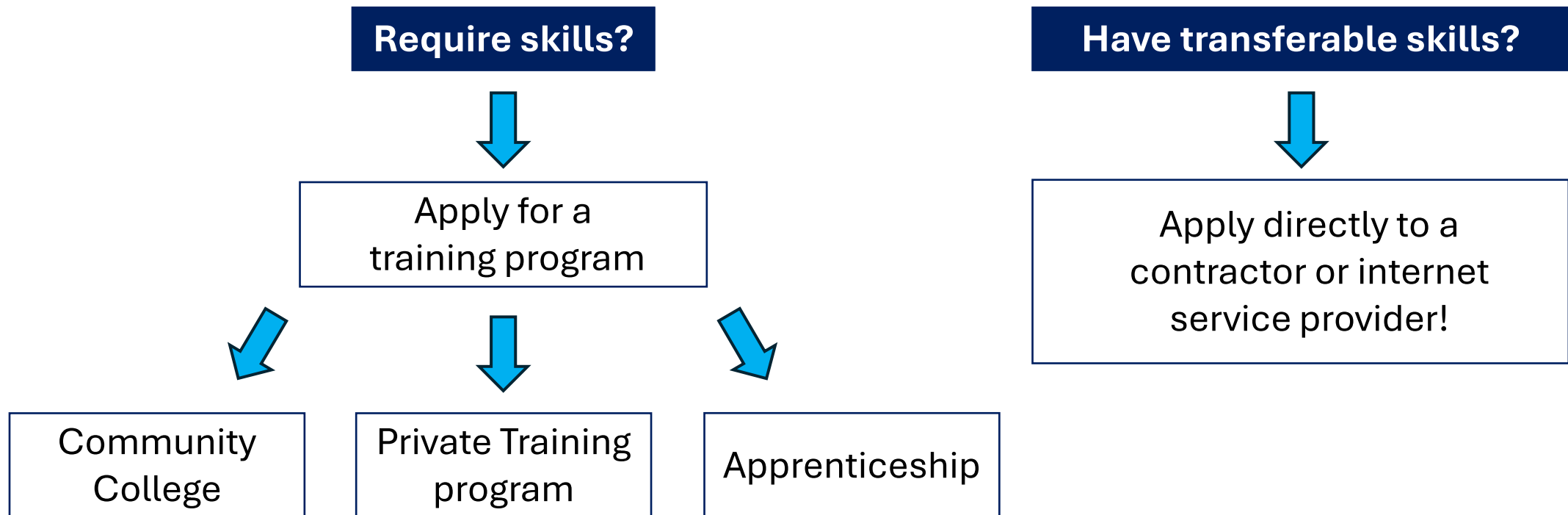
- Utility Locators
- Equipment Operators
- Telecom Technicians
- Linemen
- Fiber Splicers

Post-Construction

- Network Technicians
- Customer Service Representatives
- IT specialists

Pathway into a Broadband Career

The pathway into a broadband career is not one size fits all, it is based on current experience, skills, and proximity to training



Career Advancements*

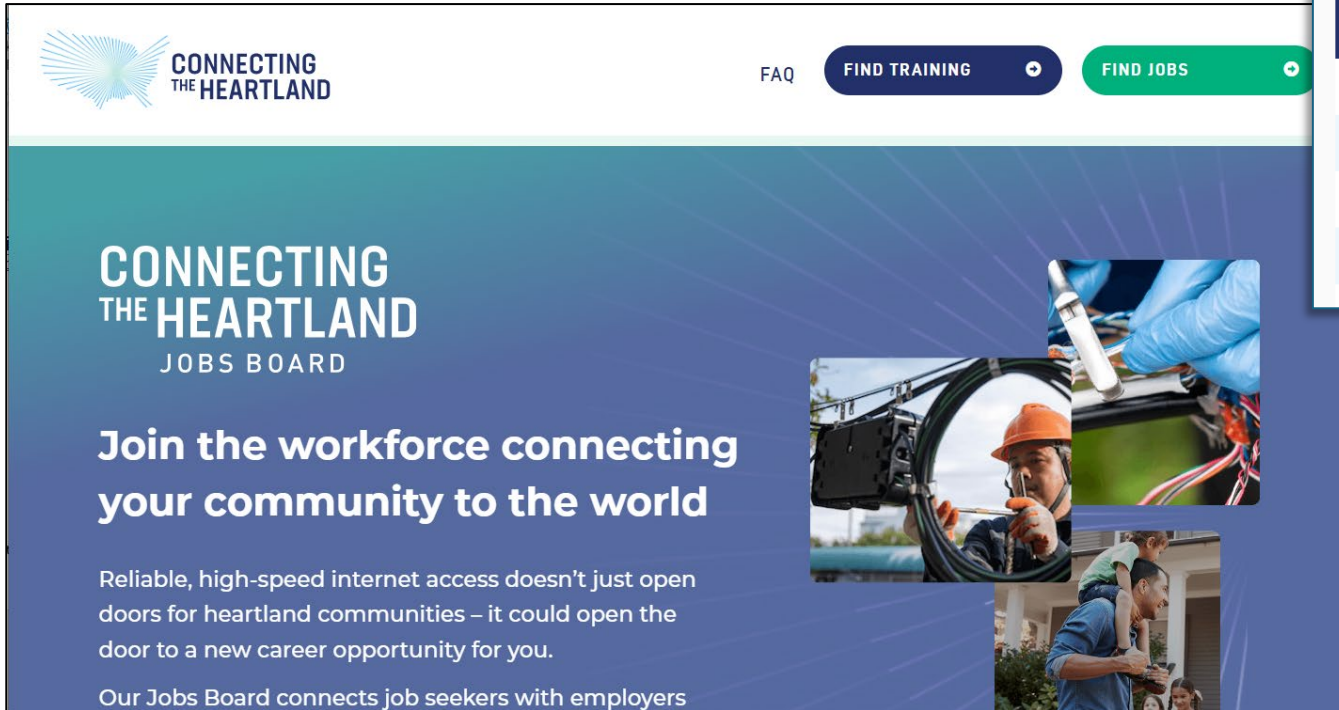
	Fiber Splicer →	Crew Lead →	Network Engineering Manager →	Broadband Engineer
Median Pay	\$52,000	\$58,000	\$104,000	\$200,000

	Permitting Specialist →	Real Estate Specialist →	Regional Site Acquisition Manager →	National Site Director
Median Pay	\$65,000	\$65,000	\$87,000	\$170,000

*Source [Wireless Infrastructure Association \(WIA\) | Wireless Trade Association](#)

Illinois Broadband Jobs Board

The Illinois Broadband Jobs Board aggregates broadband jobs, certifications, and training opportunities into one place



CONNECTING THE HEARTLAND JOBS BOARD

Join the workforce connecting your community to the world

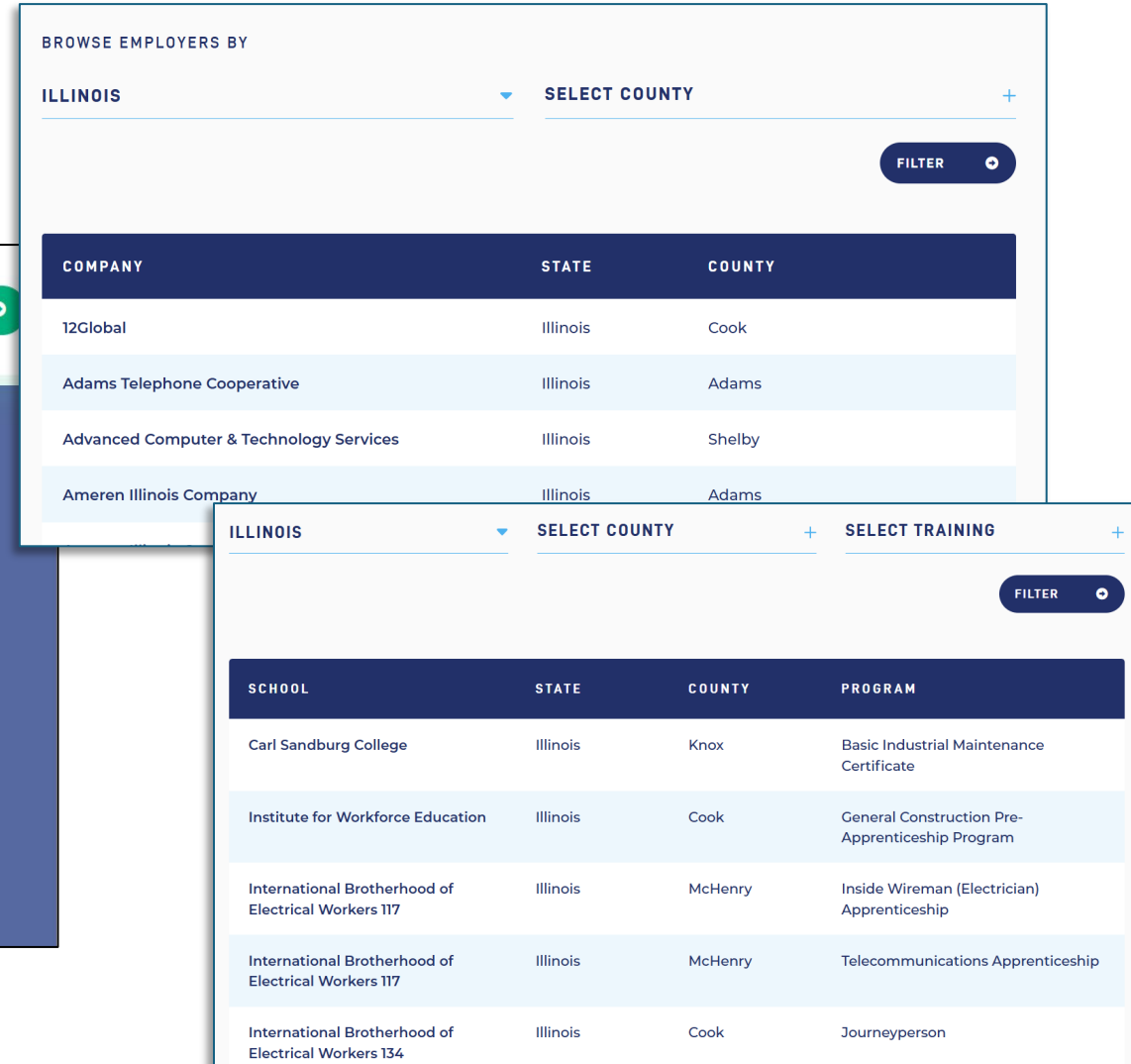
Reliable, high-speed internet access doesn't just open doors for heartland communities – it could open the door to a new career opportunity for you.

Our Jobs Board connects job seekers with employers

FAQ **FIND TRAINING** **FIND JOBS**

The banner features a collage of images: a person in a hard hat working on a cable, a person in a blue shirt working on a device, and a family (a man, a woman, and a child) standing together.

<https://jobs.connectingtheheartland.com/>



BROWSE EMPLOYERS BY

ILLINOIS **SELECT COUNTY** **FILTER**

COMPANY	STATE	COUNTY
12Global	Illinois	Cook
Adams Telephone Cooperative	Illinois	Adams
Advanced Computer & Technology Services	Illinois	Shelby
Ameren Illinois Company	Illinois	Adams

ILLINOIS **SELECT COUNTY** **SELECT TRAINING** **FILTER**

SCHOOL	STATE	COUNTY	PROGRAM
Carl Sandburg College	Illinois	Knox	Basic Industrial Maintenance Certificate
Institute for Workforce Education	Illinois	Cook	General Construction Pre-Apprenticeship Program
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers 117	Illinois	McHenry	Inside Wireman (Electrician) Apprenticeship
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers 117	Illinois	McHenry	Telecommunications Apprenticeship
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers 134	Illinois	Cook	Journeyman

Coordinate with the IOB

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Community Engagement Manager
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Hillary Rains (Southern)
Community Engagement Manager
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Lingling Liu (Central)
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Broadband Policy Manager
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Stephanie Schnaufer
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Joe Rivera
Dig Once Coordinator
Jose.Rivera@illinois.gov

Get in Touch!

General questions?

Email broadband@illinois.gov

Sign up to receive our newsletter:

<https://bit.ly/ILBBNewsletter>

Find all our links:

<https://bit.ly/m/IllinoisBroadband>



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Rural Business Development



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Department of Commerce
& Economic Opportunity
JB Pritzker, Governor



Funding Opportunities for Rural Communities

Jesus Ortega, State Director for IL RD

Mary Warren, Business Programs Director

Julie Hatfield, Community Programs Director

Angela Gardner, Housing Program Specialist

The Rural Development Mission

USDA Rural Development

Committed to helping improve the economy and quality of life in rural America.

- Provide **loans, grants, and loan guarantees** that support essential services, such as:
 - Economic Development
 - Health Care and Community Facilities
 - First Responder Services and Equipment
 - Water, Electric, and Telecommunications Infrastructure
 - Housing



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Rural Development

Rural Development Impacts FY 2026

- Community Impacts
 - 39,086 Rural Residents Receiving Clean Water
 - 21k Miles of Water Lines Repaired/Installed
 - \$33.8 Million in Water & Waste Improvements for rural IL
 - \$9.8 Million in Public Health & Safety projects
- Business Impacts
 - 99 Jobs Created
 - 191 Jobs Retained
 - 57 Businesses Assisted
- Housing Impacts
 - 180 Home Repairs Made
 - 33 Home Purchases
 - 800+ Families in a New Home



Rural Development's Business Programs



Business Programs

Loan Guarantee Programs

- **Business & Industry (B&I)**
- **Rural Energy for America Program (REAP)**
- **Timber Production Expansion Program (TPEP)**



Business & Industry (B&I) Loan Guarantees

B&I Program offers loan guarantees to lenders who provide loans to businesses in rural America

- Maximum loan amount:
 - \$25,000,000
- Guarantee Percentage:
 - Less than \$5,000,000 ➡ 85%
 - \$5,000,000 - \$25,000,000 ➡ 80%
- FY 2026 Fees
 - Up-front guarantee fee: 3.0%
 - Annual renewal fee: 0.55%
 - Reduced guarantee fee: 1.0%
 - Available for certain types of projects
 - Annual renewal fee: 0.50%
 - *Note: Unable to couple 85% guarantee percentage and 1.0% guarantee fee.
 - Additional up-front fee when loan note guarantee is issued prior to construction completion: 0.50%

Business & Industry (B&I) Loan Guarantees

Eligible borrowers include:

- Cooperatives, corporations, partnerships, or other legal entities organized on a for-profit or non-profit basis
- Indian tribes
- Public bodies
- Individuals

Types of projects

- Purchase and development of land, buildings, or infrastructure
- Business acquisitions, start-ups, and expansions
- Purchase and installation of machinery and equipment
- Startup costs, working capital, inventory, and supplies
- Tourist and recreation facilities
- Refinancing existing debt (some restrictions apply)
- Leasehold improvements

Business & Industry (B&I) Loan Guarantees



Flexsenhar Aerial Applicator, LLC
Virden, IL
\$14,750,000

Business & Industry (B&I) Loan Guarantees



KSN Hotels, Inc.
Jacksonville, Illinois
\$2,672,000

Business Programs

Direct Loan Programs

- **Intermediary Relending Program (IRP)**
- **Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program (RMAP)**
- **Rural Economic Development Loan & Grant Program (REDLG)**



Intermediary Relending Program (IRP)

IRP is a revolving loan program in which Rural Development makes a loan to an intermediary, who then uses those funds to make business or community development loans

Eligible Intermediaries

- Public bodies, non-profit corporations, cooperatives & federally-recognized tribes

Eligible Ultimate Recipients

- Individuals, businesses, NFPs, public organizations

Maximum loan amount to intermediary:

- \$1,000,000

Maximum loan amount to ultimate recipient

- \$400,000 or not more than 50% of intermediary's loan from USDA

Rural Economic Development Loan & Grant Program (REDLG)

REDLG is a pass-thru loan at 0% for 10 years

Eligible Intermediaries

- Electric & telephone cooperatives and municipalities that distribute electric

Eligible Ultimate Recipients

- Individuals, businesses, NFPs, public organizations

Maximum loan amount:

- \$1,000,000

Eligible uses of funds

- Equipment, acquisition, expansion, construction, etc.

Rural Economic Development Loan & Grant Program (REDLG)



Wabash Telephone Cooperative/Effingham County Opportunity Foundation
Teutopolis, Illinois
\$1,000,000

Rural Economic Development Loan & Grant Program (REDLG)



Wayne-White Counties Electric Cooperative/Southern Gray, LLC
Grayville, Illinois
\$114,088

Business Programs

Grant Programs

- Rural Business Development Grant (RBDG)
- Value Added Producer Grant Program (VAPG)
- Additional programs listed on www.rd.usda.gov



Rural Business Development Grant (RBDG)

RBDG is a grant program to assist in the development or expansion of small and emerging private businesses in rural areas

Eligible recipients

- Public bodies, non-profit corporations and institutions of higher-education

Typical grant request

- \$99,000

Rural Business Development Grant (RBDG)



Village of Onarga
FY 2020 - \$99,000



Rural Business Development Grant (RBDG)



Southern IL Airport Authority
FY 2021 - \$106,678

Rural Business Development Grant (RBDG)



Food Works
Jackson County, Illinois
\$168,000

Value Added Producer Grant (VAPG)

VAPG is a grant program for ag producers for planning activities or working capital expenditures to help them enter into value-added activities for their bio-based products

Planning grant - \$50,000

Working capital grants - \$200,000

Examples of planning activities:

- Feasibility studies, business plans, marketing plans, etc.

Examples of working capital:

- Processing costs, marketing & advertising expenses, salary, etc.

Value Added Producer Grant (VAPG)



Old Monroe Distillery/Stumpy's Spirits
Columbia, Illinois
FY 2018 - \$250,000; FY 2021 - \$250,000

Value Added Producer Grant (VAPG)



The Mill at Janie's Farm
Ashkum, Illinois
\$250,000

Contact Information: Illinois Offices



ILLINOIS STATE OFFICE

2118 West Park Court
Suite A
Champaign, IL 61821

Phone: 217.403.6200

Fax: 855.832.8691

TDD: 217.403.6240

www.rd.usda.gov/il

Multi-Family Housing
800.292.8293
MFHFODMidwest@usda.gov

Guaranteed Rural Housing
866.481.9575
Champaign-GRH@usda.gov

AREA 1 OFFICES

Oregon

815.595.3114

Princeton

815.719.8130

Ottawa

815.433.0551 x 4

AREA 3 OFFICES

Mt. Vernon

618.244.0773 x 4

Marion

618.993.5396 x 4

Electric Programs
Gerald R. Swenson, P.E.
Gerald.Swenson@usda.gov

AREA 2 OFFICES

Pontiac

815.844.8127 x 4

Champaign

217.352.3536 x 4

Effingham

217.347.7107 x 4

AREA 4 OFFICES

Galesburg

309.342.5138 x 4

Jacksonville

217.243.1535 x 4

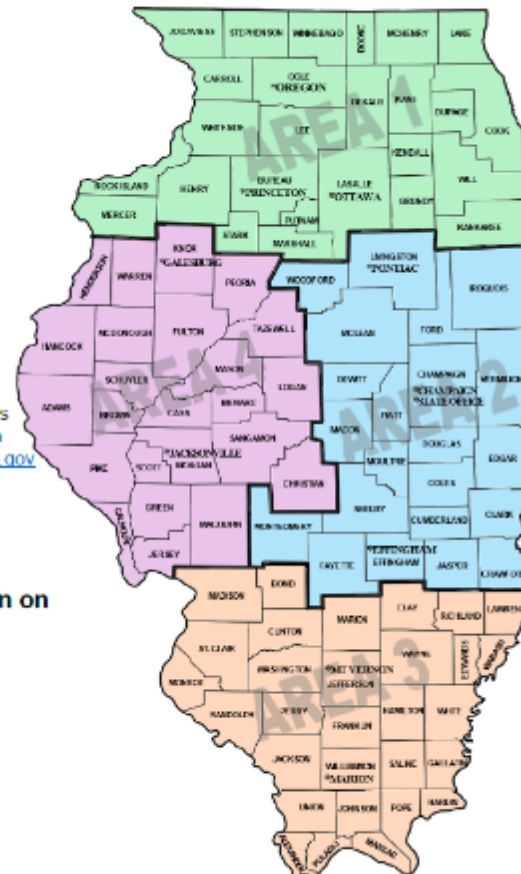
Telecom Programs
Richard D. Martin
richard.martin@usda.gov

All other program contacts, programs, and additional information on all programs can be found at <https://www.rd.usda.gov/>



USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.
Revised 6.3.2026

ILLINOIS PROGRAM SUMMARY



Together, America Prospers
Page 5 of 5



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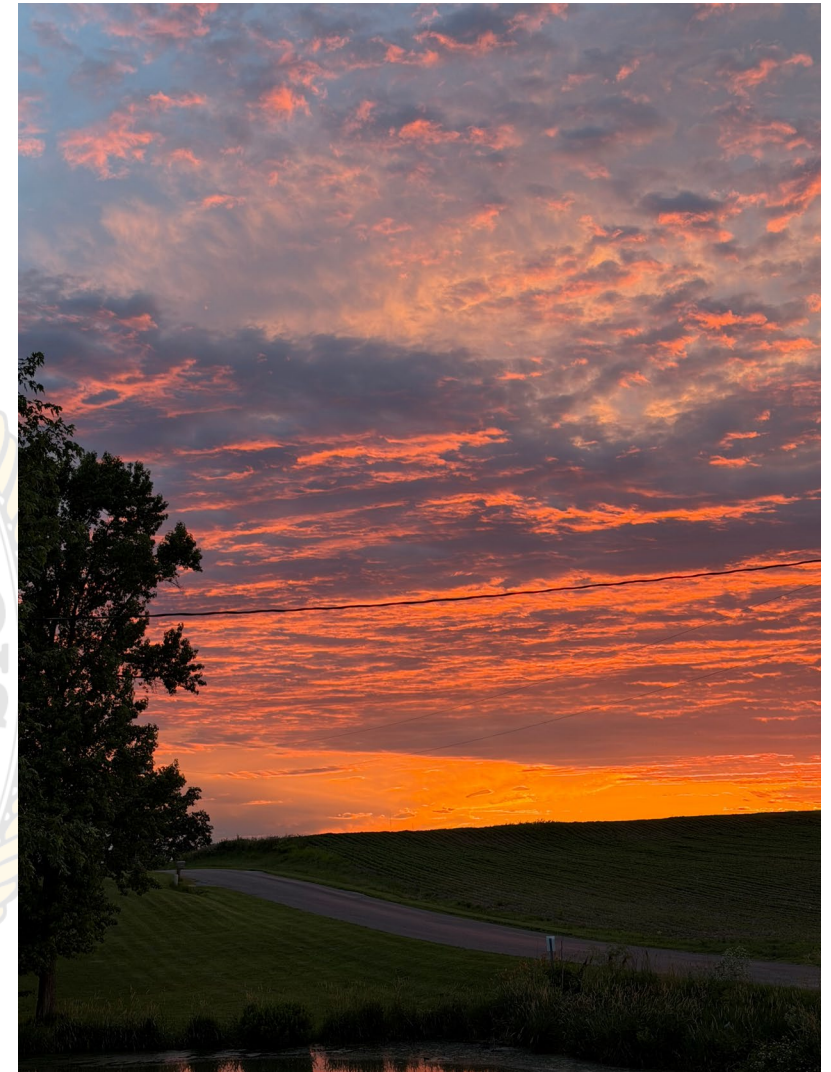
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A rural case study

DCEO programs exist to assist businesses in many different stages of their growth. Through Advantage Illinois, funding SBDCs, and EDGE, as well as many other programs, Team RED is here to help connect all areas in Illinois with the right resources.

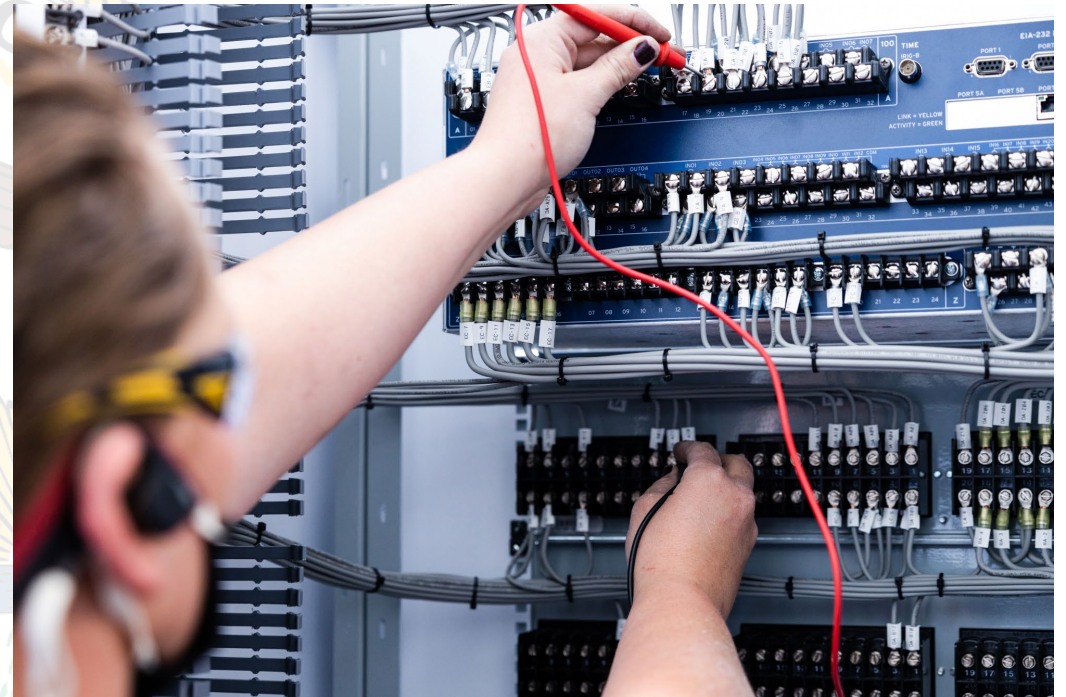


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A Rural Case Study: Intermountain Electronics

Intermountain Electronics starting as a company that built power units for the mining industry, and they have since transitioned into the renewables sector and battery storage. They are headquartered in Utah and have various locations, with Centralia being their only Illinois location and chose this location to expand their operations multiple times.

- New Jobs: 60 Retained Jobs: 141
- Enterprise Zone, Prime Sites
- CDBG Economic Development Grant



What do you think is needed to help rural business development?



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Workforce Development

Various resources are available for workers looking to improve their skills and employers looking to hire employees or upskill the existing workforce.

- **Illinoisworknet.com** is your one-stop shop for everything workforce related. There you can find information on job fairs, training opportunities, and grant opportunities.
- DCEO partners with stakeholders on **Virtual Job Fairs** to connect employers and interested candidates.
- DCEO will often have competitive opportunities, like **Job Training and Economic Development** grants (JTED) for flexible workforce funding with barrier reduction funding.
- Your **Local Workforce Innovation Agencies** serve as the administrator for DCEO grant funds and host many training opportunities.
- Take advantage of **Incumbent Worker Training** and **On-the-Job Training** to either help current workers upskill or train new hires
- The **Illinois Works Pre-apprenticeship Program** offers training to underrepresented individuals in the building trades, so that they will have the opportunity to join DOL-registered apprenticeship programs.



Workforce Development

Local American Job Centers support job seekers and employers

Recruitment Services:

- Job Fairs and Hiring Events
- Labor Market Information
- Candidate Assessment/Prescreening

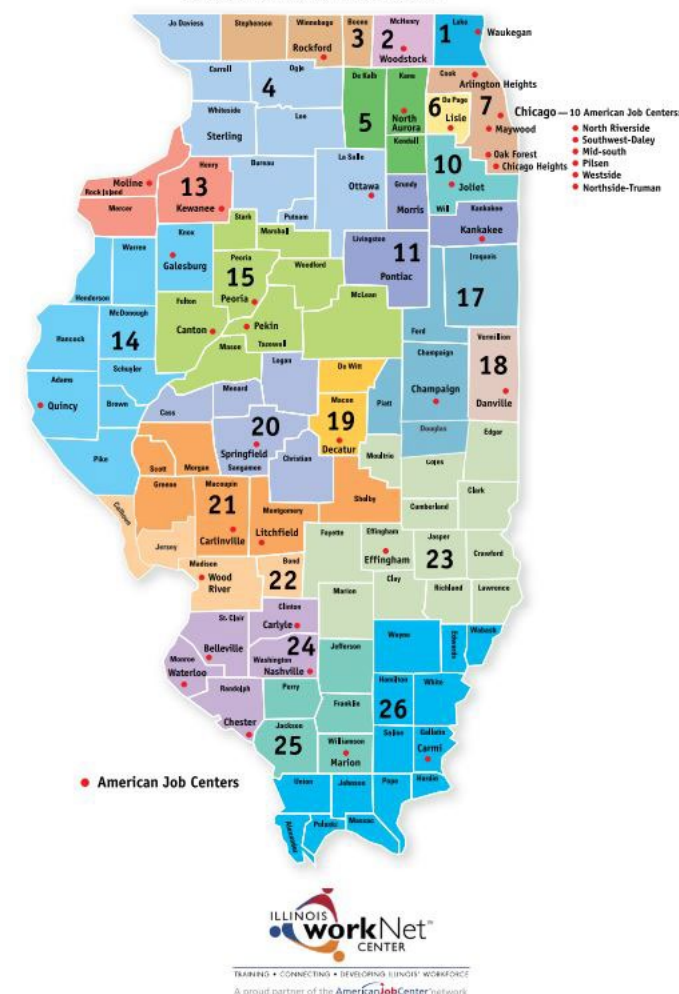
Training Services:

- On-the-Job Training
- Incumbent Worker Training
- Customized Training
- Class-Sized Training
- Apprenticeships

[Training & Credentials Employer-Based Training Programs \(illinoisworknet.com\)](http://illinoisworknet.com)

Illinois American Job Centers

Provided courtesy of the Illinois Workforce Partnership



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Workforce Development

Rapid Response - Rapid Response is a pro-active, business-focused, and flexible strategy designed for two major purposes:

- First, to help avert potential layoffs of employees or obtain the skills necessary to retain employment, such as increasing the skill levels of employees so they can be promoted within the company and create backfill opportunities for less-skilled employees.
- Second, to respond to announcements of layoffs and plant closings by quickly coordinating services and providing immediate aid to companies and their affected workers to ensure rapid reemployment and to minimize the negative impacts of the layoff.

The WorkShare IL program is also available to employers.

Layoff Recovery & Rapid Response Services



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WorkShare IL

- WorkShare IL is a voluntary program through IDES that provides employers facing a decline in business with an alternative to layoffs. The program allows an employer to reduce the number of hours worked in any unit of their business in order to avoid permanent layoffs.
- Each employee in an affected unit continues to work but experiences a reduction in hours that ranges from 20% to 60%. Employees receive a corresponding percentage of unemployment benefits during the period of temporary reduction to offset the reduction in earnings.

Employer Benefits:

- Employers maintain a trained workforce during temporary periods of business downturn.
- Employers avoid turnover costs associated with hiring and training new employees.
- Minimizes significant increases to employers' Unemployment Insurance costs.
- Employers can have multiple plans, allowing the flexibility to tailor plans for the needs of business units with different challenges.

Employee Benefits:

- Employees keep their job and avoid a temporary or permanent layoff.
- Employees receive weekly unemployment benefits to offset the partial loss in earnings.
- Employees continue to receive all fringe benefits under the same terms and conditions.
- Employees are not required to conduct ongoing job searches.





Looking Ahead

- DCEO [Grant Opportunities](#)
- Federal Grant Support Program
- Tourism Grant Programs
- Made in Illinois Program
- Site Readiness
- CEJA Programs
- Grant Navigator
- Grant trainings
- And much more

Team RED keeps Growing!

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