



WHAT DOES DCEO DO?

Under the leadership of Governor JB Pritzker, the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity's mission is to support and maintain a strong economic environment for Illinois taxpayers, employers, workers, and communities. As the economic development arm of the State, DCEO works to recruit and grow businesses, build a 21st-century workforce, enhance innovation, and bring jobs and investment to underserved communities throughout Illinois.

BUSINESS SUPPORT AND INCENTIVES:

DCEO offers a menu of programming designed to help businesses of all sizes and industries to succeed:

ADVANTAGE ILLINOIS

Advantage Illinois is a Participation Loan Program (PLP) where DCEO partners with approved lenders to provide small businesses with loans. The purpose is to increase capital to businesses and support projects that create or retain jobs and/or modernize their business to improve competitiveness. This program offers two types of low-interest loans to help entrepreneurs jumpstart their business idea.

OFFICE OF MINORITY ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

The overarching purpose of the Office of Minority Economic Empowerment (OMEE) is to create a business ecosystem that will facilitate the growth and development of minority entrepreneurs and minority-owned enterprises which will in turn advance the growth of the larger Illinois economy.

ILLINOIS SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTERS (SBDCs)

To support small business owners and entrepreneurs in growing their businesses, SBDCs are located throughout the state and provide information, confidential business guidance, training and other resources to start-up and existing small businesses. With 42 community-based locations, Illinois boasts one of the largest state-run small business networks in the nation.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE CENTERS (ITCs)

ITCs provide assistance with international trade and exporting. The centers offer information, confidential one on one business advice and training to existing and new-to-export companies interested in pursuing international trade opportunities.

DCEO INCENTIVES AND TAX ASSISTANCE

Illinois offers a competitive range of incentives for locating and expanding your business, including tax credits and exemptions that encourage business growth and job creation. This includes the Apprenticeship Educational Expense Tax Credit, Enterprise Zones, Data Center Tax Credit, and the EDGE Tax Credit. All incentives prioritize sustained economic growth for underserved communities.

STATE OF ILLINOIS BUSINESS ENTERPRISE PROGRAM

The program is geared towards businesses owned by minorities, women, and persons with disabilities and is committed to fostering an inclusive and competitive business environment that will help business enterprises increase their capacity, grow revenue, and enhance credentials.

ILLINOIS PROCUREMENT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTERS (PTACs)

PTACs are a resource for small businesses looking to enter the world of government contracting. The centers provide one-on-one counseling, certification assistance, technical information, marketing assistance and training for firms seeking to do business with local, state, and/or federal government agencies.

General Inquiries: 1-800-252-2923 or CEO.support@illinois.gov



SMALL BUSINESS ENVIRONMENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Provides free confidential assistance to small businesses to help them understand their environmental requirements. Located in the non-regulatory agency, services include a toll-free helpline, environmental workshops and training, easy to understand regulatory publications, recordkeeping tools and a free environmental assistance newsletter.

COVID-19 BUSINESS ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

From the time this crisis first hit, the State of Illinois acted quickly to assist the Illinois business community with an array of new grant funding and assistance programs designed to help them navigate the economic burdens created by COVID-19. **These include:**

DOWNSTATE SMALL BUSINESS STABILIZATION PROGRAM

This \$20 million program offers grants of up to \$25,000 available for small businesses that employ 50 people or less outside of Cook County, Will County, DuPage County, McHenry County, Madison, Kane, St. Clair, and Will County.

ECONOMIC INJURY DISASTER LOAN (EIDL)

EIDL is designed to provide economic relief to businesses that are currently experiencing a temporary loss of revenue.

BUSINESS INTERRUPTION GRANT PROGRAM (BIG)

An unprecedented economic recovery program, BIG will deploy \$636 million for businesses hit hardest by the pandemic. A portion of funds are reserved for childcare businesses. Grants will help businesses offset the costs incurred during the shutdown, and ensure they have the resources needed to reopen safely.

ANGEL INVESTMENT CREDIT PROGRAM

Encourages investment in innovative, early-stage companies to help them obtain the working capital needed to further their growth in Illinois. Investors in companies certified as Qualified New Business Ventures (QNBVs) can receive a state tax credit equal to 25% of their investment (up to \$2 million).

REBUILD DISTRESSED COMMUNITIES PROGRAM

A \$25 million economic recovery program to support Illinois businesses that have sustained property damage as a result of civil unrest during protest and demonstrations on or after May 25th, 2020.

PAYCHECK PROTECTION PROGRAM

A forgivable SBA loan that helps businesses keep their workforce employed during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis. The deadline has recently been extended to August 8, 2020.

SBA DISASTER DECLARATION ON CIVIL UNREST

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) has approved the State's request for federal assistance to help businesses in the northern Illinois counties of Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry and Will. Businesses in these counties can apply for emergency disaster loans to help repair damages that took place in connection to recent civil unrest, and the application period remains open for additional Illinois counties to submit for declaration status.