



Pat Quinn, Governor

Warren Ribley, Director



Employment Opportunities Grant Program



Purpose

The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) administers the Employment Opportunities Grant Program (EOGP) in order to expand employment opportunities for individuals in targeted populations in eligible grant areas in Illinois. The goal of the program shall be to expand the number of individuals who enter and complete building trades apprenticeship programs and achieve journey-level status within a building trades union.

Eligible Applicants

EOGP is a statewide grant and there are two types of applicants eligible to apply for grant funding for this program, educational institutions and community based organizations. Eligible applicants must submit an application that is consistent with EOGP guidelines.

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>FUNDING OPPORTUNITY</u></p> <p>Subject to availability of funds and approval by the Director of the Department, DCEO anticipates awarding up to \$6 million in funding for the statewide EOGP. Grants shall be awarded for a 1-2 year period. Funded applicants will implement an approved proposal(s) under direction of a consortium or partnership.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>PARTNERSHIPS</u></p> <p>Funded partnerships will be required to have joint labor and management sponsored apprenticeship programs in support of the proposal. Proposals must include written assurances from their joint labor and management sponsored apprenticeship program partners confirming they will support the proposal and project goals.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>TARGETED POPULATIONS</u></p> <p>Project participants must include members of one or more "historically underrepresented populations" (minorities and women) and/or "hard to serve populations" (youth aging out of foster care, previously incarcerated, homeless, substance abusers, long-term unemployed(2-3 years)). Minorities and females shall have the meaning as defined in the Business Enterprise for Minorities, Females, and Persons with Disabilities Act (30 ILCS 575/0.01 et seq.)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>REQUEST FOR APPLICATION (RFA)</u></p> <p>Grant applications will be reviewed on a competitive basis. The Department shall consider the following criteria in evaluating RFA'S to make a funding decision:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Quality of the proposed training curriculum and related materials. 2. The cost effectiveness of the project. 3. Reasonableness of measurable goals/timetables. 4. Qualifications of personnel assigned to the project. 5. Thoroughness of applicant in providing the required information.