



Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity

Request for Information (RFI)

Clean Building Navigator and Electrification Delivery Program

Illinois Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Implementation

Please submit RFI response to DCEO via the online form at:

<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/019ca0ac1b987a3192b7548981a417ba>

Background

On September 15, 2021, Governor JB Pritzker signed the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act (P.A. 102-0662, referred herein as “CEJA”) into law, establishing Illinois’ commitment to achieving 100 percent clean electricity by 2050 while prioritizing equitable workforce development, economic opportunity, and community investment.

In addition to CEJA, Illinois is implementing climate and building decarbonization strategies supported through the federal Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG), administered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. CPRG supports state implementation of high-impact greenhouse gas reduction strategies identified in the [State of Illinois Priority Climate Action Plan](#), including building electrification, energy efficiency retrofits, contractor workforce development, and community-based implementation support.

The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) is responsible for implementing portions of CPRG-funded programs, including the Clean Building Navigator (CBN) initiative. This initiative is designed to support Illinois residents and small businesses in accessing electrification and energy efficiency upgrades by providing guidance, outreach, intake support, contractor coordination, and project navigation services.

The Clean Building Navigator initiative is intended to:

- Accelerate electrification and energy efficiency deployment
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions from buildings
- Support equitable access to clean energy investments
- Strengthen Illinois’ clean energy contractor ecosystem
- Deliver measurable environmental, economic, and community benefits

DCEO seeks input from stakeholders to inform the design, structure, and implementation of the CBN initiative and related community-based electrification delivery systems.

Scope & Objective:

Input on the Clean Building Navigator and Electrification Delivery Program

To ensure the program is designed to maximize environmental impact, economic opportunity, and equitable access, this Request for Information (RFI) seeks stakeholder input on the structure, roles, qualifications, standards, and systems required for CBN and Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) delivering electrification and retrofit programs.

The CBN initiative will support electrification and retrofit activities including:

- Electrification of residential buildings, including single-family and multifamily homes
- Electrification and efficiency retrofits in commercial buildings
- Participant outreach, intake, and eligibility support
- Contractor coordination and referral
- Workforce and contractor ecosystem integration
- Tracking and reporting of environmental and economic outcomes

DCEO seeks to ensure the CBN delivery system includes appropriate technical standards, workforce integration, community engagement, data tracking, and quality assurance mechanisms necessary to achieve measurable greenhouse gas reductions and equitable program access.

Important Notice

This RFI is not an application for funding.

A future Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) will be released, after which eligible entities may apply through the process required by the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (30 ILCS 708).

Responding to this RFI:

- Is not required to apply for future funding opportunities
- Does not obligate DCEO to release a NOFO
- Does not provide any advantage in future funding opportunities
- Will not result in funding awards

Responses to this RFI may be used by DCEO to inform program design, eligibility criteria, technical standards, performance requirements, and implementation structure.

All responses may be subject to public disclosure.

RFI Submission & Participant Organization Information

Organization information and RFI responses must be submitted via the Smartsheet link listed in the Submission Information section below. You must complete all required fields.

1. Organization Name
2. Contact Name
3. Contact Title
4. Email Address
5. Phone Number
6. Mailing Address
7. City, State, ZIP Code
8. Organization Type
 - a. Community-Based Organization
 - b. Nonprofit Organization
 - c. Educational Institution
 - d. Workforce Training Provider
 - e. Contractor or Industry Organization
 - f. Local Government
 - g. Other
9. Brief description of your organization and its relevant experience
10. Answers to RFI Questions

Request for Information Questions

DCEO seeks stakeholder input regarding the structure, qualifications, and systems required for CBN and CBOs delivering electrification programs.

Please respond to any or all the following questions:

Section 1: Navigator Roles and Functions

1. What functions should CBN perform to ensure participants successfully complete electrification and retrofit projects?
 2. What competencies, expertise, and organizational capabilities should Navigators possess?
 3. What intake, education, and participant eligibility screen and support processes should Navigators use?
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Section 2: Community-Based Organization Roles and Capacity

4. What roles should CBOs play in outreach, intake, participant support, and project coordination?
 5. What organizational capacity, staffing, and infrastructure should CBOs possess?
 6. What community partnerships and local ecosystem assets are necessary for successful program implementation?
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Section 3: Technical Standards and Quality Assurance

7. What implementation strategies should be used to achieve large-scale residential and commercial retrofit targets? Also include methods specific to the CEJA Ecosystem of assets.
 8. What technical standards and installation protocols should be required?
 9. What contractor qualifications, certifications, or competencies should be required?
 10. What quality assurance and quality control processes should be required to ensure installation quality and participant protection?
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Section 4: Workforce and Contractor Ecosystem Integration

11. How should CBNs and CBOs coordinate with CEJA and Illinois workforce development and contractor ecosystem?
 12. What structures are needed to support participation of equity-focused, emerging, and small contractors?
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Section 5: Community Engagement and Participant Access

13. What outreach strategies should be used to maximize participation, particularly among Environmental Justice (EJ) and R3 communities?
 14. What participant protection and consumer safeguards should be required?
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Section 6: Performance Metrics and Program Outcomes

15. What environmental outcomes should the program measure and track?
 16. What economic, workforce, and contracting outcomes should be tracked?
 17. What participant outcomes should be measured to ensure program effectiveness?
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Section 7: Data Tracking and Reporting Systems

18. What systems or tools should Navigators use to track participant eligibility, utility data, electrification projects, and program outcomes?
 19. What performance monitoring and reporting structures should be required?
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Optional: Additional Input

20. Please provide any additional recommendations regarding program design, eligibility requirements, performance standards, or implementation structure.
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Process Overview and Stakeholder Submission

DCEO will review responses to identify key recommendations that may inform:

- Program design and structure
- Eligibility requirements
- Technical standards
- Performance metrics
- Quality assurance protocols
- NOFO development

Submission Instructions

Please submit responses to this Smartsheet form:

<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/019ca0ac1b987a3192b7548981a417ba>

Submission Deadline

Please submit responses by **March 27, 2026**

Responses received after this date may not be reviewed or considered.

For questions about the RFI please email CEO.OEBU@illinois.gov.