



Craft Apprenticeship Program Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)

Overview of the Grant Submission and Award Requirements

**Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity
Office of Employment and Training**



Agenda

- **Welcome / Overview**
- **Program Authorization and Objectives**
- **Program Design**
- **Technical Grant Requirements**

Overview

The objective of this NOFO is to identify **the organization** that will coordinate the **statewide** Future Energy Jobs Act (FEJA) **Craft Apprenticeship Program** that will provide training and establish apprenticeships in the **electric industry, including but not limited to, the solar industry** in Illinois.

Program Authorization / Legislation

- The **purpose** of the Future Energy Jobs Act (FEJA) is to **stimulate job growth in the clean energy economy** with investments in energy efficiency and renewable energy. FEJA includes three Workforce Development Programs:
 - *Solar Pipeline Training Program*
 - *Craft Apprenticeship Program*
 - *Multi-Cultural Job Training Program*
- The administration of the programs authorized under the FEJA were assigned to the Illinois Department of Commerce in 2022 by the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act [see Public Act 102-662].



Support of Solar / Electric Industry



- This program is designed to support employment in the electric industry, including electricians and electric line installers and repairers throughout the State of Illinois.
- The solar electricity sector is an area of the electric industry that is expected to see significant growth. According to the National Solar Jobs Census from the Interstate Renewable Energy Council, solar energy jobs in Illinois grew by over 50% between 2015 and 2020.
- Illinois is in the top 10 states nationally for solar energy job growth according to this report.

Apprenticeship in Context of State Workforce Goals

- This funding opportunity is available to public and private organizations that meet the requirements outlined in this NOFO.
- Strong proposals will demonstrate a solid understanding of the state's overarching workforce strategies and goals.
- Combined federal and state resources mean greater flexibility in apprenticeship expansion
- There are several resources identified in the NOFO as background information, including synopses of and links to:
 - State Unified Plan,
 - IWIB Apprenticeship Committee, and
 - Governor's Action Agenda
 - FEJA and CEJA

Program Description



- **Develop and support career pathways** in the electric and/or solar industry, including but not limited to, those enabled by FEJA and CEJA
- **Provide training on the requisite knowledge, skills, experience, and competences** to design, install, inspect and/or service electric and/or solar equipment and/or systems.
- **Provide apprenticeship participants with the foundational knowledge** necessary for a career within the electric industry, including but not limited to the solar industry and provide diverse low-income, or economically disadvantaged populations with additional craft apprenticeship opportunities.
- **Develop, coordinate and implement training activities** that result in Registered Apprenticeships, Pre-Apprenticeships, and Youth Apprenticeships in the electric industry as defined in the Illinois Career Pathway Dictionary and outlined below.

Target Program Participants

To align with the CEJA priority, applicants should prioritize serving:

- Equity investment eligible persons
- Individuals who face barriers to employment such as low educational attainment, low levels of literacy, language barriers, low income, etc.
- Individuals from Environmental Justice Communities (see <https://www.illinoisfa.com/environmental-justice-communities/>)
- Displaced Energy Workers (as defined by Public Act 102-662)



Target Industry

The grantee will coordinate a statewide program that will provide individuals with training and employment opportunities in **the electric industry** that may, but need not, be related to the solar industry.

The successful applicant must demonstrate that they have a direct connection to the electric industry in Illinois.



Program Partners

Competitive applications must have MOUs or written agreements with Partners

All applicants must have a written agreement with project partners that clearly outlines the roles and responsibilities of each partner and lists their funding contribution.

Applicants that enter into partnership agreements with training providers should include details regarding the training program including the length, location, class size, cost, and other important information.



Program Training Models

Applicants are encouraged to develop program activities that are focused on developing an apprenticeship pipeline in the electric industry. Applicants must develop a statewide career pathways program that includes the following training models/activities as a part of this award:

- Develop, Coordinate and Support Registered Apprenticeships
- Develop, Coordinate and Support Pre-Apprenticeships
- Develop, Coordinate and Support Career Pathways

Industry Led



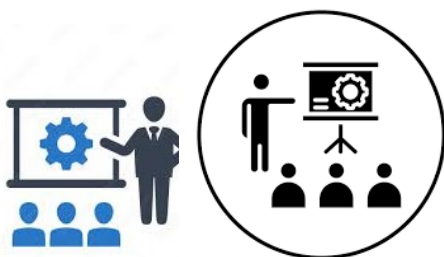
Paid Job



**Structured On-the-
Job Learning**



REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP



**Supplemental
Education**



**Equal
Employment
Opportunity**



Quality & Safety



Credentials

Pre-Apprenticeship Programs

IMPORTANT NOTE: Pre-apprenticeship programs that are funded through this NOFO must meet this definition and be consistent with the requirement of Training and Employment Notice No. 23-23 <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/eta/advisories/ten-23-23>.

Pre-apprenticeship programs **will not be funded** by this NOFO if there **is not an existing registered apprenticeship program(s) or a registered apprenticeship program(s) that is developed within the grant period.**

Before pre-apprentices are enrolled in their programs, **the RAP must be in development** with at least one employer.

Career Pathways: Addressing Industry Skill Needs

A combination of rigorous and high-quality education, training, and other services that aligns both vertically and horizontally across Secondary Education, Adult Education, Workforce Training and Development, Career and Technical Education, and Postsecondary Education systems, pathways, and programs.

Work-Based Learning Continuum



Host Engagement Continuum



Performance Measures

- Total Number of Participants Recruited
- Total Number of Participants Enrolled
- Number of Participants Placed in a Registered Apprenticeship
- Number of Participants that Transition from a Pre-Apprenticeship Program to a Registered Apprenticeship
- Number of Participants Enrolled in a Pre-Apprenticeship Program
- Number of Participants Enrolled in a Career Pathway Program

Funding

- Funding Source: ComEd
 - Illinois Power Agency Act - 220 ILCS 5/16-108.12;
 - Illinois Public Utilities Act - 20 ILCS 3855/1-75(c)(1)(O).
- Total NOFO amount: \$3 Million (*not to exceed*)
- Award Range: \$3,000,000
- Number of Anticipated Awardees: **1**
- Matching Requirements: N/A
- Pre-Award Costs Allowed: Yes
- Indirect Allowed: Yes
- Funding Restrictions: Outlined in NOFO



Craft Apprenticeship Program NOFO Webpage

<https://www.illinoisworknet.com/FEJACraftApprenticeshipProgramNOFO>

2025 FEJA CRAFT APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM NOFO

Background

The objective of this Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) is to identify the organization that will coordinate a statewide Craft Apprenticeship Program that will support registered apprenticeship programs associated with the electric industry that may, but need not, be related to solar installation. Among the goals of the Future Energy Jobs Act (FEJA) and Climate and Equitable Jobs Act (CEJA) is to stimulate job growth in the clean energy economy with investments in energy efficiency and renewable energy. The 2025 Future Energy Jobs Act (FEJA) Craft Apprenticeship Program is aimed at supporting workforce development and training programs that prepare individuals for electric industry careers in the clean energy sector. This initiative aligns with the state's commitment to fostering an equitable and skilled workforce, expanding economic opportunities, and ensuring communities benefit from emerging industries. This NOFO supports the implementation of the FEJA, CEJA and the Governor's priority of expanding apprenticeship opportunities in Illinois.



Program Design

This program will provide funding for a workforce training initiative that equips participants with industry-recognized certifications, hands-on experience, and career readiness skills in clean energy-related projects in the electric industry. The funded program should focus on expanding access to quality training, career pathways, and job placement opportunities, particularly for populations

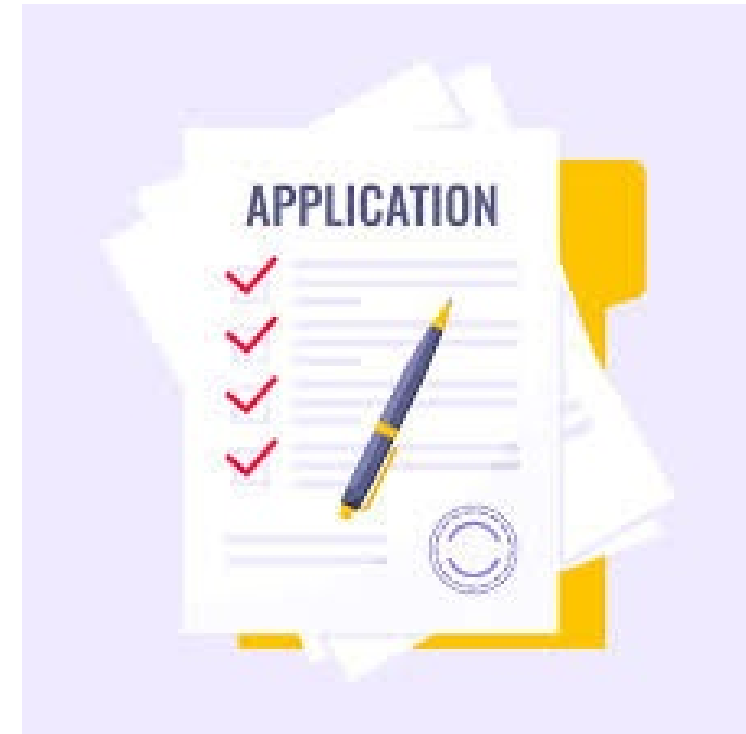
FAQs

Create FAQs and update button link.



Application Submission

- ☐ Uniform Grant Application in fillable PDF format
- ☐ Uniform Budget
- ☐ Conflict of Interest Disclosure
- ☐ Mandatory Disclosures
- ☐ Formatted Grant Technical Proposal
- ☐ Project Workplan (Excel spreadsheet)
 - ☐ Attachment 1: PROJECT SUMMARY
 - ☐ Attachment 2: PARTICIPANT INFO & OUTCOMES
 - ☐ Attachment 3: STAFFING PLAN
 - ☐ Attachment 4: GOAL & ACTIVITY TIMELINE
- ☐ Staff Resumes
- ☐ MOUs / Partnership Agreements



Application Submission Requirements

- **Application Submission:** Application materials must be submitted to the Department via electronic form at <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/76691d032bb2491da5e6151c736d4969>
- **Application Due Date:** Applications are due by 11:59PM CST on Monday, May 5th, 202

Application Review Information

- Applicants must demonstrate that they meet all the requirements outlined in the Notice of Funding Opportunity.
- The following criteria will be used to evaluate applications:
 - **Applicant Capacity (30%)**
 - **Documentation of Need and Opportunity (20%)**
 - **Quality of Project Plan (40%)**
 - **Budget Narrative/Cost Efficiency (10%)**

Grant Award Information



- It is anticipated that the Department will make one award under this NOFO for up to \$3 million.
- It is anticipated that the award will be made before June 30, 2025.
- The grant term/performance period is determined on a project-specific basis, It is anticipated that this grant will be awarded for 24 months with one 12- month renewal option.

Questions and Answers

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Grant Help Desk
Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic
Opportunity
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An Overview of the Technical Grant Requirements under the Illinois Grant Accountability and Transparency Act

Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity

Illinois Grant Accountability and Transparency Act

The Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA), 30 ILCS 708/1 et seq., is a State of Illinois law to:

- Increase accountability and transparency in the use of grant funds
- Reduce the administrative burden on both State agencies and grantees
- Adoption of the federal grant guidance and regulations codified at 2 CFR Part 200 (Uniform Requirements)



Grantee Pre-Award Requirements that must be Completed Prior to Grant Award Execution

- Grantee Registration
- Grantee Pre-Qualification
- Financial and Administrative Risk Assessment
(ICQ – Internal Control Questionnaire)
- Programmatic Risk Assessment
- Mandatory Disclosures & Conflict of Interest Documents

GATA & Indirect Cost Rate System

Office of Management and Budget GATA Website: <http://grants.illinois.gov>

- *Grantee Links Tab* is the entry point for the GATA portal
 - Authentication,
 - Registration,
 - Pre-qualification,
 - Fiscal & Administrative Risk Assessment
- *Centralized Indirect Cost Rate System* will be used to elect the indirect cost rate option and, if necessary, complete the indirect cost rate negotiation process.
 - Grantees that are not current users in the system will receive an invitation to the Centralized Indirect Cost Rate System once a Notice of State Award (NOSA) is generated by a State awarding agency

Grantee Registration

- All Grantees must be registered with the State of Illinois using the Illinois.gov Authentication Portal. A personal or business email address is required to establish an account
- Grantee Registration is completed by browsing to <https://grants.illinois.gov/portal> and associating your Illinois.gov account with your organization.
- Completing the registration process triggers Grantee pre-qualification verifications

Grantee Pre-Qualification

- Pre-Qualification includes verification of:
 - Valid *Unique Entity Identifier* number
 - Current SAM.gov account
 - Good Standing with Secretary of State
 - Not on Federal Excluded Parties List
 - Not on the Illinois Stop Payment List
 - Not on the DHFS Provider Sanction List



**Pre-qualification is dynamic and verifications are completed nightly.*

Uniform Budget Template - Overview

- Uniform Budget Template for most State of Illinois Grants (modeled after the SF-524 Federal Budget template).
- Basic Budget Line Item Definitions based on the Uniform Administrative Guidelines [Develop Budget Line Items Sheet].
- General Requirements
 - Allowable
 - Reasonable
 - Allocable

Types of Costs

- **Direct costs:** Costs that can be identified specifically with a particular final cost objective, such as a Federal award, or other internally or externally funded activity, or that can be directly assigned to such activities relatively easily with a high degree of accuracy. **§ 200.413**
- **Indirect Costs (Facilities and Administration):** Costs incurred for a common or joint purpose benefitting more than one cost objective, and not readily assignable to the cost objectives specifically benefitted, without effort disproportionate to the results achieved. **§ 200.456**

Grantee Resources

- <https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/GATA/Pages/default.aspx>
- <https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/GATA/Grantee/Pages/default.aspx>
- <https://grants.illinois.gov/portal/>
- <https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/GATA/Grantee/Pages/GranteePortalFAQ.aspx>
- <https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/GATA/Grantee/CentralizedIndirectCostSystem/Pages/default.aspx>
- <https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/GATA/Pages/ResourceLibrary.aspx>
- <https://www.illinoisworknet.com/wioastateplan>
- <http://www.naswa.org/>

