



Illinois
Department of Commerce
& Economic Opportunity

Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity (DCEO)

Illinois Works Jobs Program

Meeting Starts In: **10:00**





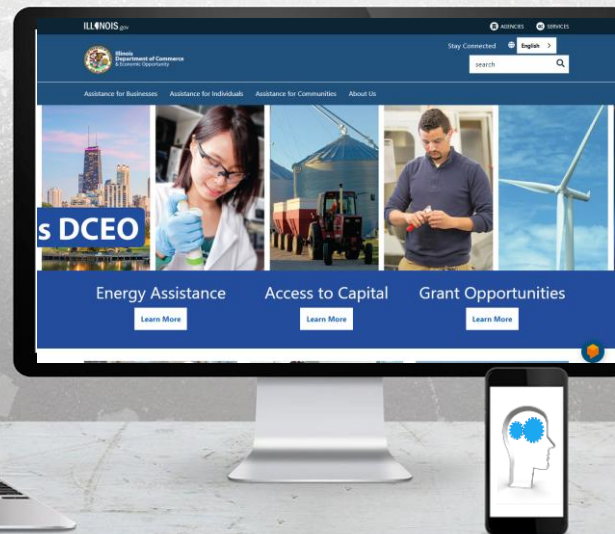
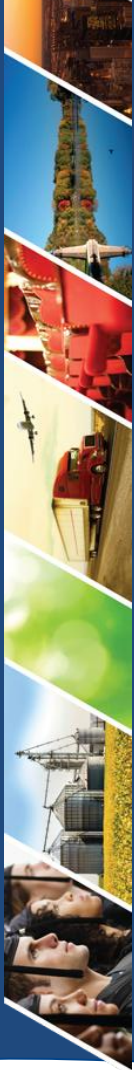
Illinois
Department of Commerce
& Economic Opportunity

Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity (DCEO)

Illinois Works Jobs Program

Illinois Works Bidder's Conference







ILW Pre-Apprenticeship Team

- Dr. Norman Ruano, Deputy Director of Illinois Works
- Mr. Dan Martinez, Sr. Pre-Apprenticeship Program Manager
- Ms. Monica Pruitt, Grant Manager
- Mr. Edwin Molina-Sanchez, Grant Manager
- Ms. Sharhianna Fulce, Grant Manager
- Ms. Alison Altmeyer, Financial Grant Manager
- Mr. Terrance Knight, Financial Grant Manager
- Dr. Jeffery Doolittle, Instructional Designer & Program Coach
- Dr. Tanya Davenport, Instructional Designer & Program Coach
- Dr. Jeremy VanKley, Instructional Designer & Program Coach
- Mr. Victor Castillo, Professional Development Lead





Course Overview



Illinois Works was created as a result of Governor Pritzker's historic \$45 billion capital plan and his commitment to expanding equity in the Illinois' construction workforce. This exciting initiative creates opportunities for Illinois businesses, communities, and families.

During this course you will be provided with information, resources, and support to help you successfully respond to the Illinois Works NOFO and create a strong program proposal.



Course Objectives

By the end of this training, you will be able to:

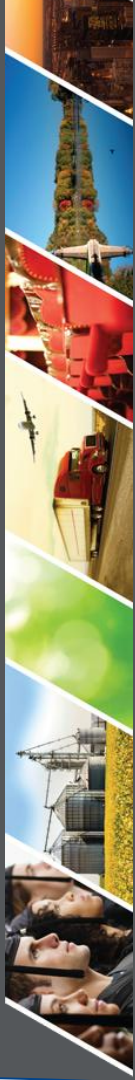
- Articulate the mission of DCEO.
- Describe the relationship between DCEO and Illinois Works.
- Describe the three key programs implemented as a result of the Illinois Works Job Program Act.
- Describe the role of GATA in the NOFO process.
- Access information available from the Illinois Works Pre-Apprenticeship NOFO 2026 website.
- Successfully fill out the materials necessary to complete the Illinois Works Pre-Apprenticeship NOFO application.
- Access Illinois Works Pre-Apprenticeship NOFO resources.





This Session is Being Recorded





CEO.ILWorks@Illinois.Gov



Section 2: Welcome & Introduction

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Use the Webex features and functions to fully participate in the training.
- Identify what you hope to learn from this training.





Webex Tutorial

The screenshot shows a Webex meeting window with a 2x3 grid of participants. A dashed blue line points from the 'Meeting info' tab to the top-left participant. A red arrow points from the 'Mute' button in the bottom toolbar to the left sidebar. Three red arrows point to the 'Stop video', 'Share', and 'Record' buttons in the bottom toolbar. A red arrow points to the 'Apps' button in the bottom toolbar. The left sidebar shows the 'Feature Planning Meeting' with the host 'Clarissa Smith' and buttons for 'Copy meeting link' and 'Invite and remind'. The bottom toolbar includes buttons for 'Mute', 'Stop video', 'Share', 'Record', and a group of icons for 'Apps', 'Participants', 'Chat', and 'More'.

Webex Meeting info Show menu bar 12:40 Layout

Feature Planning Meeting
Host: Clarissa Smith
Copy meeting link Invite and remind

General Security

Meeting link
<https://example.webex.com/go/f.php?MTID=md2baae7e4b0f5be8496394427fae7>

Mute Stop video Share Record Apps Participants Chat More

- Mute/Unmute
- Stop/Start Video
- Raise Hand
- Emojis
- Chat
- Groups

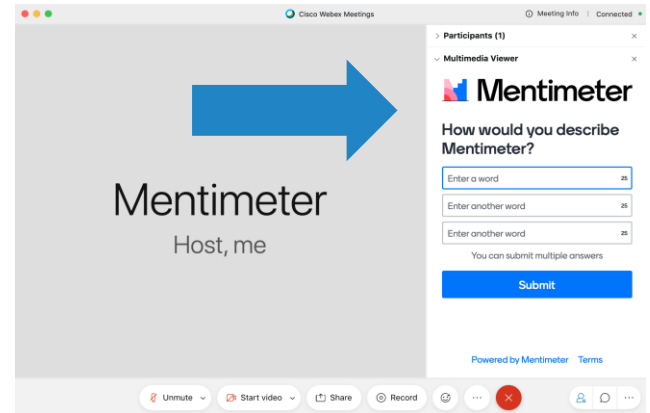
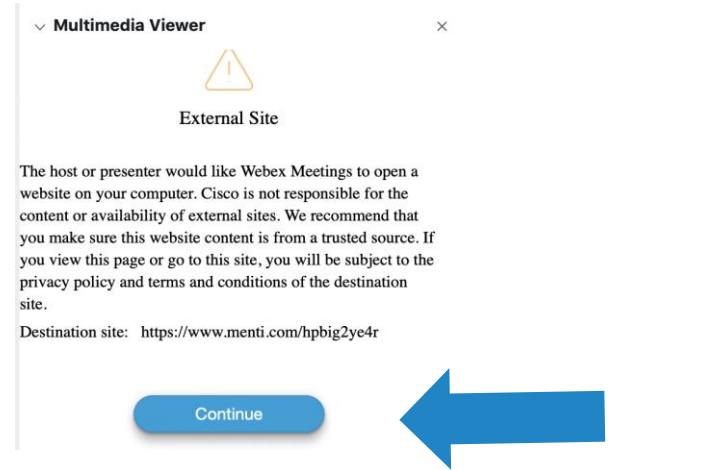


- ▶ On the right-hand of your Webex screen click the blue **Continue** button.
- ▶ Once you click the button the Mentimeter app will show in the Multimedia viewer.



Menti.Com
Code: 6141 4442

Link: <https://www.menti.com/alvm7mgyspy6>





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- Your Name
- Organization/Agency
- Role
- Geographic Location





Question:

“What do you hope to get out of today's bidder's conference?”





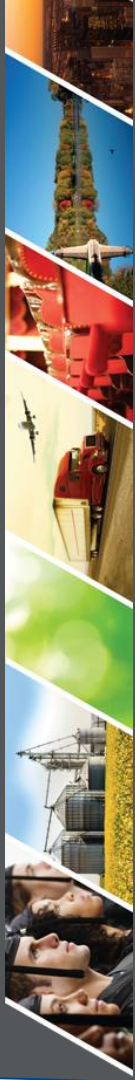
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Comments, feedback, or questions?

Email us at:

CEO.IllinoisWorks@Illinois.Gov



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Section 3: Illinois Works Overview



By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Explain the role of the Illinois General Assembly regarding the Illinois Works Jobs Program Act.
- Articulate the mission of DCEO.
- Describe the innovative Illinois Works workforce development model.
- Access the Illinois Works Job Act Website



Section 3: Illinois Works Overview



By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Identify the relevant data that evidenced of the need for Illinois Works.
- Summarize the role of each of the Illinois Works three key programs, including the Apprenticeship Initiative, the Pre-Apprenticeship Program and the Bid Credit Program.
- Summarize the role of the Illinois Works Career Center.
- Identify the Illinois Works goals.



Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity



The Office of Illinois Works



Illinois Works Jobs Program Act



The **Illinois Works Jobs Program Act** is a statewide initiative to ensure that all Illinois residents have access to state capital projects and careers, including in the construction industry and building trades.

The **goal** is to provide contracting and employment opportunities to historically underrepresented populations in the construction industry.

This effort specifically targets **women, people of color, and veterans**.





Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity ~ Website



ABOUT US

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Why Illinois?

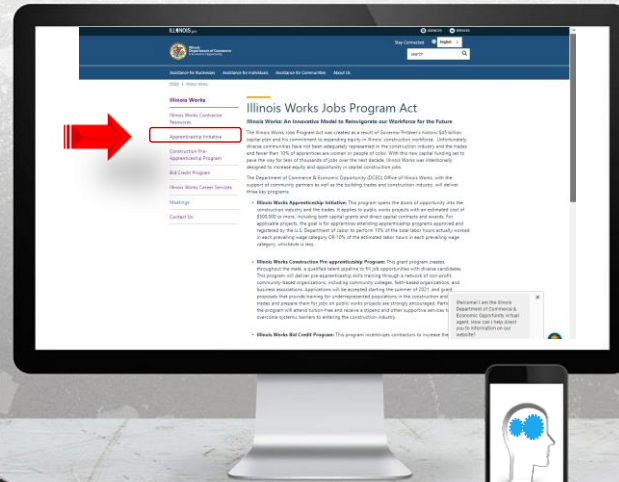
About Us

The mission of the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) is to create equitable economic opportunities across the State of Illinois. By attracting and supporting major job creators, investing in communities, strengthening Illinois' world-class workforce, fostering innovation, and ushering in the new clean energy economy, DCEO works to fortify Illinois' reputation as a global economic powerhouse while ensuring Illinois is the best state to live, work and do business.

DCEO delivers impactful programs and services through the following offices:

- Accountability**
 The Office of Accountability (OA) enhances integrity, transparency and accountability across the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity's programs. [The Grant Help Desk](#), within the Office of Accountability, provides valuable resources, training and guidance to entities who are interested in the Department's grant opportunities.
- Broadband Development**
 The Office of Broadband (OBB) is responsible for administering broadband infrastructure grant programs. These programs include Connect IL and the federal Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program. From infrastructure to utilization, public funding to private deployment, the office strives to be a useful resource to individual consumers, local communities, various state agencies, and broadband providers alike. OBB seeks to make meaningful connections through thoughtful public-private partnerships, innovative cross-sector collaboration, and increased efficiency within state agency and across all levels of government.
- Business Development**
 The Office of Business Development (OBD) provides free and confidential services to companies seeking to locate or expand in Illinois. The primary focus of this office is to retain and create jobs in Illinois and spur capital investment by working with existing businesses and new businesses making expansion and location decisions. OBD administers a portfolio of tax incentives, grants, and programs to help companies develop, redevelop, expand, locate, and relocate in Illinois, and works closely with other DCEO offices and economic development partners like Intersect Illinois, DCEO's business attraction and marketing partner.
- Communication & Information**
 DCEO's fast-paced Communications (COMM) team aims to advance DCEO's mission by raising awareness about key initiatives through communications and media strategies. The team communicates complicated topics to mass audiences via press release and social media channels, high-profile events with the Governor and other key stakeholders, and statements and interviews with DCEO leadership and the media.

- Human Resources**
 The DCEO Office of Human Resources (HR) manages all aspects of the employee lifecycle, including recruiting, onboarding, training & development, payroll, benefit administration, leaves of absence, employee relations and offboarding.
- Illinois Works**
 The Office of Illinois Works (OIW), through its three main programs (Illinois Works Apprenticeship Initiative, Illinois Works Construction Pre-apprenticeship Program, and Illinois Works Bid Credit Program), sets out to expand equity in Illinois' construction workforce. The Illinois Works team aims to provide a career pathway for members of historically underrepresented communities and promote construction as a viable job industry for women, Veterans, and people of color. OIW aims to supply the construction industry with a skilled workforce for generations to come.
- Information Management**
 The Office of Information Management (OIM) is staffed in partnership with the Department of Innovation and Technology (DOIT), a peer state agency. OIM is leading a digital transformation toward an enterprise approach to technology at DCEO to gain efficiencies and improve service delivery to the residents of Illinois. This transformation is resulting in improved security and data protection, fewer redundant systems, and more efficient technology spending. DOIT/OIM's customer-centric approach improves access to agency services by leveraging modern technologies.
- Internal Audit**
 The Office of Internal Audit (OIA) is responsible for providing independent and objective auditing and advisory services to DCEO. These audits help determine the adequacy of DCEO internal controls while ensuring compliance with State and Federal requirements. OIA also supports DCEO by making recommendations which help ensure regulatory compliance and reduce operating costs while increasing efficiency and operational effectiveness.
- Legislative Affairs**
 DCEO's Office of Legislative Affairs (OLA) leads legislative advocacy on behalf of DCEO: drafting, filing, and moving legislation and communicating the Department's position on legislation filed by external stakeholders. The Office of Legislative Affairs is also the key interface and liaison for members of the Illinois General Assembly and assists with constituent issues raised by various elected officials.
- Management Operations**
 The Office of Management Operations (MO) is responsible for many agency-wide functions such as mail and shipping, office supplies, print shop requests, record retention, building maintenance, telecommunications, and IT related equipment. Management Operations also reviews and approves all travel requests and manages the agency motor pool fleet.
- Policy Development, Planning & Research**
 The Office of Policy Development, Planning, and Research (PDPR) conducts research, develops policies, and collaborates with other DCEO offices and stakeholders to ensure programs align with the state's economic priorities and community needs. PDPR manages the Illinois Economic Growth Plan, determining long-term strategies for economic development. Additionally, PDPR acts as an incubator for new programs, designing and piloting new initiatives.





Innovative Workforce Model





The DCEO Office of Illinois Works, with the support and partnerships of communities, building trades, and the construction industry, will deliver three key programs:



Illinois Works Apprenticeship
Initiative



Illinois Works Pre-Apprenticeship
Program



Illinois Works Bid Credit Program



Illinois Works Jobs Program



The intent of these key programs is to expand apprenticeship opportunities, with a targeted focus on underrepresented populations.

An expansion of apprenticeship opportunities will strengthen wages and employment for more Illinois residents while supporting the broader economy, especially as construction employment is expected to grow modestly over the next decade.

Source: IDES long-term projections framework (2024–2034) Table 1, Illinois Employment Recent Performance

Illinois and U.S. Labor Data

Population	U.S. Population	Illinois Population	2019 Construction/ Trade Apprentices	2021 Construction/ Trade Apprentices	2025 Construction/ Trade Apprentices	Grant Year 2025 ILW Pre-Apprenticeship Program
Women	50.5%	50.9%	4%	5%	6%	24%
African American	13.7%	14.5%	9%	9%	9%	51%
Hispanic/Latino	20.0%	19.9%	18%	17%	21%	24%
American Indian / Native Alaskan	1.3%	2.0%	1%	1%	1%	1%
Asians	6.4%	7.0%	<1%	.7%	1%	1%
Veterans	5.9%	3.8%	7%	7.1%	Not Available	1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, *QuickFacts: United States and Illinois* (2025); Illinois Department of Labor. (2026). *2025 State Construction Minority and Female Building Trades Annual Report*; Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity. (2025). *Program Report on the Evaluation of the Illinois Works Apprenticeship Initiative and Preapprenticeship Program* (Enrolled participant demographics); Illinois Department of Labor RAPIDS Registered Apprenticeship Data (2019 & 2021).





The DCEO Office of Illinois Works, three key programs:



Illinois Works Apprenticeship
Initiative



Illinois Works Pre-Apprenticeship
Program



Illinois Works Bid Credit Program





Illinois Works Apprenticeship Initiative – Job Demand





ILW Apprenticeship Initiative Summary

For applicable projects, the goal is for the U.S. Department of Labor certified apprentices (not limited to pre-apprentice program graduates) to perform: 10% of total labor hours actually worked in each prevailing wage category or 10% of the estimated labor hours in each prevailing wage category, whichever is less.

In summary, the goal is for US Department of Labor certified apprentices (not limited to pre-apprentice program graduates) to perform:

- 10% of total labor hours actually worked in each prevailing wage category or
- 10% of the estimated labor hours in each prevailing wage category, whichever is less

By having an established goal, contractors generally find themselves in need to hire more apprentices, resulting in higher demand for apprentices.



Apprenticeship Initiative

- The Apprenticeship Initiative launched in June of 2020 and is presently overseeing the implementation of over **900 Projects** worth over **\$6 billion**.
- The Apprenticeship Initiative utilizes Smartsheet as a real-time compliance management platform.



Source: Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity. (2025). *Program Report on the Evaluation of the Illinois Works Apprenticeship Initiative and Pre-apprenticeship—Submitted on behalf of the Illinois Works Review Panel.*





The DCEO Office of Illinois Works, three key programs:



Illinois Works Apprenticeship
Initiative



Illinois Works Pre-Apprenticeship
Program



Illinois Works Bid Credit Program





Illinois Works Pre-Apprenticeship Program – Talent Pipeline





Illinois Works Pre-Apprenticeship Program



The Illinois Works Pre-Apprenticeship Program creates a qualified talent pipeline to fill job opportunities with diverse candidates. It launched in 2021 with 23 programs. The Illinois Works Pre-Apprenticeship Program currently funds 37 programs located throughout the State of Illinois, serving approximately 1,800 residents.

This program delivers pre-apprenticeship skills training through a network of community-based organizations, including community colleges, faith-based organizations, and business associations, among others.

For our grants, we strongly encourage proposals that provide training for underrepresented populations in the trades. Participants of the program attend tuition-free and receive a stipend and other supportive services to help address systemic barriers which prevent them from entering the construction industry.



2026 Grantee Manual



Illinois
Department of Commerce
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ILLINOIS WORKS

Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity (DCEO)

2026 Grantee Manual

Illinois Works
Pre-Apprenticeship Program

January, 2026



ILLINOIS WORKS
Pre-Apprenticeship Program

Section 3. State Staff Roles	AD/ Admin Programs	Grant Illinois	
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Section 5. Programmatic Monitoring	Outre	Ors	
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In the **2026 Grant Year:**

- **37** Funded Providers
- **16** New Grants Awarded
- 21 Renewed Grants
- Serving over **1,500** Illinois Residents
- **569** Participants Enrolled



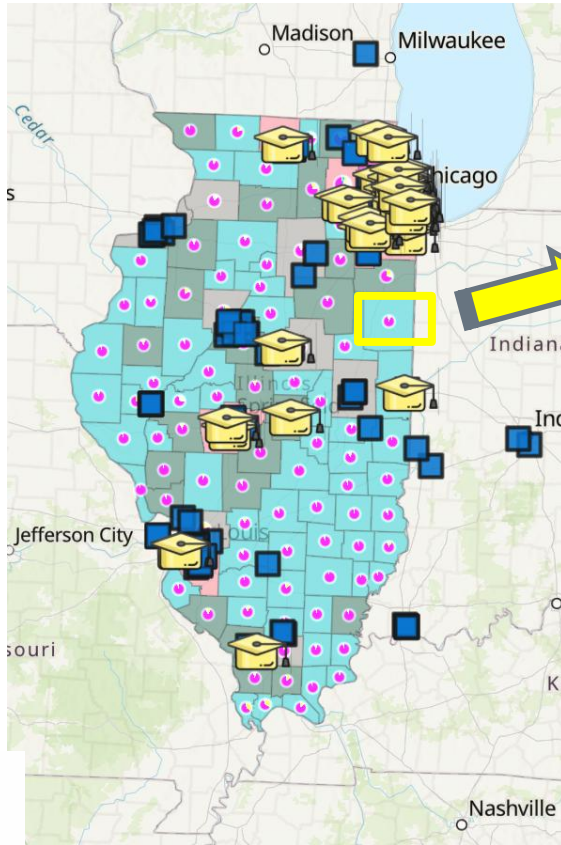
Current Enrollment Per Underrepresented Group

Population	U.S. Population	Illinois Population	2019 Construction/ Trade Apprentices	2021 Construction/ Trade Apprentices	2025 Construction/ Trade Apprentices	Grant Year 2025 ILW Pre-Apprenticeship Program
Women	50.5%	50.9%	4%	5%	6%	24%
African American	13.7%	14.5%	9%	9%	9%	51%
Hispanic/Latino	20.0%	19.9%	18%	17%	21%	24%
American Indian / Native Alaskan	1.3%	2.0%	1%	1%	1%	1%
Asians	6.4%	7.0%	<1%	.7%	1%	1%
Veterans	5.9%	3.8%	7%	7.1%	Not Available	1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, *QuickFacts: United States and Illinois* (2025); Illinois Department of Labor. (2026). *2025 State Construction Minority and Female Building Trades Annual Report*; Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity. (2025). *Program Report on the Evaluation of the Illinois Works Apprenticeship Initiative and Preapprenticeship Program* (Enrolled participant demographics); Illinois Department of Labor RAPIDS Registered Apprenticeship Data (2019 & 2021).



ILW Heat Map



Name	Iroquois County
2020 Total Population	27,077
Area in square miles	1,118.88
County FIPS	075
FIPS	17075
Number_of_Projects	2
People per square mile	24.20
State Abbreviation	IL
State FIPS	17





The DCEO Office of Illinois Works, three key programs:



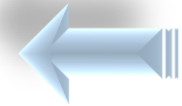
Illinois Works Apprenticeship
Initiative



Illinois Works Pre-Apprenticeship
Program



Illinois Works Bid Credit Program





Illinois Works Bid Credit Program – Incentive to Hire & Retain





Illinois Works Bid Credit Program



The **Illinois Works Bid Credit Program** incentivizes contractors to hire and retain a diverse pool of candidates. It allows contractors and subcontractors to earn bid credits by employing apprentices who have completed the Illinois Works Pre-apprenticeship Program. Bid credits can be used toward future bids for public works projects contracted by the State of Illinois or an agency of the state.

Illinois Works Bid Credit Program Summary

In summary, the program provides:

- 
- **The Illinois Works Bid Credit Program allows contractors and subcontractors** to earn bid credits for use toward future bids for public works projects contracted by the state or an agency of the state.
 - **Bid credits can only be earned** for employing apprentices who have completed the Illinois Works Pre-apprenticeship Program, but they can be earned for any project the graduate works.
 - DCEO establishes the bid credit earning rates for all prevailing wage construction trades. This rate is reviewed and revised annually.
 - There is no maximum for bid credits that can be earned by contractors and/or subcontractors and no limit to the number of ILW Pre-apprenticeship graduates they can hire. **The Illinois Works Bid Credit Bank** is administered by DCEO as mechanism for tracking the bid credits.
 - Bid credits can be pooled between multiple contractors and/or subcontractors for a single capital funded projects but there will have a maximum allowable bid credit amount for each project based on the estimated project cost.



Job Search & Hiring Support: Illinois Works Career Services



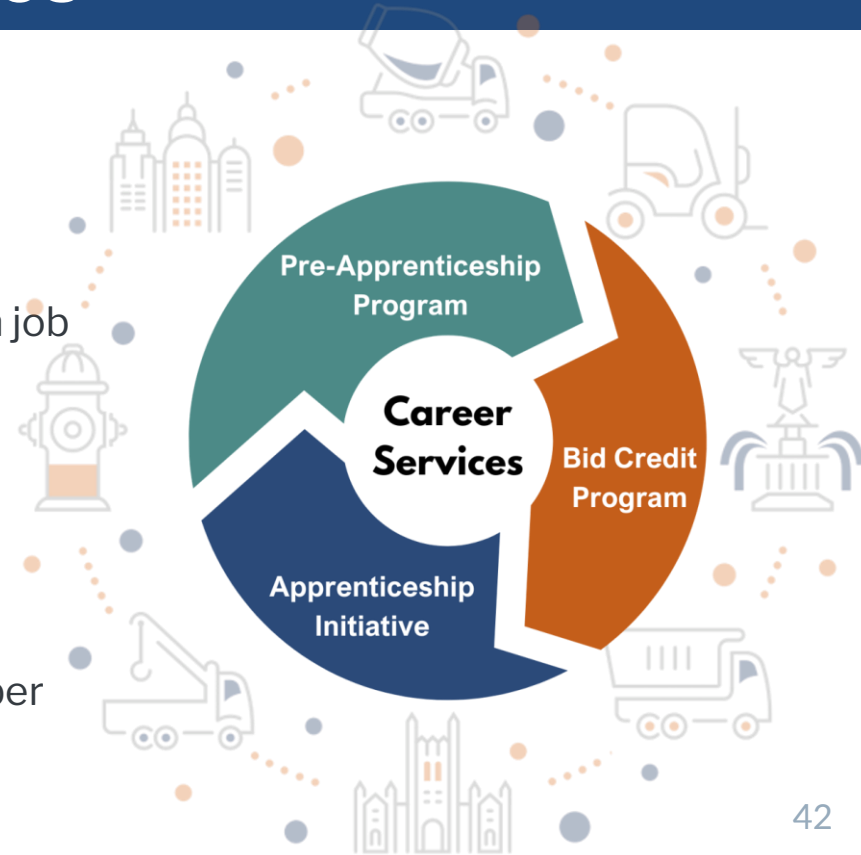


Illinois Works Career Services

Illinois Works recently launched the Career Services Team, designed specifically to:

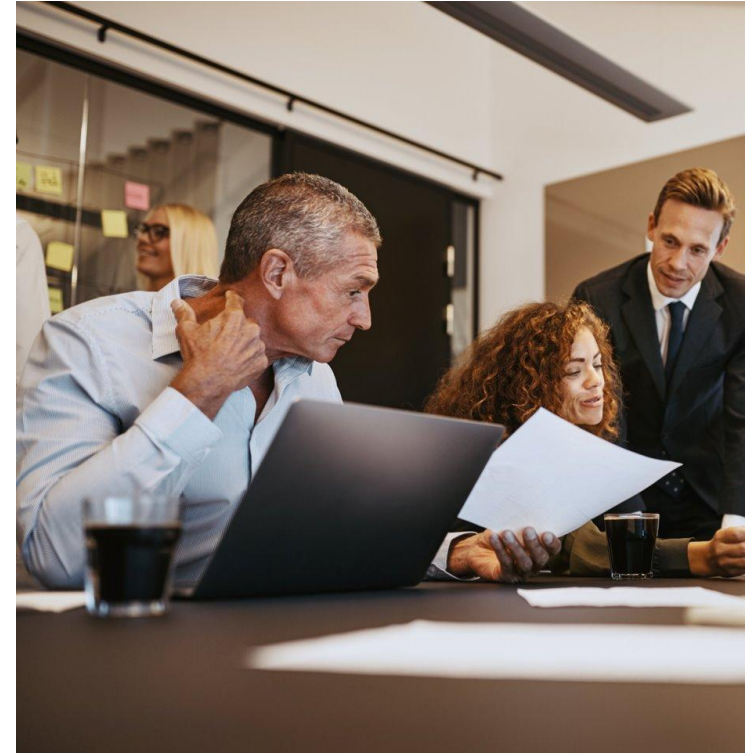
- Build relationships with DOL RAPs.
- Directly connect employers and graduates through job matching.
- Create and provide customized lists of graduates.
- Provide long-term transition support to graduates.

The main goal of Illinois Works is to increase the number of Illinois Works pre-apprentices gaining employment and entry into the DOL RAPs of their choice.



Connecting to Illinois Works Graduates – Job Matching

- The **Illinois Works Career Service Team** facilitates job matching. This highly effective team works hard to ensure a seamless and efficient process.
- Contractors only need to submit a **job order** through the **Illinois Works Employer Form** and specify their employment needs.
- This user-friendly form allows the Illinois Works Career Services Team to send a list of Illinois Works graduates that match their job requirements.
- The job order form is also used by contractors to provide follow-up information about the graduates they might have screened or hired from the list they received.





Career Pathways Management Platform

- 
- The Career Pathways Management Platform (CPMP) allows each of the three key Illinois Works programs (the Apprenticeship Initiative, the Pre-Apprenticeship Program, and the Bid Credit Program) to input and access critical data, enabling them to achieve their Illinois Works goals.
 - This new database tracks Illinois Works Pre-Apprenticeship Program graduates and allows companies to review their resumes for hire.





Illinois Works Program Goals:

- Provide a career pathway for residents in disadvantaged communities.
- Provide eligible apprentices with the skills for lifelong job security.
- Promote construction as a viable job industry for women and minority communities.
- Provide the construction industry with a consistent skilled workforce for generations to come.
- Create new partnerships between state agencies and community organizations.



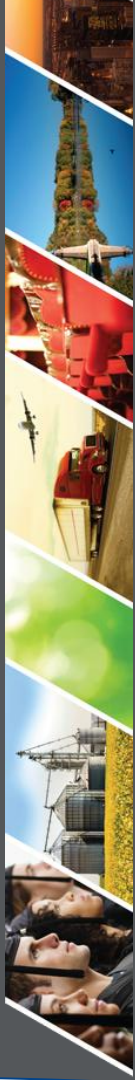


Information Sessions

For comments, feedback, or questions email the Office of Illinois Works at CEO.ILWorks@illinois.gov.

Event Name	Type of Event	Event Date and Time	Registration/Resources
Intro to ILW	Webinar	September 8, 2026 9:00am - 12:00pm	• Presentation • Recording
GATA	Webinar	September 10, 2026 9:00am - 12:00pm	• Registration
Bidders Conference	Webinar	September 15, 2026 9:00am - 12:00pm	• Registration
Performance-Based Model	Webinar	September 17, 2026 9:00am - 12:00pm	• Registration
Developing Partnerships	Webinar	September 22, 2026 9:00am - 12:00pm	• Registration





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Section 4: GATA Eligibility



By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Describe the role of GATA in the NOFO process.
- Access the GATA Pre-qualification website.
- Register for the GATA Pre-qualification recorded session.



DCEO Notice of Funding Opportunity – Release Summary



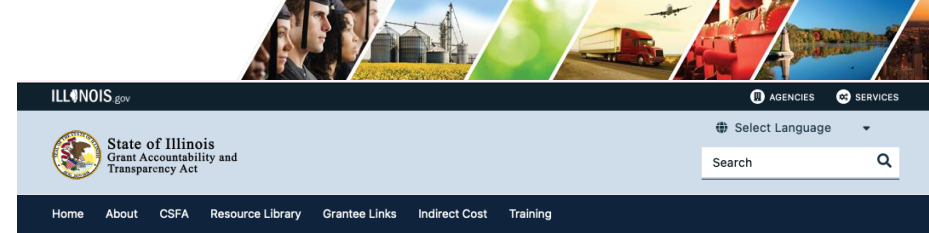
State of Illinois Uniform Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Summary Information

Awarding Agency Name	Commerce And Econ Opp
Agency Contact	Norman Ruano (Norman.Ruano@illinois.gov)
Announcement Type	Initial
Type of Assistance Instrument	Grant
Funding Opportunity Number	FY27-1
Funding Opportunity Title	Illinois Works Pre-apprenticeship Program
CSFA Number	420-30-2614
CSFA Popular Name	Illinois Works Pre-apprenticeship Program
Anticipated Number of Awards	25
Estimated Total Program Funding	\$12,000,000
Award Range	\$150000 - \$550000
Source of Funding	State
Cost Sharing or Matching Requirements	No
Indirect Costs Allowed	Yes
Restrictions on Indirect Costs	No
Posted Date	09/02/2026
Application Date Range	09/02/2026 - 10/02/2026 : 5:00 PM
Grant Application Link	Please select the entire address below and paste it into the browser... https://dceo.illinois.gov/aboutdceo/grantopportunities/2614-4323.html
Technical Assistance Session	Offered : Yes Mandatory : No Date : 09/15/2026 : 9:00 AM Registration link : https://www.illinoisworknet.com/ilworkspreapprenticeshipnofo2026



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GATA Pre-qualification ~ Website



Announcements

- **NOFO EMAIL NOTICES:** Subscribe to a weekly mailing list to receive an email that announces all new Notice of Funding Opportunities, or NOFOs, published the previous calendar week. To subscribe:
 1. Send an email To: subscribe-omb-gata-grants@lists.illinois.gov
 2. Leave the Subject and the Body of the message blank
 3. Questions regarding NOFO email notices can be directed to OMB.GATA@illinois.gov
- NOTE: Due to high demand, SAM.gov is experiencing processing delays validating entity legal business names and addresses. Help tickets at SAM.gov are handled on a first in first out basis. They advise against reporting the same incident multiple times.
- Per M-21-20, entities can apply for funding without an active SAM.gov registration. However, a state agency cannot award a grant to an entity without an active SAM.gov account.
- [COVID Resources](#)

Grant Accountability and Transparency Act

The **Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA)**, 30 ILCS 708/1 et seq., is landmark legislation that will increase accountability and transparency in the use of grant funds while reducing the administrative burden on both State agencies and grantees through adoption of the federal grant guidance and regulations codified at 2 CFR Part 200 (Uniform Requirements). Pursuant to the Act, the **Grant Accountability and Transparency Unit (GATU)** has been established in the Governor's Office of Management and Budget. GATU is charged with implementation of the Act in coordination with State grant-making agencies and grantees. The following links provide a direct connection to:

[Illinois Compiled Statutes](#) that established GATA

[Illinois Administrative Rules](#) for GATA

[Uniform Requirements in 2 CFR 200](#) in 2 CFR 200

Please see our annual reports for more information:

[Annual Report 2021](#)

[Previous years](#)





GATA - Processing Timeframe





GATA – NOFO Applicants



- Complete the prequalification process
- Current GATA standing must be good
- GATA Profile must be maintained
- Must ensure their GATA Portal is cleared





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Grantee Resources – Webpages





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DCEO > DCEO Grants

DCEO Grants

[Apply for Funding](#)

[Upcoming Grant Trainings](#)

[Video Training & Resources](#)

[Contact Us](#)

DCEO Grants



Apply for Funding

Search a current listing of DCEO grant opportunities including application links and information, as well as information on Capital Grants.



Video Training & Resource Library

A collection of training videos from all facets of the grant lifecycle. Enjoy short tutorials on how to navigate the grant process.



Upcoming Grant Trainings

Interested in learning more about the grant process? See the calendar listing of upcoming live training opportunities and sign-up for future grant trainings.



Contact DCEO Grant Help Desk

Need assistance with a grant-related question? Click here to contact the DCEO Grant Help Desk.



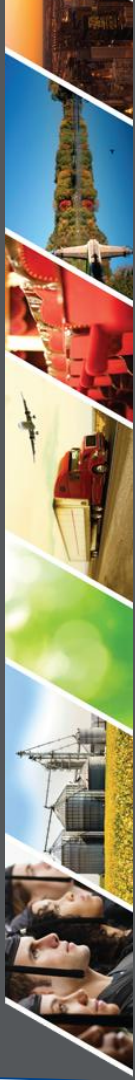
Information Sessions and Recordings

Information Sessions

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Developing Partnerships	Webinar	September 22, 2026 9:00am - 12:00pm	• Registration





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Section 5: Illinois Works NOFO Website



By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Access information about the DCEO Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO).
- Describe the available features on the Illinois Works Pre-Apprenticeship 2026 NOFO website.
- Identify the Illinois Works Pre-Apprenticeship Program NOFO Materials.



NOFO Goal



The **goal** of the Illinois Works Pre-apprenticeship Program NOFO is to provide grants to community-based organizations (including accredited public colleges or universities) or coalitions throughout the State that will recruit, prescreen, and provide pre-apprenticeship skills training.

Successful grantees will be expected to provide pathways and manage the transition from the pre-apprenticeship program to a full DOL-registered apprenticeship program (the Primary Goal of the Illinois Works) in construction and the building program (the Primary Goal of the Illinois Works) in construction and the building trades.



2026 ILW Grantees



Currently, the Illinois Works Pre-Apprenticeship Program funds 37 programs located throughout the State of Illinois that represent five different models;

- School districts
- Small and medium non-profit
- Large non-profit
- Community colleges
- Business associations





2026 NOFO Focus

The 2026 NOFO is focused on awarding grants in geographic areas where the Office of Illinois Works does not presently have pre-apprenticeship programs, with the goal of increasing the representation of underrepresented groups that presently are not served or underserved populations including individuals of Asian descent, Veterans, and Women, among others.

Geographic priority areas include:

- Central Region (Region 1) - Sangamon County
- North Central Region (Region 3) – Peoria County, McLean County
- Northeast Region (Region 4) – DeKalb County, DuPage County, Kane County, Kankakee County, Kendall County, McHenry County, Suburban Cook County, Will County
- Northwest Region (Region 6) – LaSalle County, Rock Island County, Whiteside County
- Southeast Region (Region 7) – Marion County, Lawrence County
- Southern Region (Region 8) – Jackson County





Illinois Works Pre-Apprenticeship NOFO 2026 Website



ILLINOIS WORKS PRE-APPRENTICESHIP NOFO 2026

Background

The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (the "Department" or "DCEO") is issuing this Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) to expand the Illinois Works Pre-apprenticeship Program. The Illinois Works Pre-apprenticeship Program is administered by the Department's Office of Illinois Works.

The goal of the Illinois Works Act is to ensure that all Illinois residents have access to State capital projects and careers in the construction industry and building trades, as well as provide contracting and employment opportunities to historically underrepresented populations in the construction industry and the trades. The Illinois Works Pre-apprenticeship NOFO and program is a critical component in the success of the Act, by increasing the number of qualified construction and building trades apprentices who are women, people of color, veterans or from otherwise underrepresented populations (as defined by the Illinois Works Jobs Program Act) and preparing them to enter full apprenticeship programs on their way to careers in construction and the building trades.

This NOFO is focused, although not exclusively, on awarding grants in geographic areas where the Office of Illinois Works does not presently have pre-apprenticeship programs and to increase the representation of underrepresented groups that presently are not served or are underserved by existing programs including individuals of Asian descent, Veterans, and Women, among others. This NOFO is open to all Economic Development Regions, but the following regions and counties are strongly encouraged to apply:

- Central Region (Region 1) - Sangamon County
- North Central Region (Region 3) - Peoria County, McLean County
- Northeast Region (Region 4) - DeKalb County, DuPage County, Kane County, Kankakee County, Kendall County, McHenry County, Suburban Cook County, Will County
- Northwest Region (Region 6) - LaSalle County, Rock Island County, Whiteside County
- Southeast Region (Region 7) - Marion County, Lawrence County
- Southern Region (Region 8) - Jackson County

[View the geographic boundaries of these Economic Development Regions](#)



Program Design

The Illinois Works Pre-apprenticeship Program provides grants to community-based organizations (including an accredited public college or university) or coalitions throughout the State that will recruit, prescreen, provide pre-apprenticeship skills training, and transition participants to U.S. Department of Labor (US DOL) Registered Apprenticeship Programs. Successful grantees are expected to provide pathways and manage the transition from the pre-apprenticeship program to a full apprenticeship program in construction and the building trades.

This NOFO will use the definitions established in the Illinois Works Jobs Program Act, including the definitions for "community-based organizations" and "underrepresented populations." It will also use the State of Illinois definition for a pre-apprenticeship program which appears in the [Illinois Career Pathways Dictionary](#). Besides the following definitions and frameworks, additional information and resources are included in the Appendix of this NOFO.

Community-based organization: The Illinois Works Act establishes that "community-based organization" means a nonprofit organization, including an accredited public college or university, selected by the Department to participate in the Illinois Works Pre-apprenticeship Program. To qualify as a "community-based organization," the organization must demonstrate the following:

- the ability to effectively serve diverse and underrepresented populations, including by providing employment services to such populations;
- knowledge of the construction and building trades;
- the ability to recruit, prescreen, and provide pre-apprenticeship training to prepare workers for employment in construction and the building trades; and a plan to provide the following preparatory classes;
- workplace readiness skills, such as resume preparation and interviewing techniques;

FAQs



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) - forthcoming

NOFO Materials

- Illinois Works Pre-Apprenticeship NOFO
- Uniform Application
- Budget Template
- Conflict of Interest Disclosure
- Mandatory Disclosure
- Attachment I - Proposed Work Plan
- Attachment II - Participant Demographics and Outcome Summary
- Attachment III - Sample Curriculum and Proposed Curriculum
- Attachment IV - Staffing Plan





Illinois Works Pre-Apprenticeship NOFO 2026 Website



- workplace readiness skills, such as resume preparation and interviewing techniques;
- strategies for overcoming barriers to entry and completion of an apprenticeship program; and
- any prerequisites for acceptance into an apprenticeship program.

Funding Information

This grant program is utilizing state funds appropriated by Public Act 104-0464. Total amount of funding expected to be awarded through this NOFO is \$12,000,000. Awards will range from \$150,000 to \$550,000. The Department expects to make 25 awards through this NOFO.

The period of performance is expected to be January 1, 2027 through December 31, 2027. Grants will be awarded for one year with the potential for renewal/modification for up to two additional years for successful projects that meet and exceed the required program services and outcome metrics.

Submission Details

Application

Applicants must submit a project narrative that describes in detail how the award will be executed. The project narrative should include enough information for DCEO to understand the scope of the project, the budget, including a detailed breakdown of the costs associated with each budget line and any additional necessary detail to enable DCEO to manage the grant agreement activity against planned project performance. The Project Narrative must include evidence of capacity, quality and need as defined in Section E.1.

Due date for application materials is Friday, October 2nd, 2026 by 5:00pm CST unless otherwise extended in accordance with GATA or its' implementing regulations.

For detailed information about the funding opportunity and instruction on how to apply, see the full NOFO, as well as required documents, linked under NOFO Materials.

Notice of Intent to Apply

The Department requests that applicants submit a Notice of Intent to Apply by Thursday, September 10th, 2026. The Notice of Intent to Apply should be a one page document that includes the name of the lead applicant and the regions served. Submitting the Notice of Intent to Apply is optional and will assist the Department in planning the merit review of applications.

These letters will help the Department determine merit reviewer needs.

Award Timeline

Applications are due by October 2nd, 2026 by 5:00pm.

Information Sessions

For comments, feedback, or questions email the Office of Illinois Works at CEO.ILWorks@illinois.gov.

Event Name	Type of Event	Event Date and Time	Registration/Resources
Intro to ILW	Webinar	September 8, 2026 9:00am - 12:00pm	• Registration

Resources

NOFO References

- 360-Degree Focus on Equity
- Executive Order #3: Action Agenda for Workforce Development and Job Creation
- Illinois Career Pathways Dictionary
- Illinois Department of Labor, 2021 State Construction Minority and Female Building Trades Annual Report
- Illinois Essential Employability Skills Framework
- Illinois Works Pre-apprenticeship Program 2026 Grantee Manual
- Illinois Workforce Innovation Board, Apprenticeship Illinois Committee Quarterly Report June 2021
- The Essentials of a High-Quality Pre-apprenticeship Program, Jobs for the Future, 2019
- United States Department of Labor, Training and Employment Notice 13-12
- United States Department of Labor, Discover Apprenticeship: Earn While You Learn Today
- U.S. Dept of Labor, Registered Apprenticeship Partners Information Database System (RAPIDS)

Resources for Competitive Applications

- Apprenticeship Illinois
- Grant Accountability and Transparency Act
- Illinois Career Pathways Dictionary
- Regional and Local Workforce Plans
- State of Illinois WIOA ePolicy Portal
- State of Illinois WIOA Unified State Plan
- U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation Talent Pipeline Management Initiative
- U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Employment and Training, Office of Apprenticeship
- WIOA Regional/Local Plans by Economic Development Region
- Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014

Resources on National Best Practices for Pre-Apprenticeship and Apprenticeship Programs

- 2020 Construction Apprenticeship Guidebook (Seattle)
- Broadening the Apprenticeship Pipeline (National Skills Coalition)
- Construction Pre-Apprenticeship Programs (Aspen Institute)
- Construction Pre-Apprenticeship Programs: Results from a National Survey



2026 NOFO Resources



Resources

NOFO References

- 360-Degree Focus on Equity
- Executive Order #3: Action Agenda for Workforce Development and Job Creation
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- Broadening the Apprenticeship Pipeline (National Skills Coalition)
- Construction Pre-Apprenticeship Programs (Aspen Institute)
- Construction Pre-Apprenticeship Programs: Results from a National Survey (Aspen Institute)
- Illinois Tollway Construction Works Brochure
- Illinois Tollway Construction Works Online Application Portal
- Illinois Tollway Construction Works Website
- Key Capacities of Construction Pre-Apprenticeship Programs (Aspen Institute)
- Pre-Apprenticeships: Building Strong Apprentices (Workforce GPS)
- Seattle PACT Pre-Apprenticeship Construction Training
- YOUTHBUILD Construction Plus Framework

Resources on National Best Practices for Equity Pre-Apprenticeship and Apprenticeship Programs

- The Roadmap for Racial Equity (National Skills Coalition)
- Principles for a High-Quality Pre-Apprenticeship: A Model to Advance Equity (Center for Law and Social Policy CLASP)
- Collaborative Solutions for Increasing Diversity of Apprenticeship Participants (Workforce GPS)
- Closing the Divide: Making Illinois a Leader in Equitable Apprenticeships (Young Invincibles)
- Growing Equity and Diversity Through Apprenticeship: Business Perspectives (JFF Center for Apprenticeship and Work-based Learning)
- Flowchart of Equitable Apprenticeship Models (Young Invincibles and Chicago Jobs Council)





Illinois Works Informational Sessions

Information Sessions

For comments, feedback, or questions email the Office of Illinois Works at CEO.ILWorks@illinois.gov.

Event Name	Type of Event	Event Date and Time	Registration/Resources
Intro to ILW	Webinar	September 8, 2026 9:00am - 12:00pm	• Registration
GATA	Webinar	September 10, 2026 9:00am - 12:00pm	• Registration
Bidders Conference	Webinar	September 15, 2026 9:00am - 12:00pm	• Registration
Performance-Based Model	Webinar	September 17, 2026 9:00am - 12:00pm	• Registration
Developing Partnerships	Webinar	September 22, 2026 9:00am - 12:00pm	• Registration





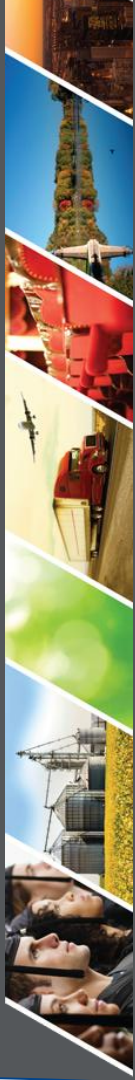
Developing Partnerships Information Sessions

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Bidders Conference	Webinar	September 15, 2026 9:00am - 12:00pm	• Registration
Performance-Based Model	Webinar	September 17, 2026 9:00am - 12:00pm	• Registration
Developing Partnerships	Webinar	September 22, 2026 9:00am - 12:00pm	• Registration





CEO.ILWorks@Illinois.Gov



Section 6: NOFO



By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Access the NOFO materials available on the Illinois Works Pre-Apprenticeship 2026 NOFO website, including the required attachments (I-IV).
- Describe the NOFO eight distinct content sections (A-H).
- Incorporate each of the required program elements into their application.
- List the required materials to submit an application.
- Submit the application by the due date and time.
- Articulate the evaluation criteria.
- Access references and resources.



Illinois Works Pre-Apprenticeship 2026 NOFO Website

Program Design

The Illinois Works Pre-apprenticeship Program provides grants to community-based organizations (including an accredited public college or university) or coalitions throughout the State that will recruit, prescreen, provide pre-apprenticeship skills training, and transition participants to U.S. Department of Labor (US DOL) Registered Apprenticeship Programs. Successful grantees are expected to provide pathways and manage the transition from the pre-apprenticeship program to a full apprenticeship program in construction and the building trades.

This NOFO will use the definitions established in the Illinois Works Jobs Program Act, including the definitions for "community-based organizations" and "underrepresented populations." It will also use the State of Illinois definition for a pre-apprenticeship program which appears in the [Illinois Career Pathways Dictionary](#). Besides the following definitions and frameworks, additional information and resources are included in the Appendix of this NOFO.

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- the ability to effectively serve diverse and underrepresented populations, including by providing employment services to such populations;
- knowledge of the construction and building trades;
- the ability to recruit, prescreen, and provide pre-apprenticeship training to prepare workers for employment in construction and the building trades; and a plan to provide the following: preparatory classes;
- workplace readiness skills, such as resume preparation and interviewing techniques;
- strategies for overcoming barriers to entry and completion of an apprenticeship program; and
- any prerequisites for acceptance into an apprenticeship program.

Funding Information

This grant program is utilizing state funds appropriated by Public Act 104-0464. Total amount of funding expected to be awarded through this NOFO is \$12,000,000. Awards will range from \$150,000 to \$550,000. The Department expects to make 25 awards through this NOFO.

The period of performance is expected to be January 1, 2027 through December 31, 2027. Grants will be awarded for one year with the potential for renewal/modification for up to two additional years for successful projects that meet and exceed the required program services and outcome metrics.

FAQs



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) -
forthcoming

NOFO Materials

- Illinois Works Pre-Apprenticeship NOFO
- Uniform Application
- Budget Template
- Conflict of Interest Disclosure
- Mandatory Disclosure
- Attachment I - Proposed Work Plan
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- Attachment III - Sample Curriculum and Proposed Curriculum
- Attachment IV - Staffing Plan

Resources

- NOFO References
- 360-Degree Focus on Equity
 - Executive Order #3: Action Agenda for Workforce Development and Job Creation
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 - Illinois Essential Employability Skills Framework
 - Illinois Works Pre-apprenticeship Program 2026 Grantee Manual
 - Illinois Workforce Innovation Board

NOFO Materials

- [Illinois Works Pre-Apprenticeship NOFO](#)
- [Uniform Application](#)
- [Budget Template](#)
- [Conflict of Interest Disclosure](#)
- [Mandatory Disclosure](#)
- [Attachment I - Proposed Work Plan](#)
- [Attachment II - Participant Demographics and Outcome Summary](#)
- [Attachment III - Sample Curriculum and Proposed Curriculum](#)
- [Attachment IV - Staffing Plan](#)



NOFO Materials – Illinois Works Pre-Apprenticeship NOFO



NOFO ID: 2614-4323

Agency-specific Content for the Notice of Funding Opportunity Illinois Works Pre-apprenticeship Program

NOFO ID: 2614-4323

For information about grants please visit:
<https://dceo.illinois.gov/dceo-grants.html>

A. Program Description

1. Notice of Funding Opportunity Intent

The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (the "Department" or "DCEO") is issuing this Notice of Funding Opportunity ("NOFO") to expand the Illinois Works Pre-apprenticeship Program. The Illinois Works Pre-apprenticeship Program is administered by the Department's Office of Illinois Works.

The goal of the Illinois Works Jobs Program Act (30 ILCS 559/20-10) is to ensure that all Illinois residents have access to State capital projects and careers in the construction industry and building trades, as well as provide contracting and employment opportunities to historically underrepresented populations in the construction industry and the trades. The Illinois Works Pre-apprenticeship program is a critical component in the success of the Act, by increasing the number of qualified construction and building trades apprentices who are women, people of color, veterans or from otherwise underrepresented populations (as defined in A.S. Program Description) and preparing them to enter full apprenticeship programs on their way to careers in construction and the building trades.

This NOFO is focused, although not exclusively, on awarding grants in geographic areas where the Office of Illinois Works does not presently have pre-apprenticeship programs and to increase the representation of underrepresented groups that presently are not served or are underserved by existing programs including individuals of Asian descent, Veterans, and Women, among others. This NOFO is open to all Economic Development Regions, but the following regions and counties are strongly encouraged to apply:

- Central Region (Region 1) - Sangamon County
- North Central Region (Region 3) - Peoria County, McLean County, Kane County, Kankakee County
- Northeast Region (Region 4) - DeKalb County, DuPage County, Kane County, Will County
- Northwest Region (Region 6) - LaSalle County, Rock Island County, Whiteside County
- Southeast Region (Region 7) - Marion County, Lawrence County
- Southern Region (Region 8) - Jackson County

To see the geographic boundaries of these Economic Development Regions go to:
<https://dceo.illinois.gov/illinoisworks/preapprenticeship.html>

2. Program History

The Illinois Works Jobs Program Act ("Illinois Works Act"), 30 ILCS 559 et seq, authorized the creation of the Office of Illinois Works in 2019. This act outlined the development of three key programs: the Apprenticeship Initiative, the Pre-apprenticeship Program and the Bid Credit Program.

- A. Program Description
- B. Funding Information
- C. Eligibility Information
- D. Application and Submission Information
- E. Application Review Information
- F. Award Administration Information
- G. State Awarding Agency Contact(s)
- H. Other Information, if applicable





NOFO Materials – Uniform Application

Program Design

The Illinois Works Pre-apprenticeship Program provides grants to community-based organizations (including an accredited public college or university) or coalitions throughout the State that will recruit, prescreen, provide pre-apprenticeship skills training, and transition participants to U.S. Department of Labor (US DOL) Registered Apprenticeship Programs. Successful grantees are expected to provide pathways and manage the transition from the pre-apprenticeship program to a full apprenticeship program in construction and the building trades.

This NOFO will use the definitions established in the Illinois Works Jobs Program Act, including the definitions for "community-based organizations" and "underrepresented populations." It will also use the State of Illinois definition for a pre-apprenticeship program which appears in the [Illinois Career Pathways Dictionary](#). Besides the following definitions and frameworks, additional information and resources are included in the Appendix of this NOFO.

Community-based organization: The Illinois Works Act establishes that "community-based organization" means a nonprofit organization, including an accredited public college or university, selected by the Department to participate in the Illinois Works Pre-apprenticeship Program. To qualify as a "community-based organization", the organization must demonstrate the following:

- the ability to effectively serve diverse and underrepresented populations, including by providing employment services to such populations;
- knowledge of the construction and building trades;
- the ability to recruit, prescreen, and provide pre-apprenticeship training to prepare workers for employment in construction and the building trades; and a plan to provide the following: preparatory classes;
- workplace readiness skills, such as resume preparation and interviewing techniques;
- strategies for overcoming barriers to entry and completion of an apprenticeship program; and
- any prerequisites for acceptance into an apprenticeship program.

Funding Information

This grant program is utilizing state funds appropriated by Public Act 104-0464. Total amount of funding expected to be awarded through this NOFO is \$12,000,000. Awards will range from \$150,000 to \$550,000. The Department expects to make 25 awards through this NOFO.

The period of performance is expected to be January 1, 2027 through December 31, 2027. Grants will be awarded for one year with the potential for renewal/modification for up to two additional years for successful projects that meet and exceed the required program services and outcome metrics.

FAQs



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) -
forthcoming

NOFO Materials

- Illinois Works Pre-Apprenticeship NOFO
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Resources

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NOFO Materials - Uniform Application



Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity
Uniform Application for State Financial Assistance

Agency Complete

1. Type of Submission:
☐ Pre-Application
☒ Application
☐ Changed/Corrected Application

2. Type of Application:
☒ New
☐ Continuation (i.e. Multiple Year Grant)
☐ Revision (Modification to Initial Application)

3. Date/Time Received By State (Completed by State Agency Upon Receipt of Application)

4. Name of Awarding Agency **Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity**

5. Catalog of State Financial Assistance (CSFA) Number

6. CSFA Title
Federal Assistance Listing ☐ Not Applicable (N/A)

7. Assistance Listing Number #1

8. Assistance Listing Program Title #1

9. Assistance Listing Number #2

10. Assistance Listing Program Title #2

217.782.7500 Springfield | 312.814.7179

Additional Assistance Listing Number, if required

Additional Assistance Listing Program Title, if required

Funding Opportunity Information

11. Funding Opportunity Number

12. Funding Opportunity Title

Competition Identification ☒ Not Applicable

13. Competition Identification Number

14. Competition Identification Title

Applicant Information

15. Legal Name

16. Common Name (DBA)

17. Employer/Taxpayer Identification Number (EIN, TIN)

18. Organizational DUNS Number (optional)

19. SAMS Unique Entity Identifier (UEI)

20. Business Address
City
State
County
Zip + 4

Applicant's Information

21. Department Name

22. Division Name

217.782.7500 Springfield | 312.814.7179

Applicant's Name and Contact Information for Involving This Application

23. First Name

24. Last Name

25. Suffix

26. Title

27. Organizational Affiliation

28. Telephone Number

29. Fax Number

30. Email Address

Applicant's Name and Contact Information for Office Matters Involving This Application

31. First Name

32. Last Name

33. Suffix

34. Title

35. Organizational Affiliation

36. Telephone Number

37. Fax Number

38. Email Address

Areas Affected

39. Areas Affected by the Project (cities, counties, state-wide)

40. Legislative and Congressional Districts of Applicant

41. Legislative and Congressional Districts of Program/Project

Applicant's Program/Project

42. Descriptive Title of Program/Project

43. Proposed Program/Project Term

Start Date:
End Date:

44. Estimated Funding (include all that apply)
Amount Requested from the State Applicant
Contribution (e.g. in kind, matching)
Local Contribution
Other Sources of Contribution
Program Income
Total Program/Project Amount (calculated) **\$ 0.00**

Applicant Certification:
By signing this application, I certify (1) to the statements contained in the list of certifications* and (2) that the statements herein are true, complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I also provide the required assurances* and agree to comply with any resulting terms if I accept an award. I am aware that any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or claims may subject me to criminal, civil or administrative penalties. (U.S. Code, Title 18, Section 1001)

(*) The list of certification and assurances, or an internet site where you may obtain this list is contained in the Notice of Funding Opportunity. If a NOFO was not required for the award, the state agency will specify required assurances and certifications as an addendum to the application.

☐ I agree

Authorized Representative

45. First Name

46. Last Name

47. Suffix

48. Title

49. Telephone Number

50. Fax Number

51. Email Address

52. Signature of Authorized Representative

53. Date Signed

217.782.7500 Springfield | 312.814.7179 Chicago | www.illinois.gov/deo

Save as PDF



NOFO Materials – NOFO Budget Template

Program Design

The Illinois Works Pre-apprenticeship Program provides grants to community-based organizations (including an accredited public college or university) or coalitions throughout the State that will recruit, prescreen, provide pre-apprenticeship skills training, and transition participants to U.S. Department of Labor (US DOL) Registered Apprenticeship Programs. Successful grantees are expected to provide pathways and manage the transition from the pre-apprenticeship program to a full apprenticeship program in construction and the building trades.

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Age Group	Percentage
18-24	10%
25-34	35%
35-44	25%
45-54	15%
55-64	10%
65-74	5%
75-84	2%
85+	1%





NOFO Materials – Conflict-of-Interest Disclosure

Program Design

The Illinois Works Pre-apprenticeship Program provides grants to community-based organizations (including an accredited public college or university) or coalitions throughout the State that will recruit, prescreen, provide pre-apprenticeship skills training, and transition participants to U.S. Department of Labor (US DOL) Registered Apprenticeship Programs. Successful grantees are expected to provide pathways and manage the transition from the pre-apprenticeship program to a full apprenticeship program in construction and the building trades.

This NOFO will use the definitions established in the Illinois Works Jobs Program Act, including the definitions for "community-based organizations" and "underrepresented populations." It will also use the State of Illinois definition for a pre-apprenticeship program which appears in the [Illinois Career Pathways Dictionary](#). Besides the following definitions and frameworks, additional information and resources are included in the Appendix of this NOFO.

Community-based organization: The Illinois Works Act establishes that "community-based organization" means a nonprofit organization, including an accredited public college or university, selected by the Department to participate in the Illinois Works Pre-apprenticeship Program. To qualify as a "community-based organization", the organization must demonstrate the following:

- the ability to effectively serve diverse and underrepresented populations, including by providing employment services to such populations;
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- the ability to recruit, prescreen, and provide pre-apprenticeship training to prepare workers for employment in construction and the building trades; and a plan to provide the following: preparatory classes;
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Funding Information

This grant program is utilizing state funds appropriated by Public Act 104-0464. Total amount of funding expected to be awarded through this NOFO is \$12,000,000. Awards will range from \$150,000 to \$550,000. The Department expects to make 25 awards through this NOFO.

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forthcoming

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Conflict of Interest Disclosure

Award applicants and recipients of awards from the State of Illinois (collectively referred to herein as "Grantee") must disclose in writing to the awarding State agency any actual or potential conflict of interest that could affect the State award for which the Grantee has applied or has received. See 30 ILCS 708/35; 44 Ill. Admin Code § 7000.40(b)(3); 2 CFR § 200.112. A conflict of interest exists if an organization's officers, directors, agents, employees and/or their spouses or immediate family members use their position(s) for a purpose that is, or gives the appearance of, being motivated by a desire for a personal gain, financial or nonfinancial, whether direct or indirect, for themselves or others, particularly those with whom they have a family business or other close associations. In addition, the following conflict of interest standards apply to governmental and non-governmental entities.

Definitions:

Governmental Entity. If the Grantee is a governmental entity, no officer or employee of the Grantee, member of its governing body or any other public official of the locality in which the award objectives will be carried out shall participate in any decision relating to a State award which affects his/her personal interest or the interest of any corporation, partnership or association in which he/she is directly or indirectly interested, or which affects the personal interest of a spouse or immediate family member, or has any financial interest, direct or indirect, in the work to be performed under the State award.

Non-governmental Entity. If the Grantee is a non-governmental entity, no officer or employee of the Grantee shall participate in any decision relating to a State award which affects his/her personal interest or the interest of any corporation, partnership or association in which he/she is directly or indirectly interested, or which affects the personal interest of a spouse or immediate family member, or has any financial interest, direct or indirect, in the work to be performed under the State award.

The Grantee shall also establish safeguards, evidenced by policies, rules and/or bylaws, to prohibit employees or officers of Grantee from engaging in actions, which create or which appear to create a conflict of interest as described herein.

The Grantee has a continuing duty to immediately notify the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (the "Department") in writing of any actual or potential conflict of interest, as well as any actions that create or which appear to create a conflict of interest.

Are there any current potential conflict(s) of interest, or any actions that create or which appear to create a conflict of interest, related to the State award for which your organization has applied?

☐ No ☐ Yes

If there are any current potential conflict(s) of interest, or any actions that create or which appear to create a conflict of interest, related to the State award for which your organization has applied, please describe them all here:

Grantee provided information above regarding a current potential conflict of interest or any actions that appear to create a conflict of interest, the Grantee must immediately provide documentation to the awarding State agency to support that the potential conflict of interest was appropriately handled by the Department grant manager for which the Grantee becomes aware of any actual or potential conflict of interest. If at any later time, the Grantee becomes aware of any actual or potential conflict of interest, the Grantee must notify the Department's grant manager immediately, and provide the same type of documentation that describes how the conflict situation was or is being resolved.

Documentation should include, but is not limited to, the following: the organization's bylaws; a list of members; board meeting minutes; procedures to safeguard against the appearance of personal gain by organization's officers, directors, agents, and family members; procedures detailing the proper internal controls in place; timesheets documenting time spent on the award; and bid documents supporting the selection of contractor involved in the conflict, if applicable.

I, _____, being duly authorized representative of Grantee, I hereby certify that:

In this document, below, as the duly authorized representative of Grantee, I hereby certify that:

All of the statements in this Conflict of Interest Disclosure form are true, complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I am aware that any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or claims may subject me to criminal, civil or administrative penalties. (U.S. Code, Title 18, Section 1001).

If I become aware of any situation that conflicts with any of the representations herein, or that might indicate a potential conflict of interest or create the appearance of a conflict of interest, I or another representative from my organization will immediately notify the Department's grant manager for this award.

I have read and I understand the requirements for the Conflict of Interest Disclosure set forth herein, and I acknowledge that my organization is bound by these requirements.

Organization (Company Name): _____

Signature of Authorized Representative _____ Date _____

Printed Title (Authorized Signator Title): _____

Printed Name: _____





NOFO Materials – Mandatory Disclosure

Program Design

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NOFO Materials – Mandatory Disclosure



Mandatory Disclosure

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Are there any violations of State or federal criminal law involving fraud, bribery, or gratuity violations potentially affecting the awarding of a grant to your organization? ☐ No ☐ Yes

If there are any violations of State or federal criminal law involving fraud, bribery, or gratuity violations potentially affecting the awarding of a grant to your organization, please describe them all here:

Grantee has a continuing duty to disclose to the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (the "Department") all violations of criminal law involving fraud, bribery or gratuity violations potentially affecting this grant award.

By signing this document, below, as the duly authorized representative of the Grantee, I hereby certify that:

- All of the statements in this Mandatory Disclosure form are true, complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I am aware that any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or claims may subject me to criminal, civil or administrative penalties. (U.S. Code, Title 18, Section 1001).
- There is no action, suit or proceeding at law or in equity pending, nor to the best of Grantee's knowledge, threatened, against or affecting the Grantee, before any court or before any governmental or administrative agency, which will have a material adverse effect on the performance required by the grant award.
- Grantee is not currently operating under or subject to any cease and desist order, or subject to any informal or formal regulatory action, and, to the best of the Grantee's knowledge, it is not currently the subject of any investigation by any state or federal regulatory, law enforcement or legal authority.
- If Grantee becomes the subject of an action, suit or proceeding at law or in equity that would have a material adverse effect on the performance required by an award, or an investigation by any state or federal regulatory, law enforcement or legal authority, Grantee shall promptly notify the Department in writing.

Grantee Organization (Company Name)

Signature of Authorized Representative

Printed Name (Authorized Signator Name)

Date





NOFO - Attachments

Program Design

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NOFO – Attachments

ATTACHMENT I - PROPOSED WORK PLAN

Organization Name: []

Table A: Total Outcome Summary

Total Number of Cohorts	Total Individuals Completed (all cohorts)

*Participant numbers in Table A must match Attachment I: Proposed Work Plan

Outcome Summary

- Recruited: An individual information to be completed
- Enrolled Participant: standardized interview training
- Completed Participant: completes all required certifications and credit
- Primary Outcome: Training p apprenticeship training p registered apprenticeship list for a DOL registered
- Alternative Outcome: Pre-apprenticeship training permanent employment work
- Secondary Outcome: Training p apprenticeship training p registered in a college program with an employer in a did

Table B: Instruction Information

Total Curricula Hours

Curriculum Offered (Trade/Future: MCI, NCER, ICCR, Other nationally recognized curricula)

*Total curricula hours and information Sample Curriculum and Proposed Curriculum

ATTACHMENT II - PARTICIPANT DEMOGRAPHICS & OUTCOME SUMMARY

Organization Name: []

Demographics of Enrolled Participants

Each category (gender, race/ethnicity, age, veteran status) should sum to the total number of individuals enrolled in the program.

Participant Recruitment & Enrollment	Total Individuals
Gender	
Female	
Male	
Gender Non-Consistent	
Race/Ethnicity	
White, non-Hispanic	
Black, non-Hispanic	
Hispanic/Latino	
Asian	
American Indian/Alaska Native	
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	
Age	
16-17	
18-24	
25-34	
35+	
Veteran Status	
Yes	
No	
Support Services	
Wrap-around support	
Student Support	
Transition Support	
Training Services	
Employment/Classroom	

Service Delivery for Enrolled Participant:

ATTACHMENT III - SAMPLE CURRICULUM

Organization Name: []

Sample Curriculum:

The sample curriculum is intended to provide to add the curriculum that will be delivered to apprenticeship Program avoid.

Objectives:

1. Prepare students to successfully enter a DO
2. Provide students with industry-recognized

Instructional Hours 180 (Delivery F)

Logistics

Option 1: attend three days a week, 4 hour per

Option 2: attend four days a week, 4 hour per

Pre-requisites:

HS-GED, interest in construction trades up to apprenticeship program entrance requirement

Industry Recognized Certification/Credent:

OSCCER Core Curriculum Certification
OSHA 10-Hour Construction Certification
First Aid CPR Certification

Program Modules:

Module 100 - Introduction to Construction as a Career

Module 101 - Basic Safety

Module 102 - Introduction to Construction Management

Module 103 - Introduction to Power Tools and Equipment

Module 104 - Introduction to Construction Materials

Module 105 - Introduction to Basic Piping

Module 106 - Introduction to Basic Communication Skills

Module 107 - Basic Communication Skills

Module 108 - Introduction to Materials Handling

Module 109 - Introduction to Materials Handling

Module 110 - Introduction to Materials Handling

Module 111 - Introduction to Materials Handling

Module 112 - Introduction to Materials Handling

Module 113 - Introduction to Materials Handling

Module 114 - Introduction to Materials Handling

Module 115 - Introduction to Materials Handling

Module 116 - Introduction to Materials Handling

Module 117 - Introduction to Materials Handling

Module 118 - Introduction to Materials Handling

Module 119 - Introduction to Materials Handling

Module 120 - Introduction to Materials Handling

Module 121 - Introduction to Materials Handling

Module 122 - Introduction to Materials Handling

Module 123 - Introduction to Materials Handling

Module 124 - Introduction to Materials Handling

Module 125 - Introduction to Materials Handling

Module 126 - Introduction to Materials Handling

Module 127 - Introduction to Materials Handling

Module 128 - Introduction to Materials Handling

Module 129 - Introduction to Materials Handling

Module 130 - Introduction to Materials Handling

Module 131 - Introduction to Materials Handling

Module 132 - Introduction to Materials Handling

Module 133 - Introduction to Materials Handling

Module 134 - Introduction to Materials Handling

Module 135 - Introduction to Materials Handling

Module 136 - Introduction to Materials Handling

Module 137 - Introduction to Materials Handling

Module 138 - Introduction to Materials Handling

Module 139 - Introduction to Materials Handling

Module 140 - Introduction to Materials Handling

Module 141 - Introduction to Materials Handling

Module 142 - Introduction to Materials Handling

Module 143 - Introduction to Materials Handling

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Module 145 - Introduction to Materials Handling

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Module 149 - Introduction to Materials Handling

Module 150 - Introduction to Materials Handling

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Module 175 - Introduction to Materials Handling

Module 176 - Introduction to Materials Handling

Module 177 - Introduction to Materials Handling

Module 178 - Introduction to Materials Handling

Module 179 - Introduction to Materials Handling

Module 180 - Introduction to Materials Handling

ATTACHMENT IV - STAFFING PLAN

Organization Name: []

As part of the Illinois Works Pre-apprenticeship Program, the Office of Illinois Works requires that successful applicants provide staff in each key area (including program administration, outreach and recruitment, intake, wrap-around services (non-academic needs), student support services (academic needs), instruction, transition, and data entry. **These areas can be staffed by full-time or part-time employees of the organization, contractors, sub-contractors, or partner organizations.**

Recruiter, partnership agreements, or MOUs should be attached to this plan for all staff members, partners, contractors, and sub-contractors listed in Table A below.

Role Definitions:

Please note successful applicants are not required to have these specific role titles; however, all responsibilities within each role must be assigned to a staff member or partner.

Program Administrator - Responsible for program compliance and ensuring that performance metrics are met and required reporting is done, oversees program operations, onboard staff, and monitors performance of other program roles.

Outreach and Recruitment Coordinator (ORC) - Secures a constant flow of leads for the program, conducts pre-screen assessments, ensures program applications are completed, and conducts, along with other team members, standardized interviews.

Wrap-around Service Coordinator (WSC) - Responsible for non-academic supports beginning with the pre-screen assessment, during intake. This role will complete the assessment, set up necessary services, and work with the Academic Support Specialist to offer additional supports if participants begin to struggle academically. If needed, the WSC will also source from outside providers and partners other needed support services and refer participants to those services, if needed.

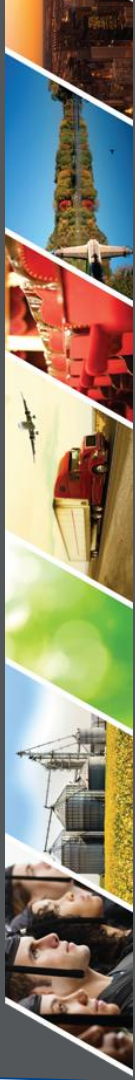
Instructor - Each organization is required to have qualified and dedicated instructors for their program. This does not mean the instructors have to be employees, only that programs have a contract with an individual or partner organization that will be carrying out the training portion of their pre-apprenticeship program. Instructors should provide classroom, hands-on, and workplace training.

Student Support Services Coordinator (SSSC) - Responsible for the academic needs of students, specifically the implementation of Student Support Services, participate progress reports, action plans, individual or partner organization that will be carrying out the training portion of their pre-apprenticeship program. Instructors should provide classroom, hands-on, and workplace training.

Transition Services Coordinator (TSC) - This role must be performed by a dedicated staff member (full-time for larger programs and 30-hour or more part-time for smaller programs) responsible for monitoring attendance and academic performance, having make-up sessions or post-assessment reviews, coordinating tutoring services for participants.

Transition Services Coordinator (TSC) - This role must be performed by a dedicated staff member (full-time for larger programs and 30-hour or more part-time for smaller programs) responsible for ensuring the Career Assessment is completed and individualized career plans are created in coordination with other program staff including the creation of resumes, and the delivery of career services such as mock interviews, and assistance with completing apprenticeship applications, among others. The TSC also works with employers, DOL-registered apprenticeship programs, and other partners to ensure the timely and successful transition of program graduates. The TSC also conducts the required post-program proactive follow-up of graduates.

Data Entry Coordinator (DEC) - Programs can determine how their program data is entered and reported in the Illinois Works Reporting System (IWRS). This may be completed by a DEC or it may be part of the other



CEO.ILWorks@Illinois.Gov



2026 NOFO Eight Sections

Program Design

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2026 NOFO – Eight Sections



State of Illinois Uniform Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Summary Information

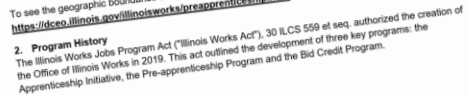
Awarding Agency Name	Commerce And Econ Opp
Agency Contact	Norman Ruano (Norman.Ruano@illinois.gov)
Announcement Type	Initial
Type of Assistance Instrument	Grant
Funding Opportunity Number	FY27-1
Funding Opportunity Title	Illinois Works Pre-apprenticeship Program
CSFA Number	420-30-2614
CSFA Popular Name	Illinois Works Pre-apprenticeship Program
Anticipated Number of Awards	25
Estimated Total Program Funding	\$12,000,000
Award Range	\$150,000 - \$550,000
Source of Funding	State
Cost Sharing or Matching Requirements	No
Indirect Costs Allowed	Yes
Restrictions on Indirect Costs	No
Posted Date	09/02/2026
Application Date Range	09/02/2026 - 10/02/2026 : 5:00 PM
Grant Application Link	Please select the entire address below and paste it into the browser... https://dceo.illinois.gov/aboutdceo/grantopportunities/2614-4323.html
Technical Assistance Session	Offered : Yes Mandatory : No Date : 09/15/2026 : 9:00 AM Registration link : https://www.illinoisworknet.com/ilworkspreapprenticeshipnofo2026

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- B. Funding Information
- C. Eligibility Information
- D. Application and Submission Information
- E. Application Review Information
- F. Award Administration Information
- G. State Awarding Agency Contact(s)
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NO ID: 2614-4323

<https://www.illinoisworknet.com/partners/Documents/IL%20Works/2026/2.16.2026%20ILWP%20Grantee%20Manual.pdf>

11. Other Information
N/A

B. Funding Information

This grant program is utilizing state funds appropriated by Public Act 104-0464. Total amount of funding expected to be awarded through this NOFO is \$12,000,000. Awards will range from \$150,000 to \$550,000. The Department expects to make 25 awards through this NOFO.

The period of performance is expected to be January 1, 2027 through December 31, 2027. Grants will be awarded for one year with the potential for renewal/modification for up to two additional years for successful projects that meet and exceed the required program services and outcome metrics.

1. Indirect Cost Rate.

In order to charge indirect costs to a grant, the applicant organization must have an annual negotiated indirect cost rate agreement (NICRA). There are three types of NICRAs:

- Federally Negotiated Rate. Organizations that receive direct federal funding, may have an indirect cost rate that was negotiated with the Federal Cognizant Agency. Illinois will accept the federally negotiated rate. The organization must provide a copy of the federally NICRA.
- State Negotiated Rate. The organization may negotiate an indirect cost rate with the State of Illinois if they do not have a Federally Negotiated Rate. If an organization has not previously established an indirect cost rate, an indirect cost rate proposal must be submitted through the State of Illinois' centralized indirect cost rate system no later than three months after receipt of a Notice of State Award (NOSA). If an organization previously established an indirect cost rate, the organization must annually submit a new indirect cost proposal through CARS within six to nine months after the close of the grantee's fiscal year, depending on the grantee's audit type requirements.
- De Minimis Rate. An organization may elect a de minimis rate of 15% of modified total direct cost indirect costs. Once established, the De Minimis Rate may be used indefinitely. The State of Illinois must verify the calculation of the MTDC annually in order to accept the De Minimis Rate.

All grantees must complete an indirect cost rate negotiation or elect the De Minimis Rate to claim indirect costs. Indirect costs claimed without a negotiated rate or a De Minimis Rate election on record in the State of Illinois' centralized indirect cost rate system may be subject to disallowance.

Grantees have discretion and can elect to waive payment for indirect costs. Grantees that elect to waive payments for indirect costs cannot be reimbursed for indirect costs. The organization must record an election to "Waive Indirect Costs" into the State of Illinois' centralized indirect cost rate system.

The following State University Facilities & Administration Rate and Base will apply to all State issued awards that contain either Federal pass-through funding or State funding.

RATE:

20% Rate for awards or programs administered On-Campus*





Current NOFO Opportunity



The Department expects to **award up to \$12,000,000 for grants** under this NOFO. Each individual grant should range between \$150,000 to \$550,000, depending on the number of individuals the program projects to serve in a one-year period and the specific needs of their target population.





C. Eligibility Information

- A. Program Description
- B. Funding Information
- C. Eligibility Information**
- D. Application and Submission Information
- E. Application Review Information
- F. Award Administration Information
- G. State Awarding Agency Contact(s)
- H. Other Information, if applicable



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10% Rate for awards or programs administered Off-Campus*

BASE: Base approved in the State Universities' current Federally Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA)

*Criteria for utilization of the On/Off campus rate is located within the general terms and conditions of Federal NICRA for each State University. If not clearly defined, State awarding agencies and officers will make final determination based upon the purposes of the grant scope.

Administrative Costs: It is expected that administrative costs, both direct and indirect, will represent a small portion of the program budget. Successful applicants should strive to keep administrative costs to 10 percent (10%), or less, of direct costs. Program budgets and narratives will detail how all proposed expenditures are directly necessary for program implementation and will distinguish between direct/indirect administrative and direct/indirect program costs.

C. Eligibility Information

An entity must be registered in the Grant Administration and Transparency Act (GATA) Grantee Portal (<https://grants.illinois.gov/portal/>) at the time of grant application.

The portal will verify that the entity:

- Has a valid FEIN number (<https://www.irs.gov/businesses/small-businesses-self-employed/get-an-employer-identification-number>)
- Has a current SAM.gov registration (<https://sam.gov>). SAM.gov registrations must be marked as "public" to allow the GATA Grantee Portal to expedite the review of the federal information
- Has a valid UEI number (<https://sam.gov>)
- Is not on the Federal Excluded Parties List (<https://sam.gov>)
- Is in Good Standing with the Illinois Secretary of State, as applicable (https://www.issos.gov/departments/business_services/corp.html)
- Is not on the Illinois Stop Payment list
- Is not on the Department of Healthcare and Family Services Provider Sanctions list (<https://www.illinois.gov/hfs/foia/Pages/SanctionsList.aspx>)
- Is not on the Federal Excluded Parties List at time of application

Entities on the Illinois Stop Payment List and/or the Federal Excluded Parties List at time of application submission will not be considered for an award.

An automated email notification to the entity alerts them of "qualified" status or informs how to remediate a negative verification (e.g., not in good standing with the Secretary of State).

Currently, federal memo M-21-20 allows entities to apply for grant awards without a valid UEI number. The UEI number must be obtained prior to grant execution. The State of Illinois has adopted this guidance for the issuance of state awards also.

Pursuant to the policy of the Illinois Office of the Comptroller, to receive grant funds from the State of Illinois, a grantee must be considered a regarded entity by the IRS for federal income tax purposes. Disregarded entities will not be eligible to receive grant funds.





Application Criteria: Additional Items



In addition, you will find the following:

- Eligible Applicants
- Cost Sharing or Matching
- Indirect Cost Rate
- Freedom of Information Act / Confidential Information
- Other, if applicable





D. Application and Submission Information



- A. Program Description
- B. Funding Information
- C. Eligibility Information
- D. Application and Submission Information**
- E. Application Review Information
- F. Award Administration Information
- G. State Awarding Agency Contact(s)
- H. Other Information, if applicable

NOFO ID: 2614-4323

Once an entity is registered, the applicant must complete a fiscal and administrative risk assessment prior to award. Applicants will complete the FY27 Internal Controls Questionnaire (ICQ) through the GATA Grants Portal. The ICQ assesses the applicant organization's fiscal and administrative risk. Applicants must complete the ICQ annually as part of the pre-award process and program staff will then determine whether any or all risk-based conditions shall be incorporated into the Grant Agreement.

Applicants will also be assessed for programmatic risk to determine grant-specific risk. This assessment will be conducted during the application process by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity. Program staff will then determine whether any or all risk-based conditions shall be incorporated into the Grant Agreement.

D. Application and Submission Information

1. Address to Request Application Package.
Grant application forms are available at the web link provided in the "Grant Application Link" field of this announcement or by contacting the Program Manager:
Dr. Norman Ruano, Deputy Director of Illinois Works
Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity
555 W Monroe, 12th Floor
Chicago, IL 60661
Tele: 312-497-1008
Email: Norman.Ruano@illinois.gov

2. Content and Form of Application Submission
A standard application package must be submitted and reviewed by the Department. Each package should contain the following items:

- ☐ Uniform Grant Application in fillable PDF format
 - Signature page must be signed by the authorized signatory before submission
 - o Can be printed, signed, and scanned
 - o Can be signed digitally
- ☐ Uniform Budget utilizing the template provided by DCEO for this project
 - The entire Excel document with all the tabs included, even if the tabs are not relevant to the grant opportunity, must be submitted.
 - Do not send a restricted version of the Uniform Budget
 - Certification page must be signed by the authorized signatory before submission
 - o Can be printed, signed, and scanned
 - o Can be signed digitally
- ☐ Conflict of Interest Disclosure
 - Conflict of Interest Disclosure must be signed by the authorized signatory before submission
 - o Can be printed, signed, and scanned
 - o Can be signed digitally
- ☐ Mandatory Disclosure
 - Mandatory Disclosure must be signed by the authorized signatory before submission

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E. Application and Review Information



- A. Program Description
- B. Funding Information
- C. Eligibility Information
- D. Application and Submission Information
- E. Application Review Information**
- F. Award Administration Information
- G. State Awarding Agency Contact(s)
- H. Other Information, if applicable

NOFO ID: 2614-4323

3. **Submission Dates and Times**
Applications for this opportunity must be submitted by **October 31, 2024 at 11:59 PM (CST)**.
Applications must be submitted to the Department via electronic form at:
<https://app-smartsheet.com/forms/668b74dbb74c0b9a8ac7b367d6c08>
Application materials must be submitted to the Department with the above requirements.
The Department has no obligation to review applications that do not comply with the above requirements.
Failure to meet the application deadline may result in the Department returning application without review or may preclude the Department from making the award.

4. **Other Submission Requirements**
The applicant can receive a copy of their submitted application by checking the "Send me a copy of my responses" box at the bottom of the application submission form.
Applicants may confirm receipt of the application and documents by contacting the program contact listed in this NOFO.

5. **Freedom of Information Act/Confidential Information**
Applications and accompanying materials are subject to disclosure in response to requests received under provisions of the Illinois Freedom of Information Act (5 ILCS 140.1 et seq.). Information that could be proprietary, privileged, or confidential commercial or financial information should be clearly identified as such in the application materials. The Department will maintain the confidentiality of that information only to the extent permitted by law.

E. Application Review Information

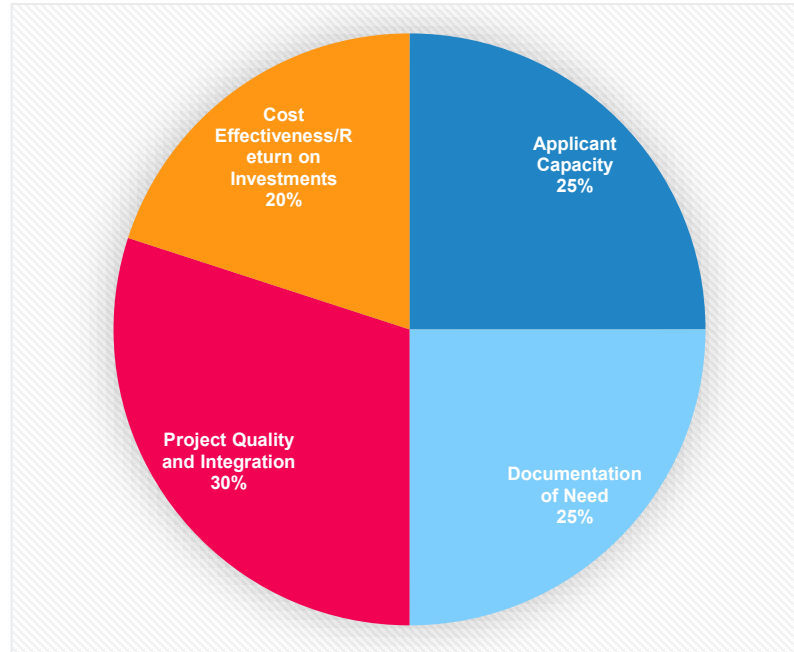
1. **Criteria**
Grant proposals will be reviewed on a competitive basis. Each proposal will be scored on a 100-point scale. The Department shall consider the following criteria when evaluating the application submittal:
Applicant Capacity, Documentation of Need, Project Quality and Integration, and Cost Effectiveness/Return on Investments.

Applicant Capacity (25%)	
The applicant's capacity to successfully complete the project tasks within the grant period (5%)	
The related experience of the applicant, subcontractors, and/or partners on similar projects (5%)	
The applicant's experience in working with, and ability to recruit from the identified underserved populations (5%)	
The applicant's previous performance in administering similar grants and projects including Illinois Works (5%)	
Documentation of Need (25%)	
The qualifications of the applicant's staff and instructors to be assigned to the project (5%)	
The project's identified underserved populations, targeted community and regional focus (5%)	
The project's targeted trades and occupation(s) (10%)	
The project's targeted population and community (5%)	
The expected impact on the identified population and community in undeveloped and underdeveloped areas of the state (5%)	
Project Quality and Integration (30%)	
The types of training and the method of delivery that will be implemented (3%)	

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Expected Outcomes and Deliverables





F. Award Administration Information

- A. Program Description
- B. Funding Information
- C. Eligibility Information
- D. Application and Submission Information
- E. Application Review Information
- F. Award Administration Information**
- G. State Awarding Agency Contact(s)
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NOFO ID: 2614-4323

The Merit Based Review process is subject to appeal per <https://dceo.illinois.gov/aboutdceo/grantopportunities/meritappeal.html>. However, competitive grant appeals are limited to the evaluation process. Evaluation scores may not be protested. Only the evaluation process is subject to appeal. The appeal must be submitted through the merit review appeal request form (<https://app.smartbest.com/forms/644bdc39e14dc59a07071530b0c092>) within 14 calendar days after the date that the grant award notice has been published.

3. **Anticipated Announcement and State Award Dates**
After the application period is closed, the Department will conduct a merit review of eligible applications. Successful applicants will receive a Notice of State Award (NOSA) to initiate the grant agreement phase. During this phase, you will be contacted by a grant manager to develop a grant agreement, which can be a months long process depending on complexity, cooperation, and conformity with all applicable federal and state laws.

The Department reserves the right to issue a reduced award, not to issue any award.

F. Award Administration Information

1. **State Award Notices**
The Notice of State Award (NOSA) will specify the funding terms and specific conditions resulting from the pre-award risk assessments and the merit review process. The NOSA must be accepted in the GATA Portal by an authorized representative of the grantee organization. The NOSA is not an authorization to begin performance or incur costs.

2. **Administrative and National Policy Requirements**
Subrecipients and Subcontractors: Agreement(s) and budget(s) with subrecipients and subcontractors must be pre-approved by and on file with DCEO. Agreements can be submitted to DCEO when available. Subcontractors and subrecipients are subject to all applicable provisions of the Agreement(s) executed between DCEO and the grantee. The successful applicant shall retain sole responsibility for the performance of its subrecipient(s) and/or subcontractor(s).

Grant Uniform Requirements: The Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (30 ILCS 708/1 et seq.) (and its related administrative rules, 44 ILCS Admin. Code Part 7000), was enacted to increase the accountability and transparency in the use of grant funds from whatever source and to reduce administrative burdens on both State agencies and grantees by adopting federal guidance and regulations applicable to those grant funds, specifically, the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (2 CFR 200).

Procurement: Grantees will be required to adhere to methods of procurement per the Procurement Standards (2 CFR 200.317 – 2 CFR 200.327).

Business Enterprise Program: For grant awards of \$250,000 or more, grantees will be required to comply with the Business Enterprise Program for Minorities, Females, and Persons with Disabilities Act (30 ILCS 5750.01 et seq.), which establishes a goal for contracting with businesses that have been certified as owned and controlled by persons who are minority, female or who have disabilities. The Department will work with the grantees to ensure compliance prior to the establishment of the grant agreement as well as through the life of the grant.

3. **Reporting**
Periodic Performance Report (PPR) and Periodic Financial Report (PFR)



Illinois Works Reporting System (IWRS)



Grantees, in addition to submitting the required financial and programmatic reports, will also be **required** to report **real-time program activities** using the **Illinois Works Reporting System (IWRS)**.

IWRS is a database designed for the ILW Pre-apprenticeship Program and tracks all programmatic and participant information.





G. State Awarding Agency Contract(s)



- A. Program Description
- B. Funding Information
- C. Eligibility Information
- D. Application and Submission Information
- E. Application Review Information
- F. Award Administration Information
- G. State Awarding Agency Contact(s)**
- H. Other Information, if applicable

NOFO ID: 2614-4323

Grantees funded through this NOFO are required to submit in the format required by the Grantor, at least on a quarterly basis, the PPR and PFR electronically to their assigned grant manager. The first of such reports shall cover the first three months after the award begins. Pursuant to 2 CFR 200.328, Periodic Financial Reports shall be submitted no later than 30 calendar days following the period covered by the report. Pursuant to 2 CFR 200.329, Periodic Performance Reports shall be submitted no later than 30 calendar days following the period covered by the report. Any additional reporting requirements will be disclosed in the NOSA. Grantees are required within 45 calendar days following the end of the period of performance to submit a final closeout report in the format required by the Grantor (See 2 CFR 200.344).

Monitoring
Grantees funded through this NOFO are subject to fiscal and programmatic monitoring visits by the Department in accordance with 2 CFR 200.337. They must have an open-door policy allowing periodic visits by Department monitors to evaluate the progress of the project and provide documentation upon request of the monitor. Program staff will also maintain contact with participants and monitor progress and performance of the contracts. The Department may modify grants based on performance.

Audit
Grantees shall be subject to Illinois' statewide Audit Report Review requirements. Terms of the Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996 (31 USC 7501-7507), Subpart F of 2 CFR Part 200, and the audit rules set forth under the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act Admin Rules shall apply (See 44 IL Admin Code 7000.90).

Illinois Works Specific Reporting
Grantees will be required to submit regular reports to document the progress of the project as part of the grant requirements. In addition to the PPR and PFR outlined above, grantees will be required to report real-time program activities and outcomes using the Illinois Works Reporting System (IWRS). The Office of Illinois Works expects data to be entered daily and in real time to allow for live tracking of participant progress and program outcomes. Desk reviews will be conducted to assess the need for the deployment of technical assistance when issues are identified. Data will be reviewed on a monthly basis by the Office of Illinois Works who will issue a Monthly Compliance Report with a monthly rating which will assess the grantee's progress toward meeting their program's goals. Metrics that are reported in IWRS are the basis for the performance-based payment model and reimbursement used by the Office of Illinois Works and outlined under the performance-based payment model found in section B, Funding Information.

G. State Awarding Agency Contact
DCEO Grant Help Desk
Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity
Email: DCEO_GrantHelp@illinois.gov

H. Other Information
The release of this NOFO does not obligate the Department to make an award.
Please visit the following website for instructional videos that guide applicants through each step of applying for and administering a grant:
<https://dceo.illinois.gov/aboutdceo/grantopportunities/learning-library.html>
The Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity Illinois Works Office reserves the right to request additional information from applicants to evaluate applications. The Department's Illinois Works Office, at its sole discretion, reserves the right to reject all applications; to reject individual applications for



H. Other Information, if applicable



- A. Program Description
- B. Funding Information
- C. Eligibility Information
- D. Application and Submission Information
- E. Application Review Information
- F. Award Administration Information
- G. State Awarding Agency Contact(s)
- H. Other Information, if applicable

NOFO ID: 2614-4323

Grantees funded through this NOFO are required to submit in the format required by the Grantor, at least on a quarterly basis, the PPR and PFR electronically to their assigned grant manager. The first of such reports shall cover the first three months after the award begins. Pursuant to 2 CFR 200.328, Periodic Financial Reports shall be submitted no later than 30 calendar days following the period covered by the report. Pursuant to 2 CFR 200.329, Periodic Performance Reports shall be submitted no later than 30 calendar days following the period covered by the report. Any additional reporting requirements will be disclosed in the NOFA. Grantees are required to submit a final closeout report in the format required by the Grantor (See 2 CFR 200.344).

Monitoring
Grantees funded through this NOFO are subject to fiscal and programmatic monitoring visits by the Department in accordance with 2 CFR 200.337. They must have an open-door policy allowing periodic visits by Department monitors to evaluate the progress of the project and provide documentation upon request of the monitor. Program staff will also maintain contact with participants and monitor progress and performance of the contracts. The Department may modify grants based on performance.

Audit
Grantees shall be subject to Illinois' statewide Audit Report Review requirements. Terms of the Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996 (31 USC 7501-7507), Subpart F of 2 CFR Part 200, and the audit rules set forth under the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act Admin Rules shall apply (See 44 IL Admin Code 7000.90).

Illinois Works Specific Reporting
Grantees will be required to submit regular reports to document the progress of the project as part of the grant requirements. In addition to the PPR and PFR outlined above, grantees will be required to report of Illinois Works expects data to be entered daily and in real time to allow for five tracking of participant progress and program outcomes. Desk reviews will be conducted to assess the need for the deployment of technical assistance when issues are identified. Data will be reviewed on a monthly basis by the Office of Illinois Works who will issue a Monthly Compliance Report with a monthly rating which will assess the grantee's progress toward meeting their program's goals. Metrics that are reported in IWRs are the basis for the performance payment model and reimbursement used by the Office of Illinois Works and outlined under the performance-based payment model found in section B, Funding Information.

G. State Awarding Agency Contact
DCEO Grant Help Desk
Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity
Email: CEO.GrantHelp@illinois.gov

H. Other Information

The release of this NOFO does not obligate the Department to make an award.

Please visit the following website for instructional videos that guide applicants through each step of applying for and administering a grant:
<https://dceo.illinois.gov/aboutdceo/grantopportunities/learning-library.html>

The Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity Illinois Works Office reserves the right to request additional information from applicants to evaluate applications. The Department's Illinois Works Office, at its sole discretion, reserves the right to reject all applications; to reject individual applications for



Other Information

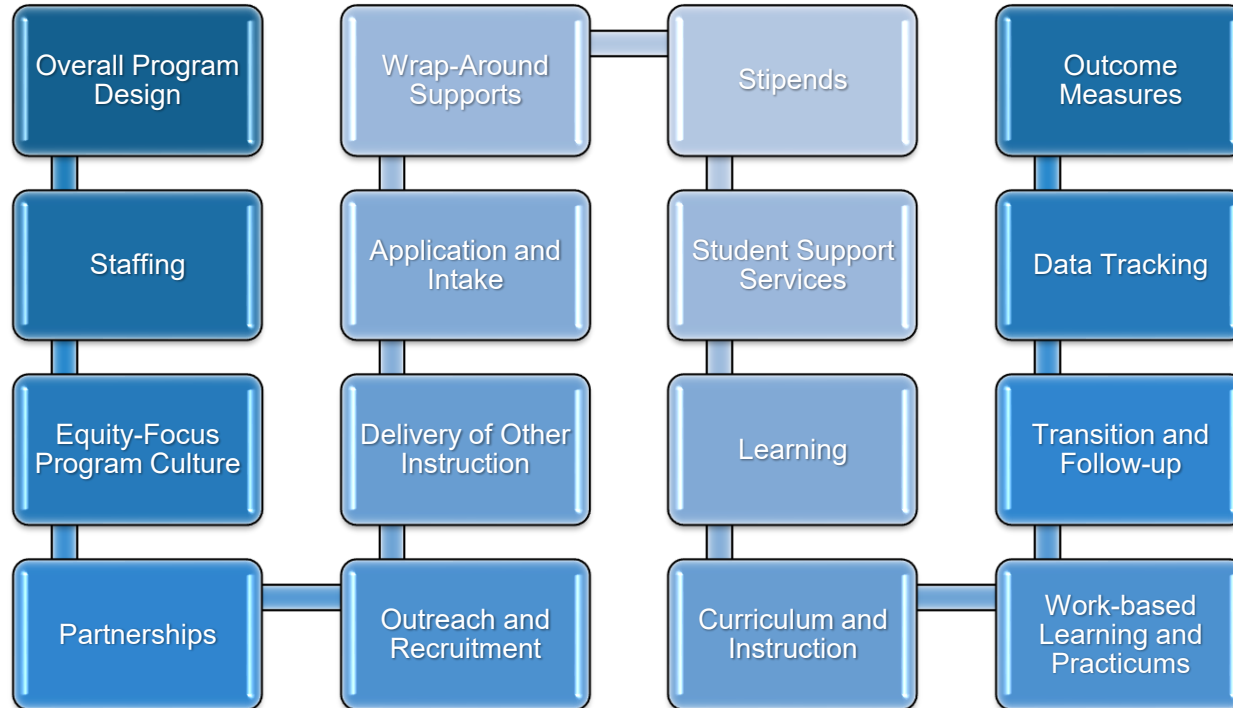


- NOFO Technical Assistance
- Renewals and Grant Modifications
- Technical Assistance and Professional Development





NOFO – Program Requirements







NOFO – Overall Program Design



You **must** detail how you will design, develop, and implement high-quality pre-apprenticeship programs that significantly increase apprenticeship opportunities for underrepresented populations (women, people of color, and veterans).







Staffing: 8 Key Program Areas



- Program administration
- Outreach and recruitment
- Intake
- Wrap-around services (non-academic needs)
- Student support services (academic needs)
- Instruction
- Transition and Follow-up
- Data entry





Staffing: Submit



- Attachment IV: Staffing Plan
- Staff resumes
- Instructor credentials
- Partnership agreements
- MOUs







Equity-Focus Program Culture



You ***must*** be able to articulate your understanding of how race, ethnicity, and gender impacts access to and experience within the construction and building trade apprenticeships programs.







Partnerships

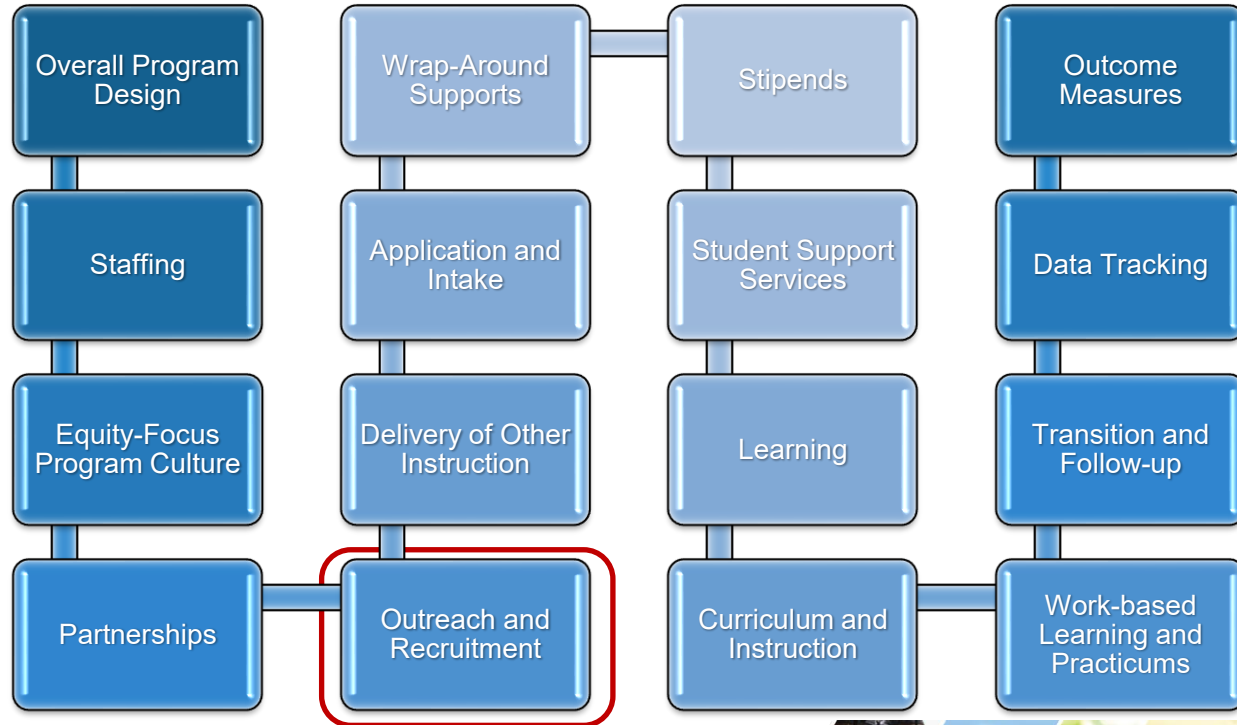
Your program *must* coordinate with:

- Local Workforce Areas
- Local and Regional Apprenticeship Navigators
- Construction and building trades
- Union groups
- Community colleges
- Employers
- Employer associations
- Community-based organizations
- Secondary schools





NOFO – Program Requirements





Outreach and Recruitment



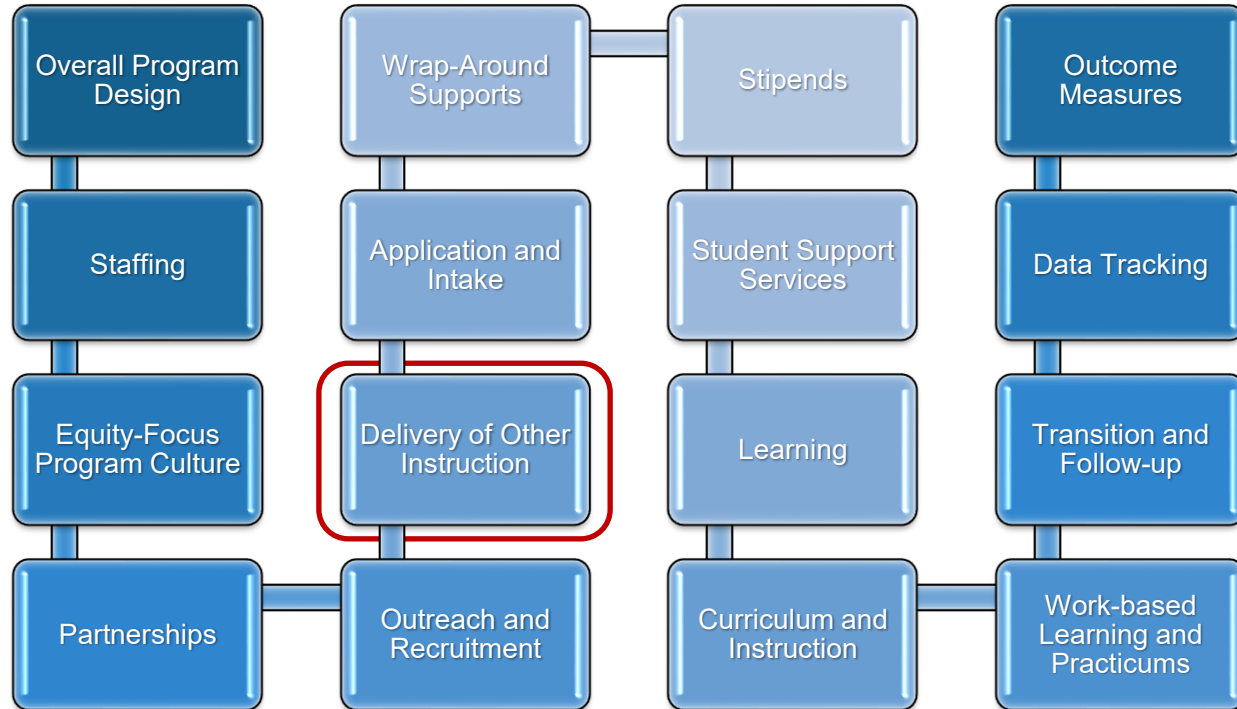
Your program **must** outline proactive recruiting, outreach and support strategies that significantly increase the number of underrepresented populations that enroll in and successfully complete your pre-apprenticeships program.

Your strategy **must** acknowledge race and gender disparities in regional construction and building trades occupations.





NOFO – Program Requirements





Delivery of Other Instructions



Your program **must** provide plans to refer students who do not have the minimum program requirements to educational services in their respective communities including free literacy, GED, ESL classes, among others.

Your plans **must** include how applicants' barriers to program entrance and success will be assessed. Your plan should include strategies for removing barriers for underrepresented groups.







Application and Intake

Successful applicants will outline a process to review candidates' eligibility for your pre-apprenticeship program including a/an;

- Pre-screening assessment
- Application
- Interview
- Participants enrollment
- Wrap-around service
- Support services





Application and Intake

Eligibility criteria includes the following;

- Participants must be at least 18 years of age when they enroll into the program (*unless attending an Illinois Works approved school-based pre-apprenticeship program*)
- Must have a high school diploma or GED (*unless attending an Illinois Works approved school-based pre-apprenticeship program*)
- Must be an Illinois resident
- Candidates must be interested in pursuing a career in construction or the building trades







Wrap-Around Supports



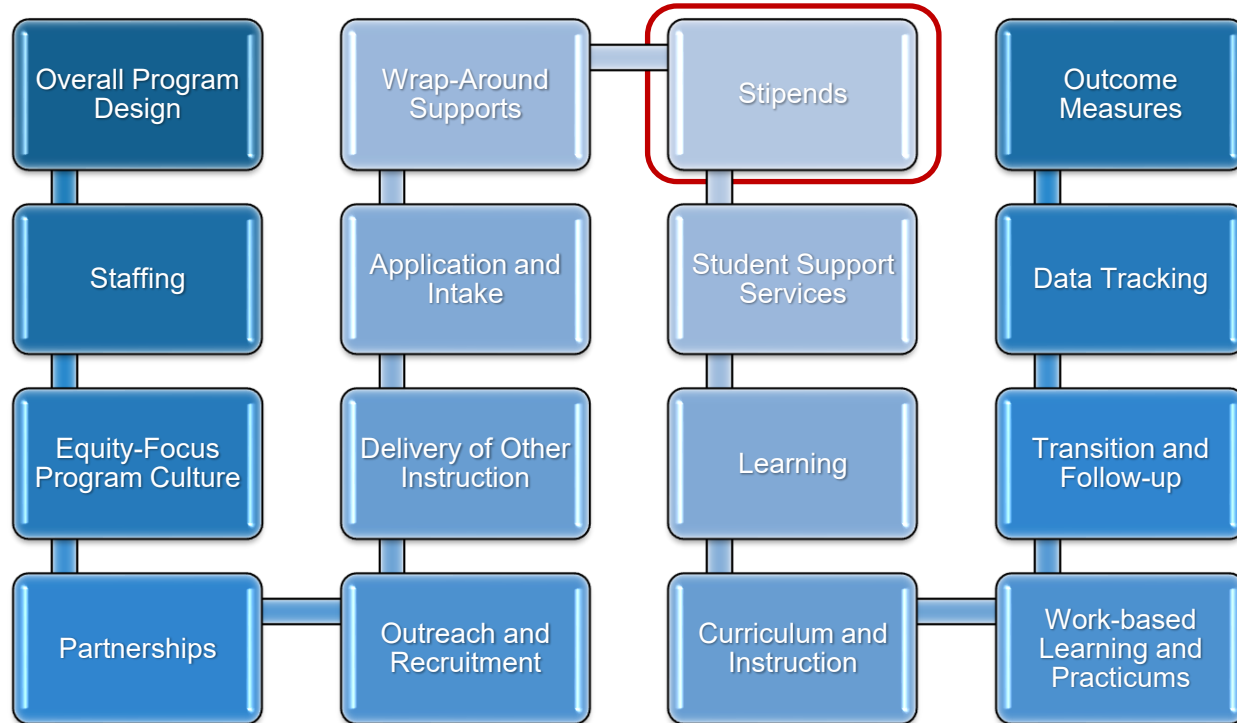
Wrap-around support may include, but not be limited to;

- Financial literacy
- Referrals for housing
- Mental health services
- Childcare and family care
- Transportation
- Driver's education fees
- Emergency bill payment
- Digital literacy
- Other costs that create an obstacle for participants





NOFO – Program Requirements





Stipends



Your program must provide stipends to pre-apprentice participants.

STIPEND







Student Supports Services



Student support services may include, but not be limited to;

- Tutoring services
- Retesting
- Make-up sessions (hours or tests)
- Other educational enrichments







Learning



Applicants ***must*** explain how they will coordinate education and learning, necessary support and retention services, and coaching from other partner institutions.







Curricula and Instructions

Submitted curricula must provide at least 183 hours of instruction, and should not exceed 300 hours of instruction, unless approved by ILW.

Applicants must submit a proposed curriculum outline including hours, instruction modules offered, length of the training, and the logistical plan for delivery (see Attachment III- Sample Curriculum and Proposed Curriculum).





Curricula and Instructions

Instructional hours must include the following:

- Illinois Works program orientation (up to 4 hours)
- Introduction to construction and the trades (required)
- Construction certifications (required)
 - TradesFutures MC3, NCCER, ICCB or other Illinois Works approved curricula
 - OSHA 10-hour
 - First Aid/CPR
 - Other nationally recognized certifications, if applicable
- Employability Skills based on Illinois Essential Employability Skills Framework (32 - 40 hours required)
 - Harassment Prevention (4 hours)
 - Diversity and Inclusion in Construction (4 hours)
- Test taking skills (4 hours required)
- Work-based/job site learning (10 - 50 hours required)
- Shop Math (40 hours required)





A vertical collage of images representing various aspects of the United States. The images are arranged in a vertical strip, with some overlapping. From top to bottom, the images include: a group of people, a red semi-truck, a yellow airplane, a yellow tractor in a field, a city skyline, a river, and a city skyline. The collage is set against a background of a large, stylized letter 'E'.





Work-based Learning and Practicums



Your program ***must*** include opportunities for pre-apprentices to do construction work at job sites while taking instruction or immediately after completing instruction (see Attachment III- Sample Curriculum and Proposed Curriculum).

Your program should outline existing or planned partnerships for work-based learning and practicum worksites. Successful applicants will provide a **10 – 50 hours** of work-based learning.







Transition and Follow-up



Your program **must** provide plans on how it will assist participants in transitioning to DOL-registered apprenticeship programs including connecting them to employers and unions.

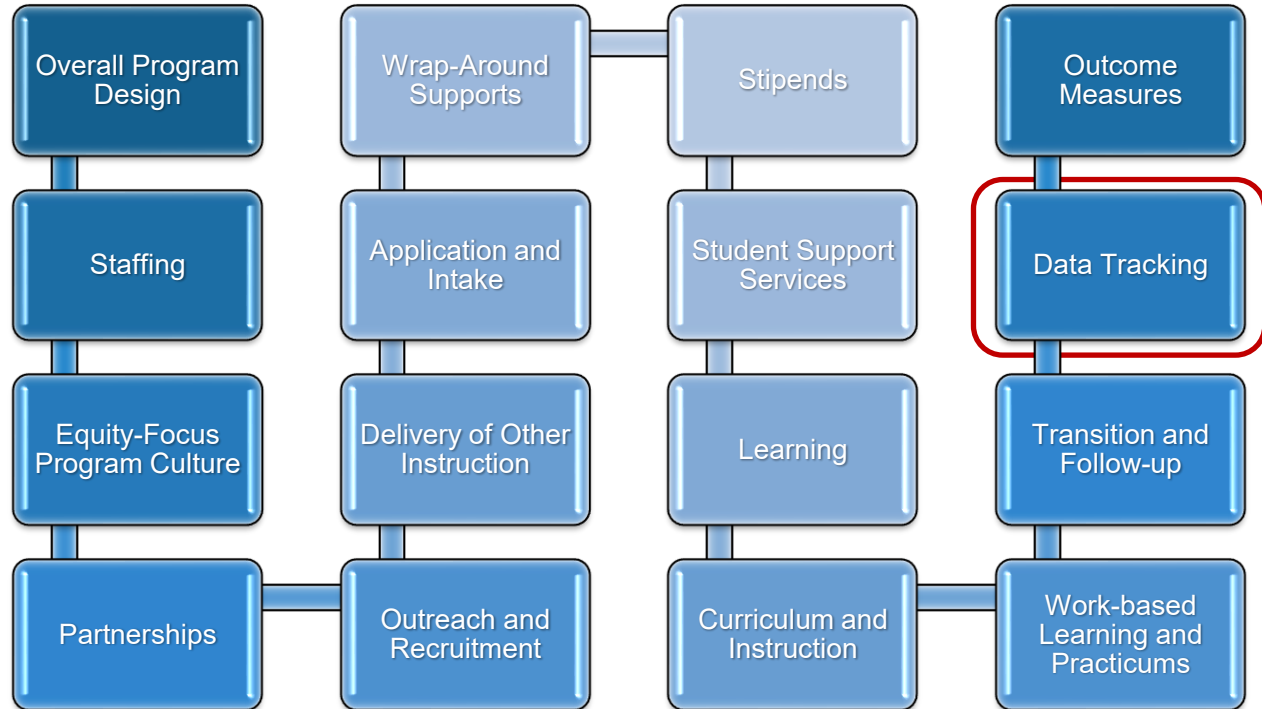
Include plans for referring participants that do not enroll into apprenticeship programs into advanced construction education and training programs, or other employment.

Applicants should outline how they will follow-up with participants on at least a quarterly basis for a period of one (1) year.





NOFO – Program Requirements





Data Tracking



Your program will be **required** to utilize the Illinois Works Reporting System (IWRS), a platform and workforce program management tool used to track grantee performance and progress toward negotiated outcome measures.

Data entry is expected to take place in **real time**. All programs should plan to have a dedicated data entry coordinator responsible for data entry and integrity.





A vertical collage of images representing various aspects of the United States. The images are arranged in a vertical strip, showing a diverse range of American life and industry. From top to bottom, the images include: a group of people, a red semi-truck, a commercial airplane, a farm with silos, a city skyline, and a river with a bridge.





Outcome Measures



Illinois Works Job Program Act requires pre-apprenticeship program grantees to report certain information about their programs; including the number of individuals who apply to, participate in, and complete the community-based organization's program, broken down by race, gender, age, and veteran status.





Payment Methodology

- **Performance** determines what you **can earn**.
- **Allowable expenses** determine what you **can receive**.



Performance → **Funds Earned** → **Allowable Expenses** → **Reimbursement**

- **Earn More:** Exceed performance metrics and potentially earn beyond the initial grant award
- **Monthly Payments:** Performance is reported through IWRS and used for monthly disbursements
- **Appeal Process:** Grantees may appeal when circumstances outside their control affect outcomes





2026 Grantee Manual



Illinois
Department of Commerce
& Economic Opportunity



ILLINOIS WORKS

Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity (DCEO)

2026 Grantee Manual

Illinois Works
Pre-Apprenticeship Program

January, 2026



ILLINOIS WORKS
Pre-Apprenticeship Program

Section 3. State Staff & Admin Programs	AD/ Add	Grant Illinois	
Section 4. Other	Wh	Ors	
Section 5. P	App	Illit	
Section 6. Dm	Int	Evu	
Section 7. W	Ad	Ad	
Section 8. S	Pro	Tru	
Section 9. S	Ad	Foll	
Section 10. C	Why 1	Date 2	
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Section 12. A	Other	The A	
Section 13. A	Perfor	Addit	
Section 14. A	Perfor	Addit	
Section 15. A	Perfor	Addit	
Section 16. A	Perfor	Addit	
Section 17. A	Perfor	Addit	
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Section 26. A	Perfor	Addit	
Section 27. A	Perfor	Addit	
Section 28. A	Perfor	Addit	
Section 29. A	Perfor	Addit	
Section 30. A	Perfor	Addit	
Section 31. A	Perfor	Addit	
Section 32. A	Perfor	Addit	
Section 33. A	Perfor	Addit	
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A vertical collage of images representing China's development. From top to bottom: a modern skyscraper, a traditional pagoda, a red train, a green field, and a modern building.





Attachments



- **ATTACHMENT I – PROPOSED WORK PLAN**
- **ATTACHMENT II – PARTICIPANT DEMOGRAPHICS AND OUTCOME SUMMARY**
- **ATTACHMENT III – SAMPLE CURRICULUM AND PROPOSED CURRICULUM**
- **ATTACHMENT IV – STAFFING PLAN**





NOFO – ATTACHMENT I – PROPOSED WORK PLAN



ATTACHMENT I - PROPOSED WORK PLAN

Organization Name: _____

Table A: Total Outcome Metrics

Total Number of Cohorts	Total Number of Individuals Recruited (cohorts)	Total Individuals Transitioned - Primary Outcome (all cohorts)

*Participant numbers in Table A should align with those Outcome Summary

- Recruited:** An individual who is interested in being contacted for enrollment information to be contacted for enrollment information and is offered to training.
- Enrolled Participant:** An individual who has completed all required modules and has received certification and credentials.
- Completed Participant:** An individual who has completed all required modules and has received certification and credentials.
- Primary Outcome Transitioned Participant:** An individual who has completed all required modules and has received certification and credentials.
- Alternative Construction Transitioned Participant:** An individual who has completed all required modules and has received certification and credentials.
- Secondary Outcome Transitioned Participant:** An individual who has completed all required modules and has received certification and credentials.

Table B: Instruction Information

Total Curricula Hours	Less Use of T CC and
Curriculum Offered (Trade/Future MC3, NCCER, ICCB, Other nationally recognized curricula)	

*Total curricula hours and information should align with Sample Curriculum and Proposed Curriculum

Per Cohort Instructions:
Complete the following tables based on information per cohort. *Per cohort outcome numbers should sum to the numbers in Table A.*

- Recruitment:** Recruitment begins with the first planned outreach activity for each cohort and ends the day before the first day of instruction. They should match the number of program weeks listed in Table B. Instruction should end no later than October 31, 2025.
- Program Dates:** Program dates are the first and last day of instruction. They should match the number of program weeks listed in Table B. Instruction should end no later than October 31, 2025.
- Participant Transition:** Participant transition begins immediately after the end date of the program and generally lasts for 2-3 months after the program. All transition dates must be within the grant year (1/1/2025 - 12/31/2025).

New Grantees: Due to required new grantee onboarding, instruction dates should not begin until mid-March 2025.

Renewal Grantees: Programming can begin starting February 1, 2025.

Program Dates for the final cohort must end no later than Friday, October 31, 2025

Cohort 1			
Individuals Recruited:	Individuals Completed:		
Individuals Enrolled:	Individuals Transitioned - Alternative Construction:	Start Date	End Date
Individuals Transitioned - Primary Outcome:	Individuals Transitioned - Secondary Outcome:		
Outcome Metric:			
Recruitment:			
Program Dates:			
Participant Transition:			
Individuals Recruited:	Individuals Completed:		
Individuals Enrolled:	Individuals Transitioned - Alternative Construction:	Start Date	End Date
Individuals Transitioned - Primary Outcome:	Individuals Transitioned - Secondary Outcome:		
Outcome Metric:			
Recruitment:			
Program Dates:			
Participant Transition:			
Individuals Recruited:	Individuals Completed:		
Individuals Enrolled:	Individuals Transitioned - Alternative Construction:	Start Date	End Date
Individuals Transitioned - Primary Outcome:	Individuals Transitioned - Secondary Outcome:		
Outcome Metric:			
Recruitment:			
Program Dates:			
Participant Transition:			





NOFO – ATTACHMENT II – PARTICIPANT DEMOGRAPHICS & OUTCOME SUMMARY



ATTACHMENT II – PARTICIPANT DEMOGRAPHICS & OUTCOME SUMMARY

Organization Name: _____
Ensure recruitment, enrollment, program completion
Attachment I: Proposed Work Plan

Participant Recruitment & Enrollment	Total Individuals Enrolled Total Individuals Enrolled Program
Demographics of Enrolled Participants	Gender Male Female Gender Not Confirmed (Genderqueer/Non-Binary)
Each category (gender, race/ethnicity, age, veteran status) should sum to the total number of individuals enrolled in the program	Race/Ethnicity White, non-Hispanic Black, non-Hispanic Hispanic/Latino Asian American Indian/Alaska Native Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander Two or More Races
	Age 18-24 25-34 35-44 45-54 55-64 65+
	Veteran Status Yes No
Service Delivery for Enrolled Participants	Support Service Wrap-around Services (support) Student Support Services (support) Transition Services Training Services (support) Employability Skills (support)

Program Completion	Work-based learning Other (Describe)	Total Program Goal	Goal Per Cohort
At least 85% of total individuals who enroll are expected to complete the program and receive required credentials	Participants who complete the pre-apprenticeship program Participants who complete the program and receive required credentials (OSHA-10, First Aid/CPR, NCCCO, Tool/Futures MC3, KCB, etc.)		
Primary Transition Goal/Outcome	Participants who enroll in a Registered Apprenticeship Program (RAP) Participants who enroll in a RAP through employer sponsorship Participants who enroll in a RAP through open enrollment Participants expected to complete a RAP and graduate to journey person status	Total Program Goal	Goal Per Cohort
At least 70% of total individuals enrolled are expected to enroll in a RAP			
Secondary/Alternative Transition Goal/Outcome	Participants who do not enroll in a Registered Apprenticeship Program (RAP) Participant(s) who complete the pre-apprenticeship program and open a small business Participant(s) who complete the pre-apprenticeship program and go into an alternative construction job (utilities, non-RAP construction – see Alternative Construction definitions in the 2024 Illinois Work Grant Manual) Participant(s) who complete the pre-apprenticeship program and seek non-construction employment Participant(s) who complete the pre-apprenticeship program and continue onto an advanced construction training program instead of a RAP Participant(s) who complete the pre-apprenticeship program and continue onto non-construction training, tourism or education	Total Program Goal	Goal Per Cohort
30% or less of total individuals enrolled are expected to achieve a secondary or alternative goal/outcome			







NOFO – ATTACHMENT IV – STAFFING PLAN

Organization Name:

Organization Name: _____

As part of the Illinois Works Pre-apprenticeship Program, the Offi-
applicants provide staff in eight key areas including program admin-
wrap-around services (non-academic needs), student support serv-
and data entry. These areas can be staffed by full-time or part-time
sub-contractors, or partner organizations.

Resumes, partnership agreements, or MOUs should be attached to contractors, and sub-contractors listed in Table A below.

Role definitions:

Role definitions:
Please note successful applicants are not required to have these specific skills. Successful applicants must be assigned to a staff member or partner within each role must be assigned to a staff member or partner.

Program Administrator - Responsible for program compliance as met and required reporting is done, oversees program operations, and other program roles.

Outreach and Recruitment Coordinator (ORC) - Secures a complete pre-screen assessments, ensures program applications are complete and scheduled interviews.

Wrap-around Service Coordinator (WSC) - Responsible for non-clinical services during Intake. This role will coordinate with the Support Specialist to offer a

Wrap-around Service Coordinator (WSC) - Responsible for non-Wrap-Around Service Assessment during intake. This role will coordinate services, and work with the Academic Support Specialist to offer academic support services, if needed. The WSC will also source from other needed support services and refer participants to those services.

Instructor - Each organization is required to have qualified and does not mean the instructors have to be employees, only that program individual or partner organization that will be carrying out the training program. Instructors should provide classroom, hands-on, and work and tutoring.

Student Support Services Coordinator (SSSC) - Responsible for specifically the implementation of Student Support Services, particularly monitoring attendance and academic performance, hosting make-up coordinating tutoring services for participants.

Transition Services Coordinator (TSC)—This role must be performed full-time for larger programs and 30-hour or more part-time for smaller programs. The TSC is responsible for ensuring that Career Assessments are completed and individualized education plans are developed for each student. The TSC also works with other program staff including the completion of apprenticeship application forms, and assistance with completing apprenticeship programs, and other activities. The TSC also conducts the final review of the successful transition of program graduates. The TSC also conducts the follow-up of graduates.

Data Entry Coordinator (DEC) - Programs can determine how the
 - Works Reporting System (WRS). This may be complete

roles in the program. The DEC is responsible for ensuring timely reporting of program data in IVRS including entering participant information, programmatic and service data, outcome metrics, and verifying data accuracy, among others.

Table A: Staff Capacity

Staff Role	Name of staff member(s), partner(s), contractor(s), sub-contractor(s)	Is this role filled by an existing staff member/partnership?
Program Administrator		
Outreach and Recruitment Coordinator (ORC)		
Wrap-around Service Coordinator (WSC)		
Instructor		
Student Support Services Coordinator (SSSC)		
Transition Services Coordinator (TSC) – dedicated full-time for larger programs or 38-hours or more part-time for smaller programs		
Entry Coordinator (DEC)		

**Please note that many of these roles have access to participant's private information. When determining how to cover the responsibilities outlined above, applicants should consider how to ensure participant information is protected.*





Funding Information



NOFO



Format

Submittal

Due





2026 NOFO Resources



Resources

NOFO References

- 360-Degree Focus on Equity
- Executive Order #3: Action Agenda for Workforce Development and Job Creation
- Illinois Career Pathways Dictionary
- Illinois Department of Labor, 2021 State Construction Minority and Female Building Trades Annual Report
- Illinois Essential Employability Skills Framework
- Illinois Works Pre-apprenticeship Program 2026 Grantee Manual
- Illinois Workforce Innovation Board, Apprenticeship Illinois Committee Quarterly Report June 2021
- The Essentials of a High-Quality Pre-apprenticeship Program, Jobs for the Future, 2019
- United States Department of Labor, Training and Employment Notice 13-12
- United States Department of Labor, Discover Apprenticeship: Earn While You Earn Today
- U.S. Dept of Labor, Registered Apprenticeship Partners Information Database System (RAPIDS)

Resources for Competitive Applications

- Apprenticeship Illinois
- Grant Accountability and Transparency Act
- Illinois Career Pathways Dictionary
- Regional and Local Workforce Plans
- State of Illinois WIOA ePolicy Portal
- State of Illinois WIOA Unified State Plan
- U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation Talent Pipeline Management Initiative
- U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Employment and Training, Office of Apprenticeship
- WIOA Regional/Local Plans by Economic Development Region
- Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014



Resources on National Best Practices for Pre-Apprenticeship and Apprenticeship Programs

- 2020 Construction Apprenticeship Guidebook (Seattle)
- Broadening the Apprenticeship Pipeline (National Skills Coalition)
- Construction Pre-Apprenticeship Programs (Aspen Institute)
- Construction Pre-Apprenticeship Programs: Results from a National Survey (Aspen Institute)
- Illinois Tollway Construction Works Brochure
- Illinois Tollway Construction Works Online Application Portal
- Illinois Tollway Construction Works Website
- Key Capacities of Construction Pre-Apprenticeship Programs (Aspen Institute)
- Pre-Apprenticeships: Building Strong Apprentices (Workforce GPS)
- Seattle PACT Pre-Apprenticeship Construction Training
- YOUTHBUILD Construction Plus Framework

Resources on National Best Practices for Equity Pre-Apprenticeship and Apprenticeship Programs

- The Roadmap for Racial Equity (National Skills Coalition)
- Principles for a High-Quality Pre-Apprenticeship: A Model to Advance Equity (Center for Law and Social Policy CLASP)
- Collaborative Solutions for Increasing Diversity of Apprenticeship Participants (Workforce GPS)
- Closing the Divide: Making Illinois a Leader in Equitable Apprenticeships (Young Invincibles)
- Growing Equity and Diversity Through Apprenticeship: Business Perspectives (JFF Center for Apprenticeship and Work-based Learning)
- Flowchart of Equitable Apprenticeship Models (Young Invincibles and Chicago Jobs Council)





2026 NOFO ~ References and Resources

NOFO ID: 2614-4323

failure to meet any requirement; to award in part or total; and to waive minor defects and non-compliance. The DCEO Grant Managers may contact the applicants to request information on a quick turnaround (generally 48 hours) to resolve technical questions including: technical or administrative clarifications; missing or incomplete components; and technical transmission errors.

Submission of an application confers no right to an award or to a subsequent grant agreement. The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity is not obligated to award any grants under this program, to pay any costs incurred by the applicant in the preparation and submission of an application or pay any grant-related costs incurred prior to the grant's beginning date.

NOFO Technical Assistance: DCEO will provide Technical Assistance (TA) throughout the application process, in the form of webinars, regional meetings, and PACs. More information will be posted at: <https://www.illinoisworknet.com/worksreapapprenticeshipnofo2026>

Renewals and Grant Modifications: The Department may authorize the renewal, for up to two additional years of projects awarded under this NOFO and additional funding based on the activities, outcomes and performance of the grantees as well as the availability of funds under the Illinois Works Jobs Program Act. The renewal, if granted, would occur after one year of programmatic performance and an evaluation of services and outcomes by the Office of Illinois Works.

Technical Assistance and Professional Development: Grantees must plan on attending group or individual technical assistance and/or training sessions throughout the year with Illinois Works staff. The Illinois Works Pre-apprenticeship Program offers a robust virtual onboarding and professional development series at the beginning of the grant period that program administrators and select staff are required to attend. Applicants must also budget for instructors' attendance to training and certification classes. In addition to ongoing technical assistance and professional development trainings, grantees will have the opportunity to garner additional support from a program coach contracted by the Office of Illinois Works. Depending on grantee needs and capacity, the Office of Illinois Works may require grantees to meet with the program coach on a monthly basis.

APPENDIX – REFERENCES & RESOURCES

Acronyms used in this NOFO

- AR: Alternative Reality
- CBO: Community-based organization
- DCEO: Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity
- DOL: Department of Labor
- DUNS: Data Universal Number System
- FEIN: Federal Employer Identification Number
- GATA: Grant Accountability and Transparency Act
- ICQ: Internal Controls Questionnaire
- IWIB: Illinois Workforce Innovation Board
- IWRP: Illinois Works Reporting System
- JFF: Jobs for the Future
- MOU: Memorandum of Understanding
- MTDC: Modified Total Direct Costs
- NABTU: North America's Building Trades Union

NOFO ID: 2614-4323

- NCCER: National Center for Construction Education and Research
- NICRA: Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement
- NOFO: Notice of Funding Opportunity
- NOSA: Notice of State Award
- OSHA: Occupational Safety & Health Administration
- PFR: Periodic Financial Report
- PPR: Periodic Programmatic Report
- RAP: Registered Apprenticeship Program
- SAM: System for Award Management
- UEI: Unique Entity Identifier
- VR: Virtual Reality
- WIOA: Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act

Definitions from Illinois Works Program Act

"Apprentice" means a participant in an apprenticeship program approved by and registered with the United States Department of Labor's Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training.

"Apprenticeship program" means an apprenticeship and training program approved by and registered with the United States Department of Labor's Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training.

"Bid credit" means a virtual dollar for a contractor or subcontractor to use toward future bids for public works contracts.

"Contractor" means a person, corporation, partnership, limited liability company, or joint venture entering into a contract with the State or any State agency to construct a public work.

"Department" means the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity.

"Labor hours" means the total hours for workers who are receiving an hourly wage and who are directly employed for the public works project. "Labor hours" includes hours performed by workers employed by the contractor and subcontractors on the public works project. "Labor hours" does not include hours worked by the forepersons, superintendents, owners, and workers who are not subject to prevailing wage requirements.

"Minorities" means minority persons as defined in the Business Enterprise for Minorities, Women, and Persons with Disabilities Act.

"Public works" means all projects that constitute public works under the Prevailing Wage Act.

"Subcontractor" means a person, corporation, partnership, limited liability company, or joint venture that has contracted with the contractor to perform all or part of the work to construct a public work by a contractor.

"Registered Apprenticeship" As defined by the Office of Apprenticeship of the United States Department of Labor, "Registered Apprenticeship" is an effective "earn and learn" model with a long history of providing career ladders and pathways to the middle class, particularly for the building and construction industry but increasingly in other industries as well. Registered Apprenticeships must have five components: business involvement, structured on-the-job training, related classroom and workplace



Illinois Works Informational Sessions

Information Sessions

For comments, feedback, or questions email the Office of Illinois Works at CEO.ILWorks@illinois.gov.

Event Name	Type of Event	Event Date and Time	Registration/Resources
Intro to ILW	Webinar	September 8, 2026 9:00am - 12:00pm	• Registration
GATA	Webinar	September 10, 2026 9:00am - 12:00pm	• Registration
Bidders Conference	Webinar	September 15, 2026 9:00am - 12:00pm	• Registration
Performance-Based Model	Webinar	September 17, 2026 9:00am - 12:00pm	• Registration
Developing Partnerships	Webinar	September 22, 2026 9:00am - 12:00pm	• Registration



A vertical collage of images representing China's development. From top to bottom: a modern skyscraper, a traditional pagoda, a red train, a green field, and a modern building.





Feedback ~ We want to hear from you



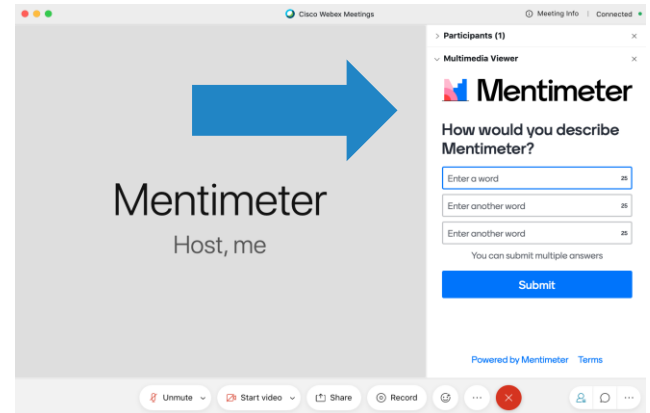
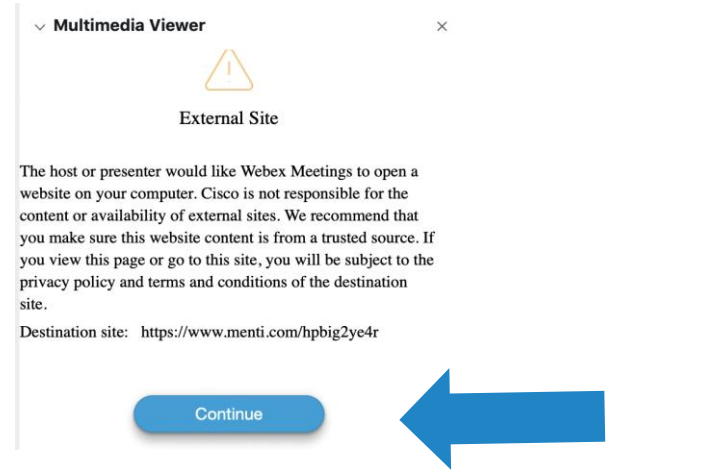


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- ▶ Once you click the button the Mentimeter app will show in the Multimedia viewer.



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Thank You!



Illinois
Department of Commerce
& Economic Opportunity

JB Pritzker, Governor