



Illinois
Department of Commerce
& Economic Opportunity

Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity (DCEO)

Illinois Works Jobs Program

Meeting Starts In: **10:00**



ILLINOIS WORKS
Pre-Apprenticeship Program





Track III Administrator and Program Manager

Community of Practice (CoP)

September 29, 2026

From Compliance to Renewal: Finishing Strong and Preparing for What's Next

Presenter:

Dr. Norman Ruano

Professional Development Team:

Dr. Tanya Davenport



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THEN Mentimeter opens in the Multimedia Viewer.



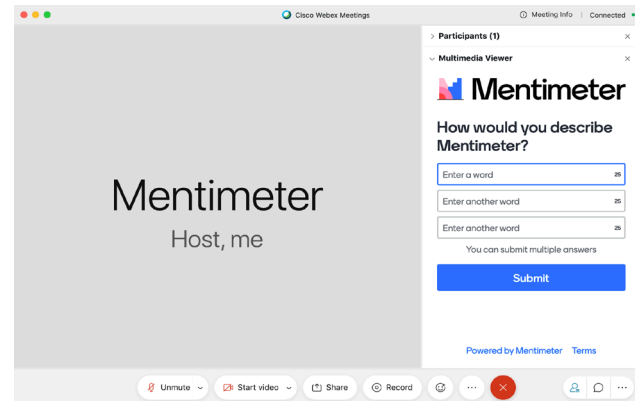
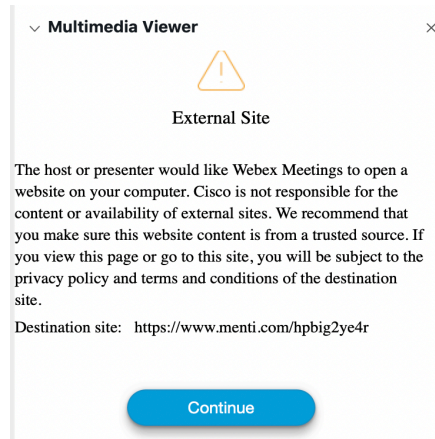
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Mentimeter: Opening Pulse Check

Submit both responses in Mentimeter. We will use the live results to open the conversation.

Which year-end area is creating the most concern for your organization right now?

Renewal

Payment /
Reimbursement

Closeout

Understanding how these areas
connect

What is the main question or challenge behind your choice?



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- Your Name
- Organization/Agency
- Geographic Location

ILW 2026 Track III

Grantees

ILLINOIS 





Section 2: Program Expectations



By the end of this Community of Practice, participants will be able to:

- ✓ Describe the grant renewal process and explain how current compliance and performance affect renewal eligibility.
- ✓ Explain how verified performance, allowable expenses, and required reporting work together under the performance-based payment model.
- ✓ Identify critical closeout requirements and consequences of unresolved compliance, reporting, financial, or performance obligations.
- ✓ Prioritize the actions your organization should take now to strengthen its position for renewal, reimbursement, and closeout.



Opening Conversation



What is driving the concern behind your Mentimeter response?

RENEWAL

Eligibility, status, and what happens next

PAYMENT

ReMax, reporting, and reimbursement

CLOSEOUT

Verification, open items, and remaining obligations

Use the live poll results to decide where the conversation should begin.



Compliance Links Renewal, Payment, and Closeout

Verified performance and compliance are the common evidence base.

What Illinois Works can verify from IWRS, documentation, outcomes, and required reporting shapes all three decisions.

RENEWAL

Can the program continue into the next grant year?

PAYMENT

How much reimbursement can verified performance support?

CLOSEOUT

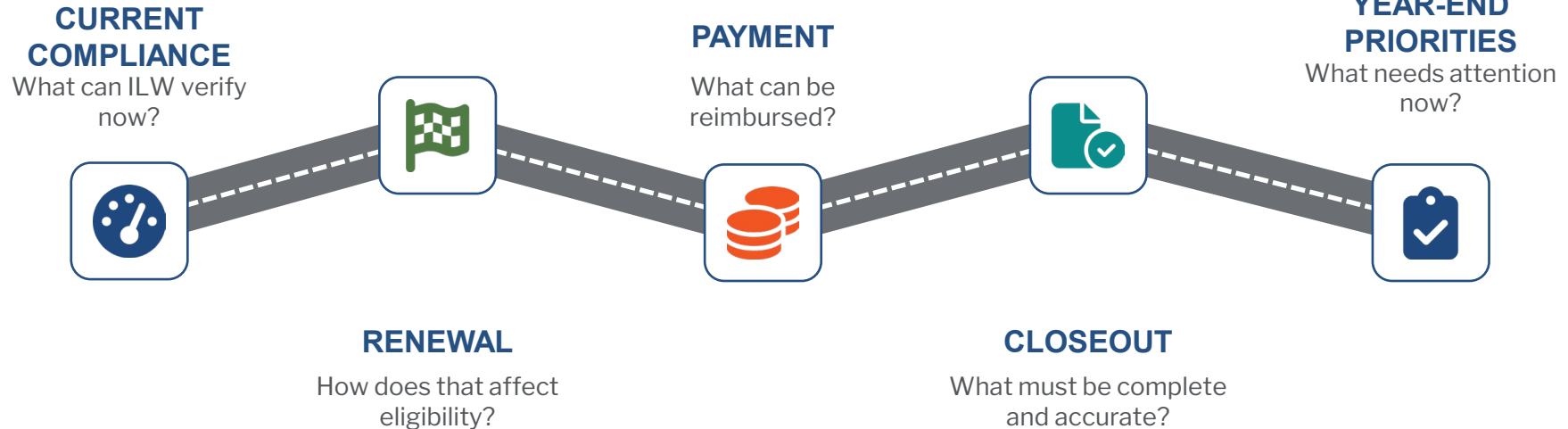
Can Illinois Works verify the year and release remaining funds?

The practical question throughout the session: what can still be verified, corrected, or completed before year-end decisions?



Today's Roadmap

Start with what the current compliance report shows, then follow what that evidence means for the decisions and work ahead.



Current compliance is the starting point; each stop shows what the verified evidence means next.



Read Your Current Position

Start with your Monthly Compliance Progress Report.

- **Compare** verified enrollment, completion, and primary transition outcomes with the approved Work Plan.
- **Identify** data, documentation, or unresolved flags affecting what Illinois Works can verify.
- **Determine** which outcomes or requirements can still be improved before renewal decisions and closeout.

Read it as an operating signal—not simply as a score.



Your Compliance Report Is an Early-Warning Dashboard

Three questions to ask when you read the report:

PROGRESS

How verified results compare with the approved Work Plan.

EVIDENCE

What IWRS data and documentation Illinois Works can verify.

OUTLOOK

What current results suggest about year-end performance if nothing changes.

Why it matters now: the same verified performance informs renewal eligibility and the Reimbursement Maximum (ReMax).



What Your Compliance Rating Means

Ratings compare verified progress with the outcome expected at this point in the Work Plan.

EXCELLENT >100%

Above expected

Exceeds the required outcome at this point in the approved timeline.

GOOD 76–100%

Strong progress

Significant progress; likely to meet the required outcome.

INADEQUATE 50–75%

Below expected

Some progress, but below the level needed to meet the required outcome.

POOR <50%

Well below expected

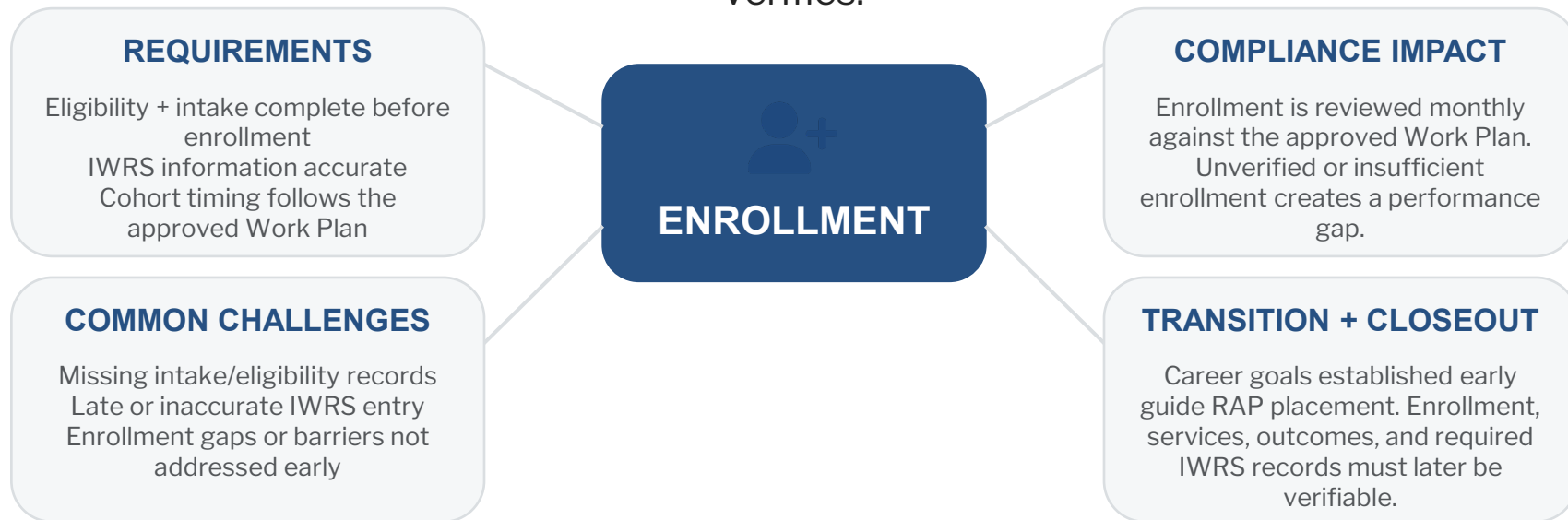
Progress is well below the level needed to meet the required outcome.

Why can a rating exceed 100%? It compares verified results with the outcome expected at this point—not with a 100% annual cap.



Why Enrollment Still Matters at Year-End

Enrollment is the foundation for the later outcomes Illinois Works measures and verifies.





SECTION 3: RENEWAL

How Current Performance Affects Renewal

Renewal is not automatic. Participant outcomes, verified reporting, and monthly compliance build the performance picture Illinois Works uses for renewal eligibility.





What Renewal Means for a Grantee

UP TO

2 RENEWALS

Initial grant year + up to two renewals = a maximum of three program years before competitive reapplication.

Renewal is not automatic.



FALL INVITATION

Illinois Works alerts grantees invited to renew. Invitation is based on program performance.



RENEWAL APPLICATION

Invited grantees submit the required renewal application and programmatic forms for the next grant year.



NEXT-YEAR AGREEMENT

When renewal requirements are satisfied, the renewal extends the current grant agreement into the next program year.

Invitation is performance-based; Illinois Works communicates the renewal threshold in August.



How Compliance Informs Renewal Status

Current verified performance is evaluated against the 2026 renewal criteria.

POSSIBLE STATUS	WHAT IT MEANS	THRESHOLD / CRITERIA
 FULL RENEWAL	Meets the current full-renewal criteria.	75%
 CONDITIONAL RENEWAL	May proceed conditionally with required follow-up.	65%
 RENEWAL AT RISK	Verified performance does not meet the applicable renewal criteria.	Below applicable criteria



The Clock Matters: What Can Still Affect Renewal?

At the end of September, focus on what can still change the verified performance picture before renewal decisions.



END OF

SEPTEMBER

Less time remains
to change the
result.



VERIFIED OUTCOMES STILL ACHIEVABLE

Enrollment, completion, or transition results that can still occur within the approved timeline and be documented before renewal decisions.



WORK DONE, EVIDENCE STILL MISSING

Completed activity cannot count until the required documentation and IWRS data are complete and acceptable.



OPEN COMPLIANCE ISSUES

Flags, data errors, or unresolved requirements can keep the current compliance picture from reflecting verified performance accurately.

Key lesson: renewal is affected by what Illinois Works can verify—not by activity that remains undocumented.



Mentimeter: Renewal Check-In

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MENTIMETER QUESTION

Where does your organization have the greatest opportunity to improve verified performance before renewal decisions?

- ☐ Enrollment
- ☐ Completion
- ☐ Transition
- ☐ Data / Documentation
- ☐ Not sure yet

After the poll: be ready to name one action your organization can take.



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SECTION 4: PAYMENT MODEL

How Verified Performance Becomes Reimbursement

Verified performance establishes the Reimbursement Maximum (ReMax). Allowable, documented expenses and required financial reporting determine what can actually be paid.





From Compliance to Cash: The Payment Logic

Payment depends on two different approvals working together.

VERIFIED PERFORMANCE

Creates the Reimbursement Maximum (ReMax)—the ceiling supported by verified outcomes.



APPROVED REPORTING

Confirms allowable, supported, and properly documented costs.



PAYMENT

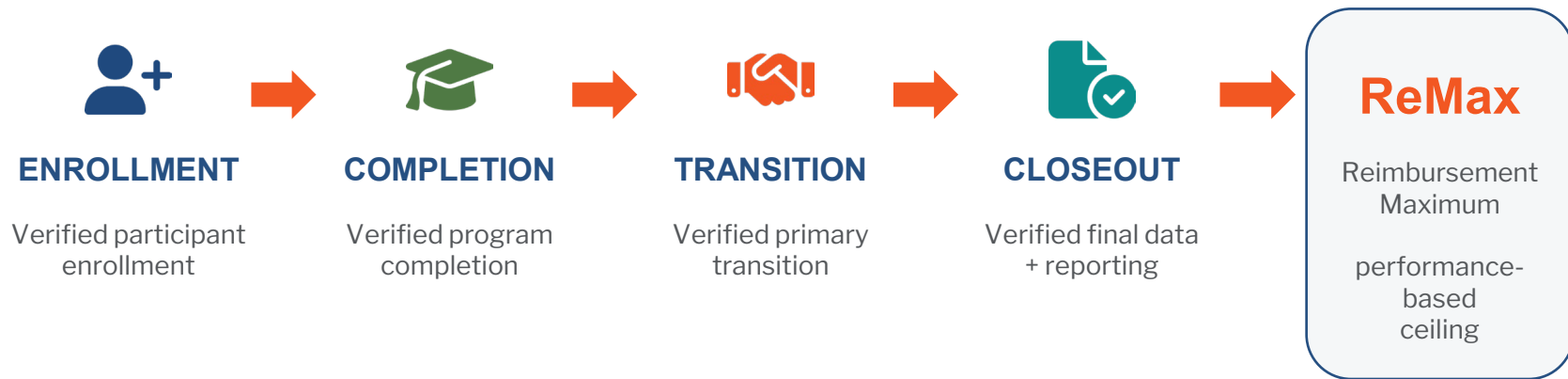
Released only when both conditions are satisfied.

ReMax defines the reimbursement capacity created by performance. Approved financial reporting determines the payable amount within that ceiling.



How Verified Milestones Build ReMax

Enrollment, completion, transition, and closeout are the performance benchmarks that build the reimbursement ceiling.

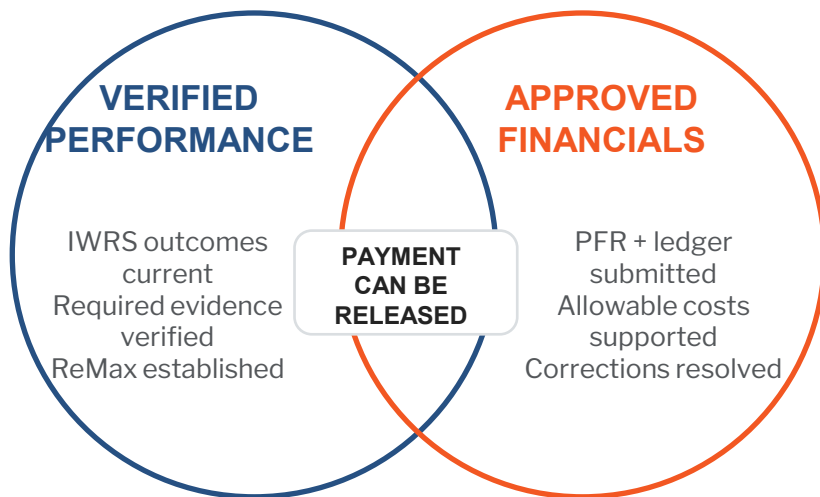


These benchmarks build ReMax. Approved, allowable financial reporting determines how much of that ceiling can actually be paid.



Two Conditions Must Be Met Before Payment

Strong performance alone does not release payment. Both conditions must be satisfied.



BOTH ARE REQUIRED

Verified performance

establishes the reimbursement ceiling (ReMax).

Approved financial reporting

supports allowable costs and determines the payable amount within that ceiling.

If either condition is incomplete, payment may be delayed or cannot be released.



Where to Go for More: Payment Model Resources



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Illinois Works New Financial Payment Model



www.illinois.gov/dceo

Use the full Payment Model workshop for the detailed financial process.



ReMax

Verified performance establishes the maximum reimbursement supported by program results.



Allowable expenses

Complete, allowable, documented expenses determine what can actually be paid.



Reporting + corrections

Required financial reporting and corrections must be complete before payment can be released.



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SECTION 5: CLOSEOUT PROCESS

What Closeout Is, What Influences It, and Why Timing Matters

Closeout confirms the grant-year record, identifies anything still unresolved, and continues into the start of the next grant year.





What Closeout Is

Closeout is the year-end verification of the work and records produced during the grant year.



PARTICIPANT RECORDS Required records match the participant's status and history.



IWRS DATA Participant data and final statuses are complete, accurate, and current.



OUTCOME EVIDENCE Completion and transition outcomes are supported by required evidence.



PROGRAM + FINANCIAL REPORTING Required reports and supporting records are complete and reconciled.

Closeout confirms whether the year's work is complete, accurate, and supported by the record.



What Influences the Closeout Process?

Four areas shape the amount of correction and follow-up required during closeout.

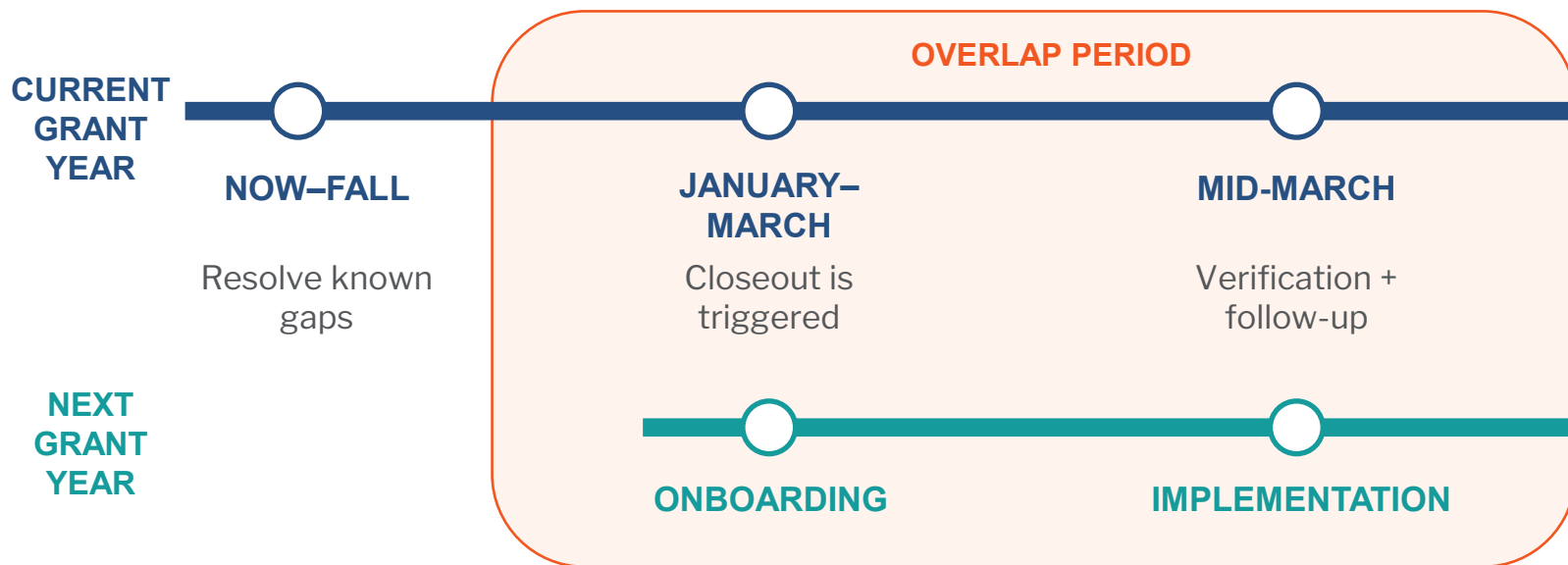


The more complete and accurate these areas are before closeout, the less correction and follow-up is needed.



When Closeout Happens

Closeout begins near year-end and continues into the start of the next grant year.





Advance + Closeout: Why Repayment Can Happen

An advance is cash received before all performance and closeout requirements are fully earned.

\$60,000

ADVANCE RECEIVED

Cash received before
performance is fully
earned.



WHAT MUST SUPPORT IT

**Verified performance,
allowable costs, &
closeout requirements**

If verified results and allowable costs do not support the advance, repayment may be required.



When Closeout Issues Stay Open

A correctable gap can become more consequential when it remains unresolved.

CORRECTABLE

**MORE
CONSEQUENTIAL**

GAP REMAINS OPEN

Missing evidence,
reporting,
performance, or
compliance item.

MORE FOLLOW- UP

Additional review,
monitoring, or
corrective action
may be required.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Payment may be
delayed or
restricted, or
repayment may be
required.

BROADER STATE IMPLICATIONS

Unresolved obligations
can create stop-pay or
future-funding
consequences.

These are potential consequences — not automatic outcomes. Resolve what can still be corrected before closeout intensifies.



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Year-End Readiness Check

Use these five questions to identify what still requires verification, correction, or follow-up.

- ✓ Where is our compliance score/status now, and what does it show about verified performance?

- ✓ Which outcome has the largest gap?

- ✓ Which participant records or supporting evidence are preventing verification?

- ✓ Are PFR/PPR and other financial reporting requirements current?

- ✓ What must be resolved in the next 30 days to strengthen year-end readiness?

Anything you cannot answer confidently belongs on your organization's year-end follow-up list.



Finish Strong

Use the information you already have to understand where you stand and focus on what can still be verified or corrected.



KNOW YOUR STATUS.

Use current compliance, payment, and closeout information to understand where your organization actually stands.



FIX WHAT CAN STILL BE FIXED.

Focus on verifiable outcomes, missing evidence, reporting corrections, and unresolved flags that can still change year-end results.



DOCUMENT WHAT YOU HAVE ACCOMPLISHED.

If the work cannot be verified, Illinois Works cannot count it for compliance, payment, or closeout.

Monthly compliance is useful because it shows gaps while there is still time to correct and verify them.



Mentimeter: Questions & Peer Exchange

Respond in Mentimeter. We will display the responses live as they come in.



WHAT STILL NEEDS CLARIFICATION?

What question do you still have about renewal, compliance, payment, or closeout?



WHAT IS WORKING FOR YOUR ORGANIZATION?

What is one practice your organization is using that may help another grantee prepare for year-end?

Responses can remain anonymous unless participants choose to identify themselves.



Mentimeter: Understanding & Readiness

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FEEDBACK QUESTIONS

- How clear is the link between compliance/performance and renewal?
- How clear is the connection among verified performance, financial reporting, and payment?
- How clear are your organization's closeout responsibilities?
- How prepared are you to identify your organization's year-end priorities?
- What additional support do you still need?

Feedback will be used to strengthen future Communities of Practice.



Mentimeter: Webinar Session Feedback

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**We Want to Hear From You
About Today's Session!**

Feedback will be used to strengthen future Communities of Practice.



Thank You!

Know your status. Act on the signal. Close cleanly.



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