



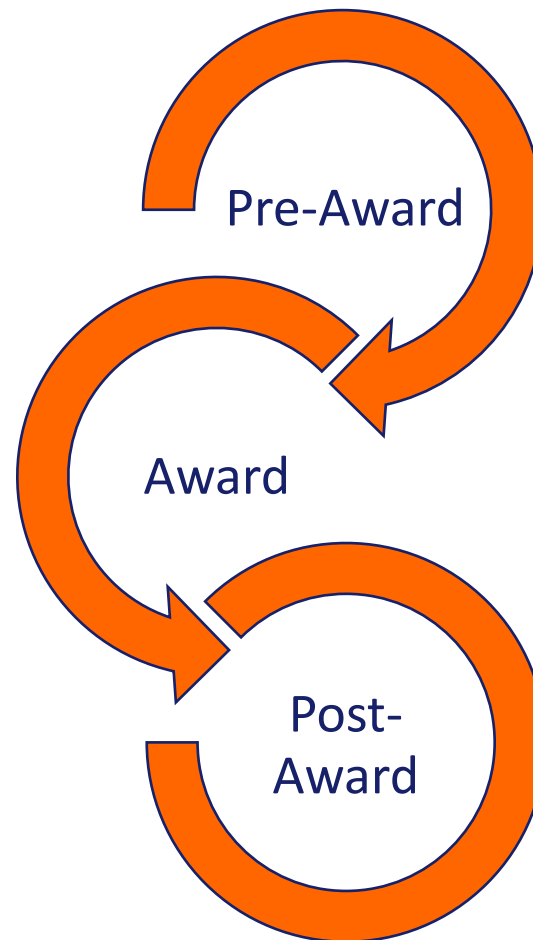
Workforce Grants 101:

*An Overview of the Grant Submission Requirements
under the Illinois Grant Accountability and
Transparency Act*

Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity

Grant Life Cycle

This presentation will focus on the pre-award requirements of a workforce grant from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity.





Illinois Grant Accountability and Transparency Act

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

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



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

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



GATA & Indirect Cost Rate System

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

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



Grantee Registration

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

Grantee Pre-Qualification

- Pre-Qualification includes an automated verification of the organizations:
 - SAM.gov account
 - Federal Unique Identifier Number (UEI)
 - Good Standing with Secretary of State
 - Not on Federal Excluded Parties List
 - Not on the Illinois Stop Payment List
 - Not on the DHFS Provider Sanction List
- Applicants must be registered in GATA Grantee Portal at the time of grant application (see page 14 of the NOFO)



Pre-Qualification Notification

- If there are no issues, the GATA portal will send email to communicate “Qualified” status.
- If there are issues, the GATA portal emails qualification issue(s)
 - Federal Unique identifier (UEI) number is not current
 - SAM CAGE Code is not current
 - Not in Good Standing with Secretary of State
 - On the Federal Excluded Parties List (cannot be remediated)



GATA Framework for Risk Assessment

- Fiscal Risk Assessment (ICQ) is automated.
 - The Grantee can access the ICQ from the grantee portal.
 - The ICQ is completed on an annually basis by the Grantee
 - The ICQ should be completed at the entity-wide level
 - All state agencies will utilize the results of the ICQ
- Programmatic Risk Assessment will be conducted by the awarding agency (DCEO) in the application process. It is unique to each NOFO and grant program and is typically completed if the proposal is recommended for funding.
- Risk profiles will be determined based on the two risk assessments. Risk profile will determine grant specific conditions and monitoring.



Indirect Cost Rate Selection

Centralized Indirect Cost System

- All grantees must select an Indirect Cost Rate option in a centralized indirect cost rate system.
- An indirect cost rate is a device used for determining the appropriate amount of indirect costs each program should bear. An Indirect Cost Rate is the ratio between the total indirect expenses and some direct cost base.
- Options available for a Grantee to receive an Indirect Cost Rate:
 - Current Federal negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement
 - Negotiate a rate with the State of Illinois
 - Elect to use the Federal 10% “de minimis” rate of Modified Total Direct Cost (MTDC)
 - Elect to decline any indirect cost rate



Indirect Cost Rate Proposals & Elections

- Centralized Indirect Cost System can be accessed at <http://grants.illinois.gov> from the dropdown menu in the Grantee Links Tab. This site includes:
 - FAQs
 - Training Modules
 - Forms and Indirect Cost Rate Templates
 - Department of Labor Indirect Cost Rate Guide
- An indirect cost proposal or rate election must be initiated with the Centralized Indirect Cost Rate system upon notice of award. The indirect cost rate proposal or rate election must be completed no later than three (3) months after the effective date of the State award.
- Uniform Guidance (2 CFR 200) requires an *annual* submission of an indirect cost proposal or rate election. The Centralized Indirect Cost Rate system will be used for annual renewals. Annual submissions must be received within six months after the Grantee's fiscal year end.



Standard Application & Grant Award Documents

- Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)
Catalog of State Financial Assistance
<https://gata.illinois.gov/grants/csfa.html>
- Uniform Application for State Grant Assistance
- Uniform Budget Template
- Notice of State Award



Application Requirements

- Uniform Grant Application
- Uniform Budget Template
- Conflict of Interest Disclosures
- Mandatory Disclosures
- Executive Summary
- **Technical / Programmatic Proposal**
 - Applicant Capacity & Qualifications
 - Documentation of Need
 - Project Plan
 - Budget Narrative
- **Attachments**
 - Proposed Workplan
 - Participant Outcome Summary
 - Sample Curriculum
 - Staffing Plan Including:
 - Resumes of Key Program Staff
 - Memorandum of Understanding from program partners
 - Memorandum of Understanding from Union and/or employer partners



Applicant Capacity

- Who are you?
- What is your relationship to the target population?
- What are your qualifications?
- What other projects have you accomplished?
- Who are your partners?
- What are their qualifications?
- Describe the organization.
- Describe any similar projects undertaken.
- Describe the qualifications of individuals responsible to carry out the project activities.
- List any facilities, equipment, or resources available to the project and their sources.

Documentation of Need

- What is the target population?
- What are the needs/problems of the target population?
- What are the causes of the identified needs/problems?
- What documentation is there to support the existence of the identified needs/problems?
- Statistical information to document the extent of the need/problem
 - <http://www.census.gov/>
 - <http://www.bls.gov/home.htm>
 - <https://www.illinoisreportcard.com/>
- Only identify the need/problem you intend to address
- Describe the population affected by the need/problem



Operational Plan

- What is your solution to the need/problem? How will you approach the solution?
- What is your plan of action to address the identified need/problem?
- What are the steps you will take? Who will do what? How long will it take?
- Explain the project goal and how it would meet the need or solve the problem identified.
- List specific, measurable objectives that will allow the project to meet its goal.
- State expected project outcomes and how they would benefit the target population.
- State the planned activities, methodology, and timetable for accomplishing the planned activities.
- Explain how the project will be managed.
- Always tie the objectives back to the identified need/problem.

Return on Investment

- What are the expected outcomes of the project? The measurements should be quantitative.
- You need to show that your proposed project has the support of those it affects.
- You need to show that you have considered the need/problem from many different angles.
- You need to show that you have considered all available resources.
- Will the project be evaluated? The evaluation should measure accomplishment of the stated project goals and objectives.
- How will the project be continued after the grant expires?



Uniform Application for State Grant Assistance

- Agency Information
 - Funding Opportunity Information
 - Instructions on How to Submit an Application
 - Required Grant Information
- Applicant Completed Section
 - Applicant Information
 - Contact Information
 - Key Project Information (Location, Term, Amount)
 - Fiscal Information
- Certification



Uniform Budget Template - Overview

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



Allowable Costs § 200.403

Factors affecting allowability of costs:

- Be necessary and reasonable for the performance of the Federal award and be allocable under the Federal Cost Principles.
- Conform to any limitations or exclusions set forth in these principles or in the Federal award as to types or amount of cost items.
- Be consistent with policies and procedures that apply uniformly to both federally-financed and other activities of the non-Federal entity.
- Be accorded consistent treatment. A cost may not be assigned to a Federal award as a direct cost if any other cost incurred for the same purpose in like circumstances has been allocated to the Federal award as an indirect cost.
- Be determined in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP), except, for state and local governments and Indian tribes only, as otherwise provided for in this Part.
- Not be included as a cost or used to meet cost sharing or matching requirements of any other federally financed program in either the current or a prior period.
- Be adequately documented.

Reasonable Costs § 200.404

A cost is reasonable if, in its nature and amount, it does not exceed that which would be incurred by a prudent person under the circumstances prevailing at the time the decision was made to incur the cost. The question of reasonableness is particularly important when the non-Federal entity is predominantly federally-funded. In determining reasonableness of a given cost, consideration must be given to:

- Whether the cost is of a type generally recognized as ordinary and necessary for the operation of the non-Federal entity or the proper and efficient performance of the Federal award.
- The restraints or requirements imposed by such factors as: sound business practices; arm's-length bargaining; Federal, state and other laws and regulations; and terms and conditions of the Federal award.
- Market prices for comparable goods or services for the geographic area.
- Whether the individuals concerned acted with prudence in the circumstances considering their responsibilities to the non-Federal entity, its employees, where applicable its students or membership, the public at large, and the Federal government.
- Whether the non-Federal entity significantly deviates from its established practices and policies regarding the incurrence of costs, which may unjustifiably increase the Federal award's cost.

Allocable Costs § 200.405

- A cost is allocable to a particular Federal award or other cost objective if the goods or services involved are chargeable or assignable to that Federal award or cost objective in accordance with relative benefits received. This standard is met if the cost:
 - Is incurred specifically for the Federal award;
 - Benefits both the Federal award and other work of the non-Federal entity and can be distributed in proportions that may be approximated using reasonable methods; and
 - Is necessary to the overall operation of the non-Federal entity and is assignable in part to the Federal award in accordance with the principles in this subpart.
- All activities which benefit from the non-Federal entity's indirect (F&A) cost, including unallowable activities and donated services by the non-Federal entity or third parties, will receive an appropriate allocation of indirect costs.

Types of Costs

- **Direct costs:** Costs that can be identified specifically with a particular final cost objective, such as a Federal award, or other internally or externally funded activity, or that can be directly assigned to such activities relatively easily with a high degree of accuracy. **§ 200.413**
- **Indirect Costs (Facilities and Administration):** Costs incurred for a common or joint purpose benefitting more than one cost objective, and not readily assignable to the cost objectives specifically benefitted, without effort disproportionate to the results achieved. **§ 200.414**



Uniform Budget Template Outline

- Instructions
- **Section A – Grant Funds**
 - Summary
 - Indirect Cost Rate Information
- **Section B Match**
 - Cash
 - In-Kind
 - Leverage
- Certification
- FFATA Data Collection
- **Section C – Budget Worksheet & Narrative**



Uniform Budget Template Section A: State of Illinois Funds

- Includes funding that is provided by the state awarding agency regardless if the grant is state or Federally funded (federal pass-through funds).
- The standard budget line item definitions are consistent with the Uniform Administrative Guidance.
- The line items that are not applicable to the grant program are *“grayed out”*.
- The Uniform Budget Template provides a space for Program-Specific line items.



Section A: Indirect Cost Selection

All grantees must complete the Indirect Cost Rate Form and select one of the following options:

- ✓ Use the current Federally approved indirect cost rate as a result of being a direct grant recipient from a Federal awarding agency;
- ✓ Negotiate a rate with the State of Illinois by first submitting an Indirect Cost Rate Proposal to the State of Illinois' Centralized Indirect Cost Unit;
- ✓ Use the Federal "de minimis" rate of 10% of modified total direct costs (MTDC);
- ✓ Use a Restricted Rate designated by programmatic or statutory policy;
- ✓ Choose not to request reimbursement of indirect costs.

Highlighted Grant Requirements

- Audit Requirements
- Fund Accounting
- Fiscal Reporting Requirements
- Quarterly Report Requirements
- Subgrantees
- Internal Controls
- Expenditure of Funds
- Allowable Costs
- Budget Variations
- Program Income
- Participant Reporting Requirements
- Monitoring



Uniform Grant Agreement

Pursuant to the GATA, a state-wide uniform grant agreement template was developed and implemented. There are three parts to the agreement.

- Part 1 is uniform for all state agencies.
- Part 2 is unique to the state awarding agency.
- Part 3 is grant or program specific terms and conditions.

To download the DCEO Uniform Grant Agreement Visit:

<https://dceo.illinois.gov/aboutdceo/grantopportunities/uniformgrantagreement.html>

Uniform Grant Agreement – Part I



- Exhibit A – Project Description
- Exhibit B – Deliverables or Milestones
- Exhibit C – Contact Information
- Exhibit D – Performance Measures and Standards
- Exhibit F – Specific Conditions

Grantee Resources



- <https://www.grants.illinois.gov>
- <https://dceo.illinois.gov/aboutdceo/grantopportunities/resource-library.html>
- <https://dceo.illinois.gov/climateandequitablejobs.html>
- <https://www.doleta.gov/grants/UniformGuidance.cfm>
- <https://www.illinoisworknet.com/wioastateplan>
- <https://www.doleta.gov/grants/UniformGuidance.cfm>
- <https://www.workforcegps.org/>



CEJA NOFO Office Hours

- Receive technical assistance and feedback on your proposal. Get answers to questions.
- 30-minute sessions. (Applicant teams can sign up for up to two)
- One-on-one assistance

[Sign up here:](#)

https://calendly.com/ceja_officehours/nofo_support



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