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DCEO's Bureau of Business Development administers a wide array of programs and services designed to help Illinois businesses thrive in today's economy. We offer expansion incentives, technology support services, access to capital, global marketing expertise, and job training and education for workers. Our trained staff is committed to forging partnerships with the private sector in an effort to build upon Illinois' reputation as a world class center for business and industry. This includes a strong emphasis on programs designed to provide small businesses -- particularly minority and female entrepreneurs -- with the resources they need to succeed and grow their business opportunities.

***The Economic Development for a Growing Economy Tax Credit Program (EDGE) Program*** is designed to offer a special tax incentive to encourage companies to locate or expand operations in Illinois when there is active consideration of a competing location in another State. The program can provide tax credits to qualifying companies, equal to the amount of state income taxes withheld from the salaries of employees in the newly created jobs. The non-refundable credits can be used against corporate income taxes to be paid over a period not to exceed 10 years. To qualify a company must provide documentation that attests to the fact of competition among a competing state, and agree to make an investment of at least \$5 million in capital improvements and create a minimum of 25 new full time jobs in Illinois. For a company with 100 or fewer employees, the company must agree to make a capital investment of \$1million and create at least 5 new full time jobs in Illinois.

***The Employer Training Investment Program (ETIP)*** supports Illinois workers' efforts to upgrade their skills in order to remain current in new technologies and business practices, enabling companies to remain competitive, expand into new markets and introduce more efficient technologies into their operations. ETIP grants may reimburse Illinois companies for up to 50 percent of the cost of training their employees. Grants may be awarded to individual businesses, intermediary organizations operating multi-company training projects and original equipment manufacturers sponsoring multi-company training projects for employees of their Illinois supplier companies.

***The ETIP Incentive Program*** is designed for Illinois businesses applying for training funds as part of an ILDCEO Business Development Project to which the company is operating or locating in Illinois in conjunction with planned permanent expansion, location or retention activities. The goal of the Employment Opportunities Grant Program (EOGP) is to expand the number of individuals in historically underrepresented populations who enter and complete building trades apprenticeship programs and achieve journey-level status within building trades unions. These are careers that are physically and mentally demanding, but which offer wages and benefits on which a family can be supported.

The purpose of the ***Innovation Challenge Grant Program*** is to increase the number of Illinois companies that apply for federal research grants. The federal Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program and its parallel Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) program provide over \$2 billion a year to small companies developing leading-edge technologies of interest to 11 federal departments and agencies. The Illinois Innovation Challenge Grant Program provides grant writing assistance and matching funds to eligible Illinois technology-based entrepreneurs, innovators and new venture startups to access federal SBIR and STTR funding opportunities.

The ***Illinois Enterprise Zone Program*** is designed to stimulate economic growth and neighborhood revitalization in economically depressed areas of the state. This is accomplished through state and local tax incentives, regulatory relief, and improved governmental services.

The ***High Impact Business (HIB) Program*** is designed to encourage large-scale economic development activities, by providing tax incentives (similar to those offered within an enterprise zone) to companies that propose to make a substantial capital investment in operations and will create or retain above average number of jobs. Businesses may qualify for: investment tax credits, a state sales tax exemption on building materials, an exemption from state sales tax on utilities, a state sales tax exemption on manufacturing equipment purchases, repair and replacement parts. The project must involve a minimum of \$12 million investment causing the creation of 500 full-time jobs or an investment of \$30 million causing the retention of 1500 full-time jobs. The investment must take place at a designated location in Illinois outside of an Enterprise Zone. The program has been expanded to include qualified new electric generating facility, production operations at a new coal mine or, a new or upgraded transmission facility that supports the creation of 150 Illinois coal-mining jobs, or a newly constructed gasification facility as a "Coal/Energy High Impact Businesses".

Illinois law allows units of local governments the ability to designate areas within their jurisdiction as ***Tax Increment Finance (TIF)*** districts. These specially designated districts are used by local governments as a way to spur economic growth by dedicating the sales tax revenues and additional property tax revenues generated within the TIF for improvements within the district with the hope of encouraging new economic development and jobs.

***The Community Service Block Grant CSBG Loan Program*** is administered jointly by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO), statewide Community Action Agencies (CAAs) and Illinois Ventures for Community Action (IVCA). The Program provides long-term, fixed-rate financing to new or expanding small businesses in exchange for job creation and employment for low-income individuals. CSBG funds usually make up between 20-49% of the entire loan project and have a low interest rate of 5% to 7.5%.

***The Illinois Capital Access Program (CAP)*** is designed to encourage financial institutions to make loans to small and new businesses that do not qualify under conventional lending policies. CAP is a form of loan portfolio insurance, which provides additional reserve coverage to the lender on loan defaults. By participating in CAP, lenders have available to them a proven financing mechanism to meet the needs of financial institutions and Illinois small businesses.

***The Illinois State Treasurers Office*** offers a number of programs that are designed to assist the Illinois business community by providing access to capital and financing at affordable rates in order to promote economic development activities that create and retain jobs within the state. To view the Treasurers programs please visit [www.Treasurer.Ill.Gov](http://www.Treasurer.Ill.Gov) which offers a number of programs that are designed to assist the Illinois business community by providing access to capital and financing at affordable rates in order to promote economic development activities that create and retain jobs within the state.

***The EZ/PLP*** is a variation of the conventional PLP Program, in that DCEO subordinates the loans through participating lending institutions, but the EZ/PLP may be able to provide small businesses located in an enterprise zone a more attractive loan rate than a conventional PLP.

***The Illinois Finance Authority (IFA)*** is a self-financed, state authority principally engaged in issuing taxable and tax-exempt bonds, making loans, and investing capital for businesses, non-profit corporations, agriculture and local government units statewide. IFA finances about \$3 billion each year, helping generate economic growth and job creation.

***The Manufacturing Modernization Loan Program*** is designed to provide manufacturers with access to adequate and affordable financing for upgrading and modernizing their manufacturing equipment and operations.

***The Participation Loan Program (PLP)*** program is designed to work through banks and other conventional lending institutions, to provide subordinated financial assistance to Illinois small businesses that employ Illinois workers. A business with 500 or fewer employees may apply for a PLP loan of not less than \$10,000 nor more than \$750,000. Loans shall not exceed 25% of the total project and may not be used for debt refinancing or contingency funding.

***The MWD/PLP program*** is a variation of the conventional PLP, in that DCEO subordinates the loans through participating lending institutions, but the MWD/PLP program can provide Illinois small businesses that are 51 percent owned and managed by persons who are minorities, women, or disabled, with loans up to loans up to \$50,000 (\$100,000 effective 1/1/2008) or 50 % of the total project.

The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) announce a request for loan applications from ***the Port District Revolving Loan Program***. DCEO is authorized by the Illinois Small Business Development Act (30 ILCS 750/9-11) a/k/a the Port Development Revolving Loan Program to provide loans to Illinois port districts to facilitate and enhance the utilization of Illinois' navigable waterways and the development of inland intermodal freight facilities. Up to \$3 million loan funds will be made available on a competitive basis.

The RLOC program can provide qualifying businesses with a subordinated line of credit through banks and other convention lending institutions at affordable interest rates.

***The Rural Micro-business Participation Loan Program*** is a variation of the Participation Loan Program designed to provide subordinated loans of up to 50% of a project (maximum \$25,000) to Illinois Rural Micro-businesses through participating lending institutions. A rural micro-business is a for profit business that: (i) employs 5 or fewer full-time employees, including the owner if the owner is an employee, and (ii) is based on the production, processing, or marketing of agricultural products, forest products, cottage and craft products, or tourism. The borrower is required to provide equity of at least 10% of the project up to \$1,000 (10% of a \$10,000 project). Funds cannot be used for debt refinancing or contingency funding.

***Emergency Shelter Grants Program*** provides federally funded grants to not-for-profit agencies and units of local government to rehabilitate renovate or convert emergency shelters, to fund operational and essential service expenditures for the homeless, and to fund programs designed to prevent homelessness. For information call 217-558-2838.

***The Bureau of Energy and Recycling*** seeks to demonstrate the economic development benefits, including job creation, of energy efficiency, renewable energy, and recycling through a variety of programs and services. Further, Bureau programs will demonstrate that economic development, sustainable energy, and recycling practices and environmental protection go hand in hand.

In addition, the Bureau will continue to promote the leadership of the State of Illinois, through its own energy and recycling policies and practices, at state facilities. Individually tailored programs are available to assist Illinois citizens, communities, non-profit organizations, businesses, industry, and other government agencies in an effort to achieve the Bureau's mission. Program areas include the following:

#### **ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAMS**

Energy efficiency investments in Illinois' economy brings strong and diverse benefits, including protecting consumers and businesses from higher energy prices, improving electric reliability by reducing congestion on the electricity grid, supporting the retention of manufacturing jobs by reducing manufacturing energy costs and supporting the manufacture of new high-efficiency products, hedging risk against fuel price volatility, supporting public health and the environmental quality by reducing energy waste, and helping to keep Illinois' energy dollars in the local economy.

#### **CLEAN ENERGY**

Illinois boasts significant potential for renewable power and heating: wind, solar, and biogas offer both economic and environmental benefits. Wind energy costs have fallen significantly, and modern wind farms provide both stable incomes for farmers and significant property tax revenues for local governments. Biogas facilities allow livestock owners to transform wastes from pollution into clean energy, and solar thermal technologies offer an increasingly cost-effective alternative to volatile natural gas prices. Illinois strongly supports the development of these resources.

#### **RENEWABLE FUELS**

Home-grown fuels such as ethanol and biodiesel reduce Illinois' dependence on foreign oil, keep energy dollars in the local economy, support local corn and soybean prices, and make a cleaner and healthier environment for Illinois. Illinois is the nation's largest ethanol producer, and is working hard to maintain leadership in biofuels techno The DCEO Bureau of Technology and