



The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity's Bureau of Business Development administers a wide array of programs and services designed to help Illinois businesses thrive in today's economy. They offer expansion incentives, technology support services, access to capital, global marketing expertise, or job training and education for workers. Their 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.

### **Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity**

#### **Business Development**

Springfield Office

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Springfield, IL 62701

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[www.commerce.state.il.us/dceo/](http://www.commerce.state.il.us/dceo/)

### ➤ **Loan Programs**

#### ○ **Community Service Block Grant Program**

The CSBG Loan Program provides long-term, fixed-rate financing to new or expanding small businesses in exchange for job creation and employment for low-income individuals.

#### ○ **Illinois State Treasurers Office**

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.

#### ○ **Manufacturing Modernization Loan Program**

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.

#### ○ **Minority, Women, and Disabled Participation Loan Program (MWD/PLP)**

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 \$50,000 or 50 % of the total project.

- **Participation Loan Program (PLP)**  
The PLP and EZ/PLP program are designed to work through banks and other conventional lending institutions, to provide subordinated financial assistance to Illinois small businesses that employ Illinois workers.
- **Revolving Line of Credit Program (RLOC)**  
The RLOC program can provide qualifying businesses with a subordinated line of credit through banks and other convention lending institutions at affordable interest rates.
- **Rural Micro-Business Participation Loan Program**  
The Rural Micro-business Participation Loan Program is for profit a business that employs 5 or fewer full-time employees, and is based on the production, processing, or marketing of agricultural products, forest products, cottage and craft products, or tourism.

## ➤ **Grants**

- **Illinois Department of Agriculture AgriFIRST Grant Program**  
The AgriFIRST program is designed to provide grants to persons and agribusinesses in Illinois for the purpose of developing projects that enhance the value of agricultural products or expand agribusiness in Illinois.
- **Employer Training Investment Program (ETIP)**  
The Employer Training Investment Program (ETIP) helps keep Illinois workers' skills in pace with new technologies and business practices, which, in turn, helps businesses increase productivity, reduce costs, improve quality and boost competitiveness.
- **Large Business Development Program (LBDP)**  
The LBDP program is designed to provide grants to businesses undertaking a major expansion or relocation project that will result in substantial private investment and the creation and/or retention of a large number of Illinois jobs.

## ➤ **Tax Assistance**

- **Economic Development For a Growing Economy Tax Credit Program**  
The 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.
- **Enterprise Zone Program**  
The Illinois Enterprise Zone Program is designed to stimulate economic growth and neighborhood revitalization in economically depressed areas of the state.
- **High Impact Business (HIB)**  
The HIB program is designed to encourage large-scale economic development activities, by providing tax incentives companies that propose to make a substantial capital investment in operations and will create or retain above average number of jobs.

## ➤ **Resources and Support**

- **Illinois Entrepreneurship Network (IEN)**  
Provides experts, networks, tools and other opportunities to transform your business into an appealing investment for lenders. IEN partners with well-respected business development organizations and educational institutions that work with clients who have the vision and potential to become a high-growth enterprise
- **Illinois Small Business Development Centers**  
Services include one-on-one business counseling and management assistance, assistance with the development of business plans, help accessing marketing information and the development of business plans, Business Financing Programs, assistance with financial analysis and planning and access to business education and training opportunities.
- **Illinois Technology Enterprise Centers**  
Focus on financing programs; training in technical and managerial skills; assistance with new product development and marketing for technology-based startup companies.
- **Procurement Technical Assistance Centers (PTAC)**  
Provide one-on-one counseling; technical information; marketing assistance; and training, for companies interested in selling products to government agencies.
- **International Trade Centers (ITC)/NAFTA Opportunity Centers (NOC)**  
New-to-export companies interested in pursuing international trade opportunities including: information; counseling; and training.
- **Manufacturing Extension Centers (MEC)**  
Provides assessments to improve performance; benchmarking; project manager to ensure satisfaction for manufacturing companies.
- **Small Business Environmental Assistance Program (SBEAP)**  
Conduct workshops, onsite visits, Clean Air Clips, and the consultant directory.