

# DCEO CEJA Workforce/Contractor Program Opportunities

August 2023

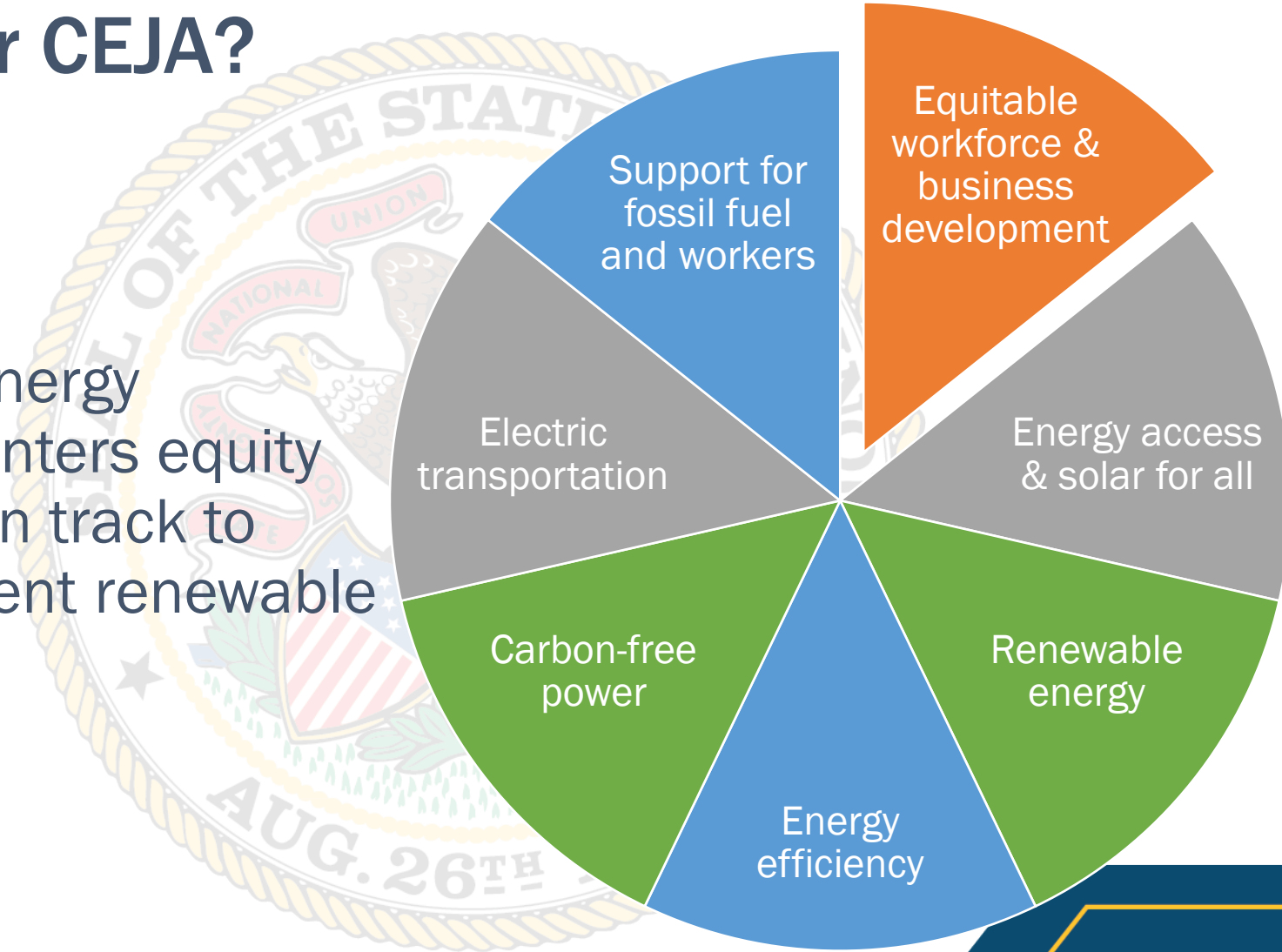


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# What is the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act, or CEJA?

Comprehensive energy legislation that centers equity and puts Illinois on track to achieve 100 percent renewable energy by 2050.



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# CEJA Funding

- \$380M/yr investment in new renewable energy
- **\$78M/yr in equitable workforce development**
- \$41M/yr investment in former fossil fuel communities and workers
- \$4,000/electric vehicle rebate
- \$41M/yr to support beneficial electrification
- \$37M/yr for coal to solar and energy storage



# State agencies implementing CEJA

- DCEO: workforce programs, economic development programs, commissions & councils.
- Illinois Commerce Commission: Programs, initiatives & directors related to public utility programs
- Illinois EPA: Rebate and grant programs for electric vehicles and charging stations and overseeing the phase out of fossil fuel-fired electrical generation units.
- Illinois Power Agency: Illinois Shines (brand name for the Adjustable Block Program), Illinois Solar for All, Competitive procurements.



# Why CEJA?

Illinois is investing in clean energy sources, electric vehicles, electrification, and energy efficiency.



We need to train and grow clean energy contractors and a workforce implement the investment

Some groups of people and communities benefit more from clean energy investments. Some suffer more from environmental impacts and community disinvestment.



The benefits of clean energy investments and good-paying jobs should be distributed equitably.



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# CEJA Workforce and Contractor Programs

## Contractor support programs

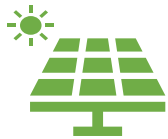


Contractor  
Incubator  
\$21M/yr.



Contractor  
Primes Accelerator  
\$9M/yr.

## Economic Development Jobs & Environmental Justice



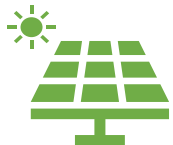
Coal to Solar



Energy Transition  
Community Grant  
\$40M/yr



Equitable Energy  
Future Grant  
\$41M/yr



Solar Energy  
Sovereignty Grant

## Workforce training programs



Clean Jobs  
Workforce Network  
\$21M/yr.



Climate Works  
Pre-apprenticeship  
\$9M/yr



Returning Resident  
Clean Jobs  
\$6M/yr

## Workforce support programs



Energy Transition  
Navigators  
\$6M/yr.



Energy Transition  
Barrier Reduction  
\$15M/yr

## Commissions and Councils

- Energy Transition Workforce Commission
- Energy Workforce Advisory Council



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Contractor  
Incubator  
Program  
\$21M/yr.

# Clean Energy Incubator (Section 5-45, pg 23)

- Program Criteria:
  - 13 Program delivery Hub Sites
  - Delivered by community-based organizations and their subcontractors
  - Access to low-cost capital and financial support for small clean energy businesses.
  - Support for business operations, such as obtaining permits and insurance
  - Provide training and mentorships
  - Provide recruitment and ongoing engagement with entities that hire contractors and subcontractors for renewable energy projects
  - Connection to DOL
- Participant Criteria:
  - Owners of clean energy contractor businesses and nonprofits who reside EJ or R3 communities
  - Who reside in eligible communities. Preference shall be given to applicants who:
    - face barriers to employment; such as low educational attainment,
    - prior involvement with the criminal legal system,
    - language barriers;
    - graduates of or currently enrolled in the foster care system;
  - Displaced energy workers as defined by Energy Community Reinvestment Act



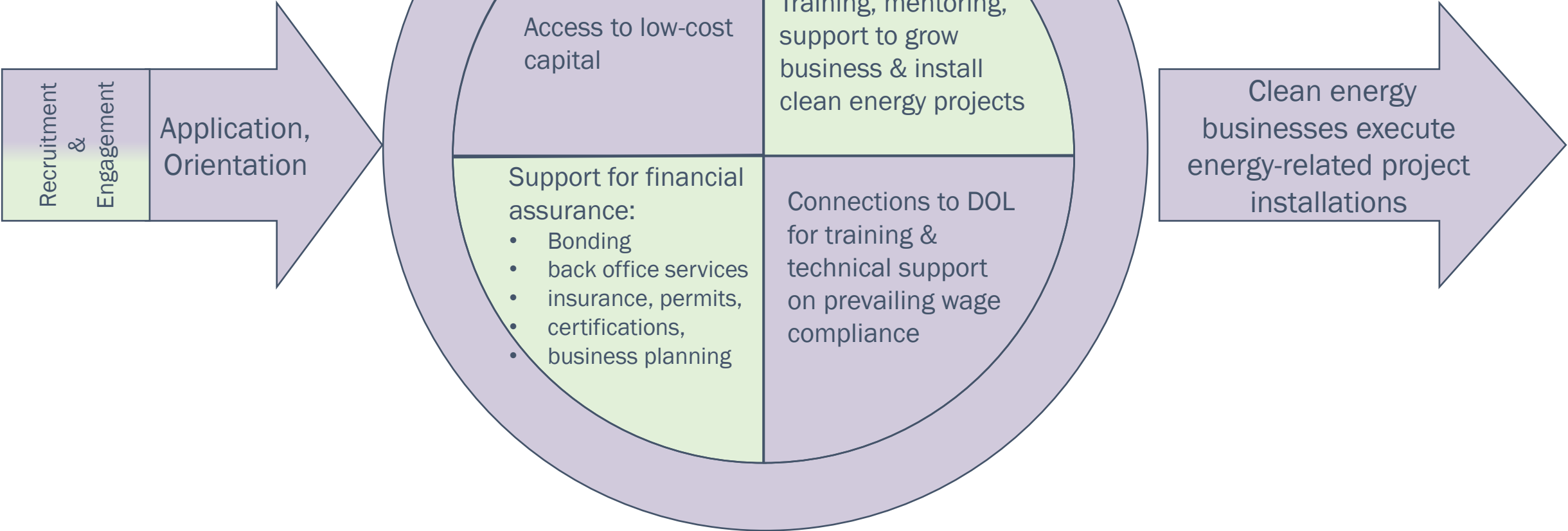
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# Contractor Incubator Program Model

Main grantee

Other organization







Primes  
Contractor  
Accelerator  
\$9M/yr.

# Clean Energy Primes Accelerator (Section 5-55 pg 40)

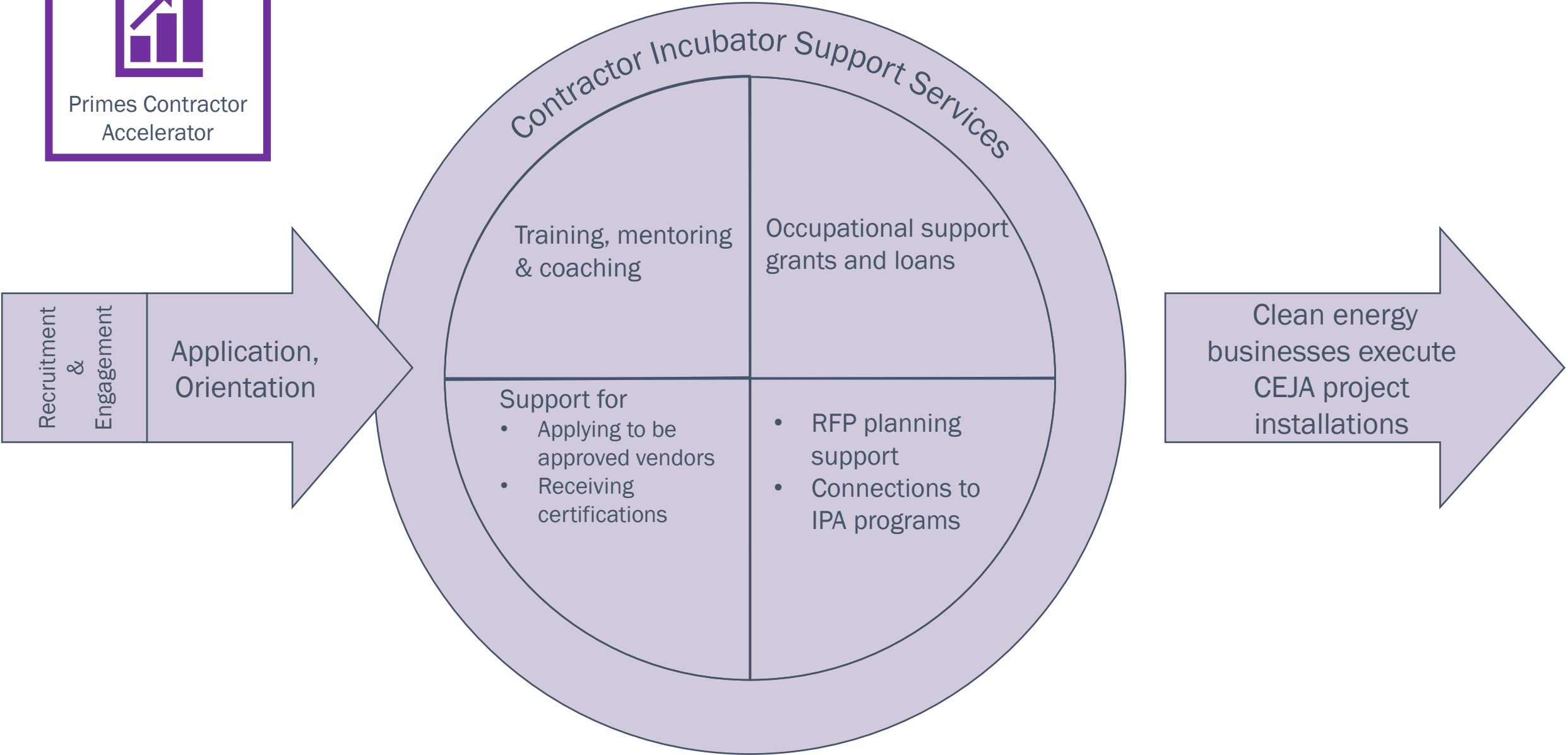
- Program Criteria:
  - 3 Program Delivery Areas: Northern, Central, Southern Illinois Program
  - Up to \$3M annually for each program
  - Mentor and support businesses and contractors through cohorts
  - Select a new cohort of participant contractors each Program Delivery Area every 18 months
  - Participants will receive five-year long one-on-one coaching to develop a five-year business plan
  - Operational support grants up to \$1m annually; operational support and mentorship help preparing bids; and much more.
  - Program will stand up a mentorship program, prime leads will recruit companies, provide a stipend, and making pairing with program participants.
  - substantial and demonstrated commitment of investing in and partnering with individuals and institutions in equity investment eligible communities.
  - Each regional cohort shall include between 3 and 5 participants.
  - The Program shall cap contractors in the energy efficiency sector at 50% of available cohort spots and 50% of available grants and loans, if possible
- Participant criteria:
  - 2+ years of experience in a clean energy or a related contracting field;
  - At least \$5,000 in annual business;



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# Primes Contractor Accelerator Delivery



# Equitable Energy Future Grant

## Section 5-60 pg 51

### ***Program Criteria:***

- Seed funding and pre-development funding to equity eligible contractors to support energy efficiency (EE) and renewable energy (RE) projects.

### ***Project Activities:***

- planning and project development,
- professional services: architecture, design, engineering, auditing, consulting, and developer services;
- project application, deposit, and approval;
- purchasing and leasing of land;
- permitting and zoning;
- interconnection application costs and fees, studies, and expenses;
- equipment and supplies;
- community outreach, marketing, and engagement;
- staff and operations expenses

### ***Applicant Criteria:***

- Equity Eligible Contractors: [Become an Equity Eligible Contractor – Illinois Adjustable Block Program \(illinoisabp.com\)](https://illinoisabp.com), [Illinois Adjustable Block Program - EEC Designee Application & Attestation \(office.com\)](https://office.com)
- Provide demonstrable proof of a historical or future, and persisting, long-term partnership with the community in which the project will be located



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# Community Solar Energy Sovereignty Grant

## Section 5-60 pg 51

$\leq \$8.5M$

### ***Program Criteria:***

- Support pre-development and development of community solar projects that promote community ownership and energy sovereignty
- ability and intent to create community ownership and other local community benefits, including local community wealth building via community renewable generation projects.

### ***Project Activities:***

- Pre-development work
- Development of programs and entities to assist in the long-term governance, management, and maintenance of community solar projects: such as community solar cooperatives.
- Early-stage project planning
- Project team organization
- Site identification;
- Organizing a project business model and securing financing
- Procurement and contracting;
- Customer outreach and enrollment; (vii) preliminary site assessments;
- Development of cooperative or community ownership model;
- Development of project models that allocate benefits to equity investment eligible communities.

### ***Applicant Criteria:***

- Include community-based organizations,
- Technical service providers working in direct partnership with community-based organizations



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# CEJA Ecosystem: Close Coordination Required!

## Workforce Training Programs



Clean Jobs  
Workforce  
Network Program  
\$21M-24.3M/yr.



Climate Works  
Pre-  
apprenticeship  
Program  
\$10M



Returning  
Resident  
Clean Jobs  
Training Program  
\$6M/yr



Energy  
Transition  
Navigator  
Program  
\$6M/yr

**FEJA programs:** Craft Apprenticeship Program,  
Solar Training Pipeline Program, Multi-cultural  
jobs program

**Other CEJA:** EV Workforce,

**OTHER DCEO Programs:** IllinoisWorks, WIOA

## Economic Development Programs



Contractor  
Incubator  
Program  
\$21M/yr.



Primes  
Contractor  
Accelerator  
\$9M/yr.



Jobs and  
Environmental  
Justice Grant  
Program  
\$34M/yr



Energy Future  
Transition  
Community  
Grant Program  
\$40M/yr

**Other DECO:** OEIT, OMEE

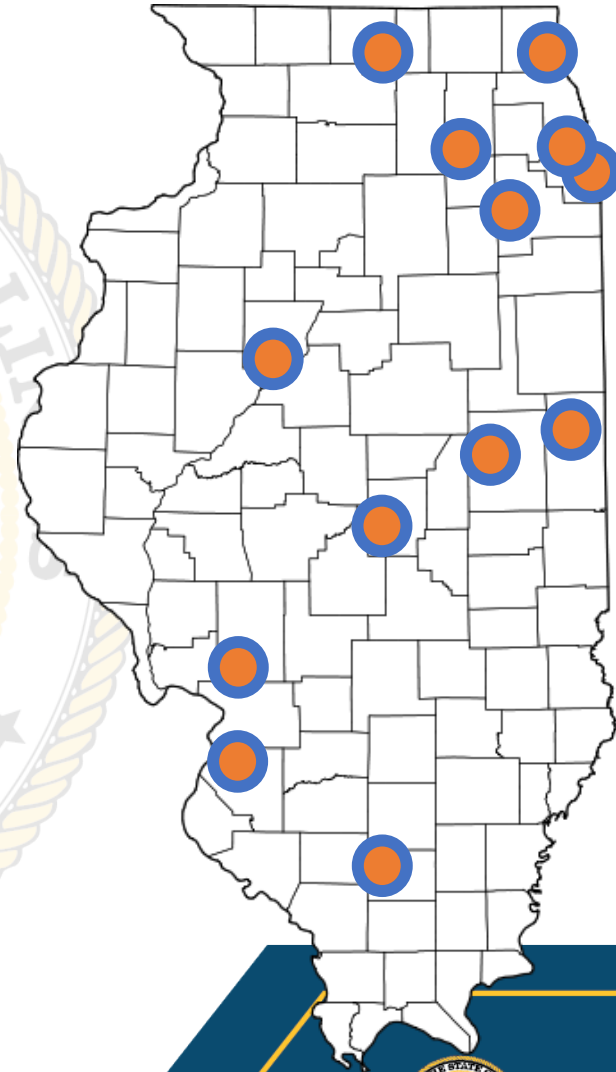
## Commissions and Councils

- Energy Transition Workforce Commission
- Energy Workforce Advisory Council



# 13 regional Workforce Hubs & Incubators

- Chicago West Side
- Chicago Southwest Side
- Joliet
- Waukegan
- Aurora
  - Decatur
  - Carbondale
  - East St. Louis
  - Alton
- Rockford
- Champaign
- Peoria
- Danville



<https://energyequity.illinois.gov/resources/equity-investment-eligible-community-map.html>

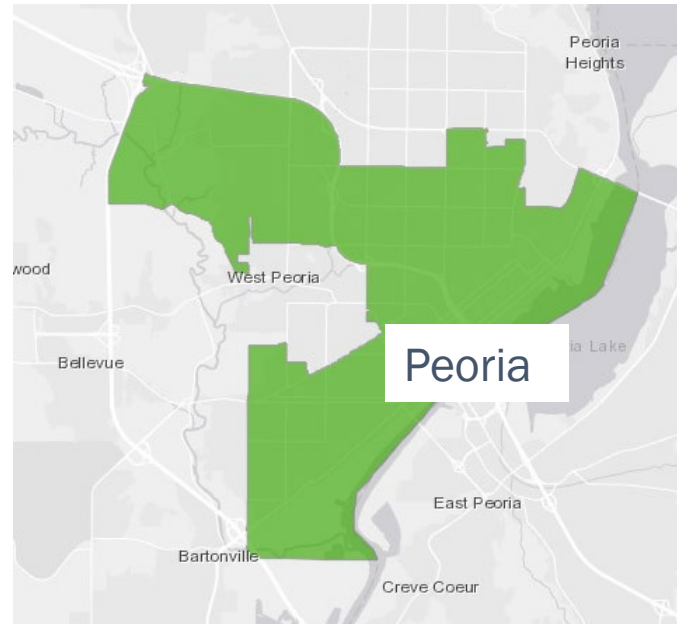
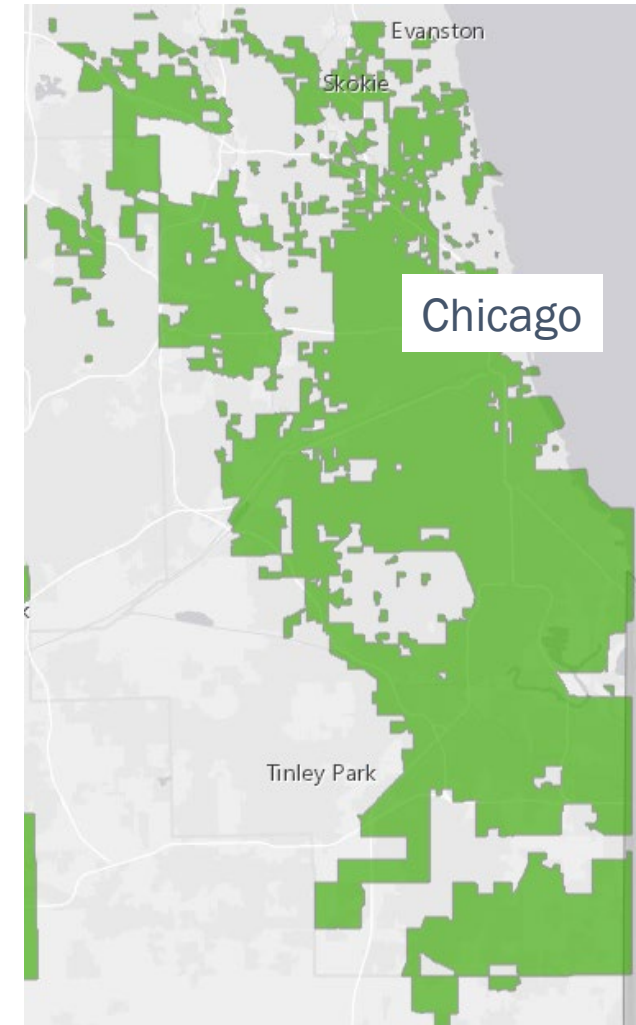
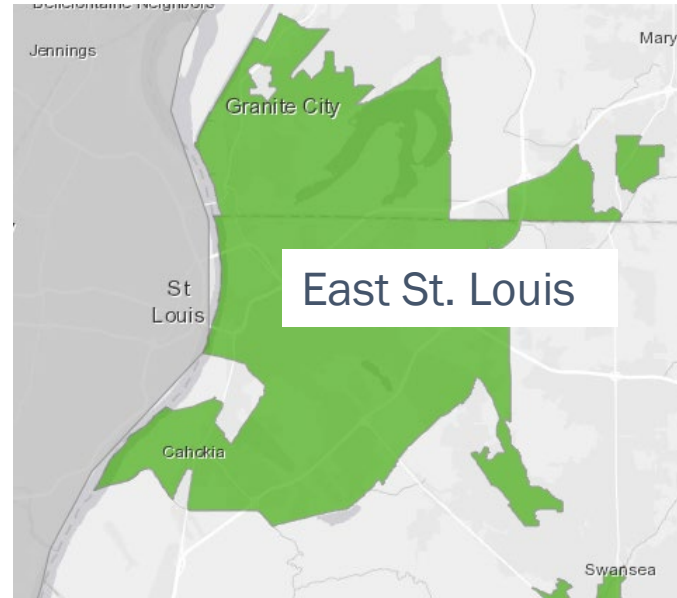


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# Who will programs serve?

Although eligibility varies by program, generally, the programs will serve:

- People living in equity investment eligible communities (environmental justice or R3 communities)
- Formerly convicted persons or current/former members of foster care
- Displaced energy workers and their dependents



# Equity focused program culture: More than just numeric participant targets



# CEJA Economic Ecosystem Eligibility



Contractor  
Incubator  
Program  
*\$21M/yr.*



Primes  
Contractor  
Accelerator  
*\$9M/yr*

- Access to low-cost capital for small clean energy businesses/contractors
- Business & Financial Support
- Train, mentor, and other needed support



## Grantee Eligibility

- Community-based organizations/nonprofit organizations, accredited public colleges or universities, with demonstrated history in 13 Program Delivery Areas

## Program Participant Eligibility

- Clean energy contractor businesses or nonprofits who reside in R3 and/or environmental justice community
- Displaced energy workers
- Persons who face barriers to employment
- Current or past participants in CEJA Workforce Programs
- Equity Eligible Person/Contractor

[Clean Energy Contractor Incubator Program \(illinois.gov\)](http://illinois.gov)



Jobs and  
Environmental  
Justice Grant  
Program  
*\$34M/yr*



## Program Participant Eligibility

- Projects located in R3 and/or Environmental justice community
- Benefits EEC/EEP
- Community-based organizations/nonprofit organizations in R3/Environmental Justice Community
- Clean energy contractor businesses or nonprofits who reside in Equity Eligible Person/Contractor



*Clean Energy  
Jobs & Justice  
Fund (\$1M)  
Section 20-1*



## Program Participant Eligibility

- To be developed for Non-Profit Board Members
- Purpose: to ensuring access to financial products that allow Illinois residents and businesses to invest in clean energy

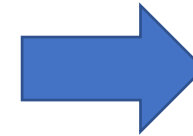


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# Which CEJA Workforce Program should I apply for?

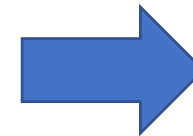
My organization/team has:

- Experience providing employment, skill development or related services to committed persons or justice-involved persons.
- Ability to help returning residents find employment.



My organization/team has:

- Experience providing support to small businesses in equity-investment eligible communities.
- Connections to contractors and industry leaders in clean energy, chambers of commerce, business development centers, and more.
- The ability to provide mentoring and coaching for contractors.



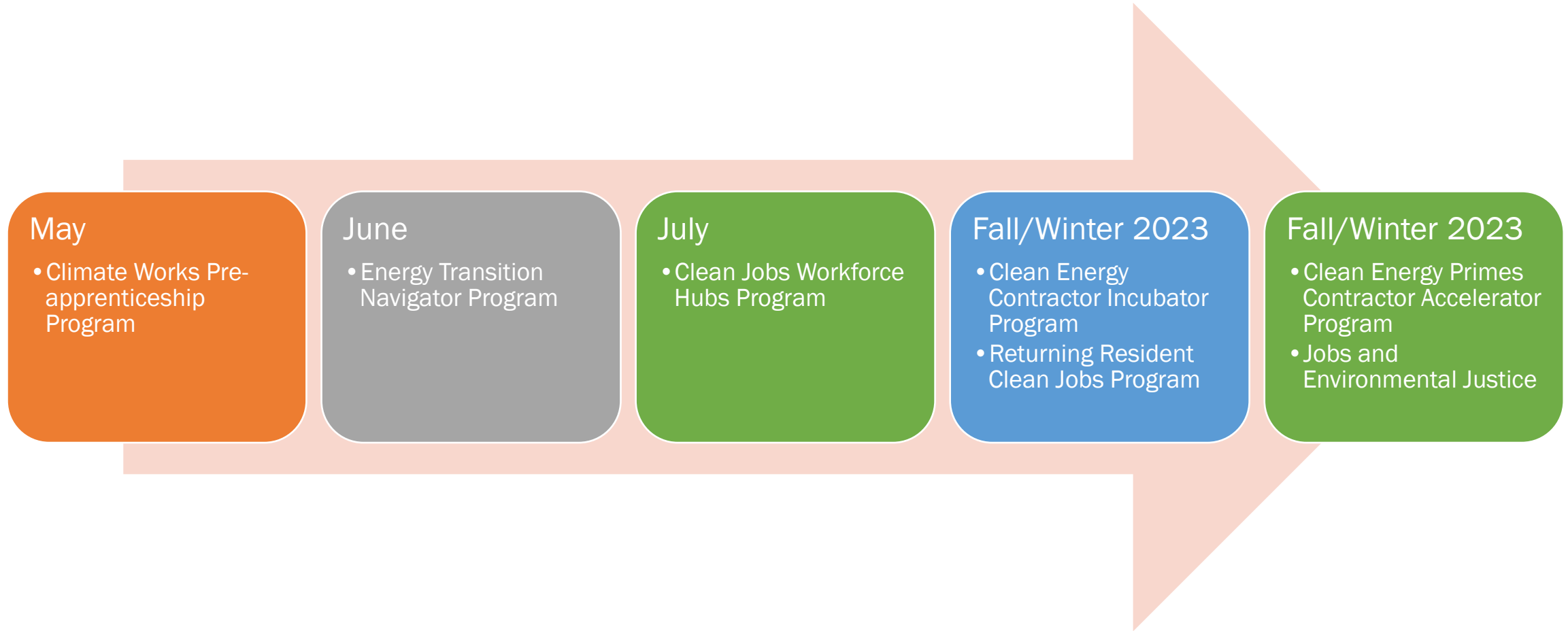


# Prepare to apply for funding to deliver programs



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# Anticipated NOFO Release Timeline



# Next Steps to apply for CEJA funding



Grant Technical Assistance:

<https://dceo.illinois.gov/aboutdceo/grantopportunities/grant-basics.html>



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# Elements of a Successful Team

- Core technical elements of a grant program:
  - Physical space
  - Tools and supplies
  - Professional service partners (case managers, instructors, legal, accounting, etc.)
  - Ability to support certification acquisition and award credit (continuing ed or other)



# Tips for Team Building

- Use an asset-based approach
- Acknowledge your own capacity and capacity gaps
- Include partners in key decision making – that's what makes them partners!
- Be clear about expectations and commit them to writing in an MOU





# Contractor: Next Steps & Resources

## Next Steps

- ✓ 1) Become an Approved Vendor  
Illinois Solar For All-Registration: [For Vendors - Illinois Solar for All \(illinoissfa.com\)](https://illinoissfa.com)
- 2) Apply to be an Equity Eligible Contractor  
✓ **Energy Equity Info:**  
<https://energyequity.illinois.gov/resources/faq.html>
- 3) Partner with Workforce HUB(s)
- 4 ) Hire CEJA Workforce Program graduates to meet Minimum Equity Standards-Illinois Shines
- 5) Technical Assistance: IPA, SBDC, PTAC,

## Why

- 1) There are procurement requirements:
  - ✓ Illinois Shines (DG & Community Solar Projects require EEC & EEP participation)
  - ✓ Illinois Shines Solar Projects require % of workforce to be EEP
- 2) Grant Eligibility Opportunities require EEC/EEP
  - ✓ Energy Future Grant
  - ✓ Incubator/Prime Accelerator Programs
  - ✓ Energy Future Fund



# Contractor Support Organizations: Next Steps

1. [CEJA Program Announcements \(illinois.gov\)](https://www.illinois.gov/CEJA)
2. [Clean Energy Contractor Incubator Program \(illinois.gov\)](https://www.illinois.gov/CleanEnergyIncubator)
3. [Clean Energy Primes Contractor Accelerator Program \(illinois.gov\)](https://www.illinois.gov/CleanEnergyPrimes)
4. Engage Partners (partnering list)
5. Apply



# Resources

- DCEO CEJA Announcements: [CEJA Program Announcements \(illinois.gov\)](https://illinois.gov/ceja/announcements)
- Mailing List: [CEJA List \(smartsheet.com\)](https://smartsheet.com/ceja-list)
- Presentation: [PrePlanning Workshop Presentation.pptx \(sharepoint.com\)](https://sharepoint.com/preplanning-workshop-presentation.pptx)
- Illinois Solar For All-Registration: [For Vendors - Illinois Solar for All \(illinoissfa.com\)](https://illinoissfa.com/vendors)
- Energy Equity Info: <https://energyequity.illinois.gov/resources/faq.html>
- **State Match for Federal Grants-**[Partnering for Federal Funds \(illinois.gov\)](https://illinois.gov/partnering-federal-funds).
- **Illinois Work Net: Resources for your Workforce:**  
<https://www.illinoisworknet.com/partners/searches/Pages/Resources.aspx>



# National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Program

- Part of Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 (IIJA)
- Formula program: \$148 million to IL over 5 years
- IDOT anticipating first round of funding availability in late 2023
- Additional \$2.5 billion USDOT discretionary program- Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (CFI); first round closed in June 2023, next anticipated spring 2024
- Get more info and stay connected for updates:  
<https://idot.illinois.gov/transportation-system/environment/drive-electric.html>
- Federal Resource: <https://driveelectric.gov/>





# Carbon Reduction Program

- Part of Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 (IIJA)
- Formula program: \$6.4 billion total, approximately \$225 million to Illinois over 5 years
- Eligible projects: transportation projects that reduce carbon emissions
- Suballocated to metro areas based on population. Larger urban areas (Chicago, Rockford, Peoria, East St Louis, Quad Cities) will choose their own projects, IDOT will work with smaller cities to select projects in other parts of the state.
- Carbon Reduction Strategy under development- will be complete by November 2023

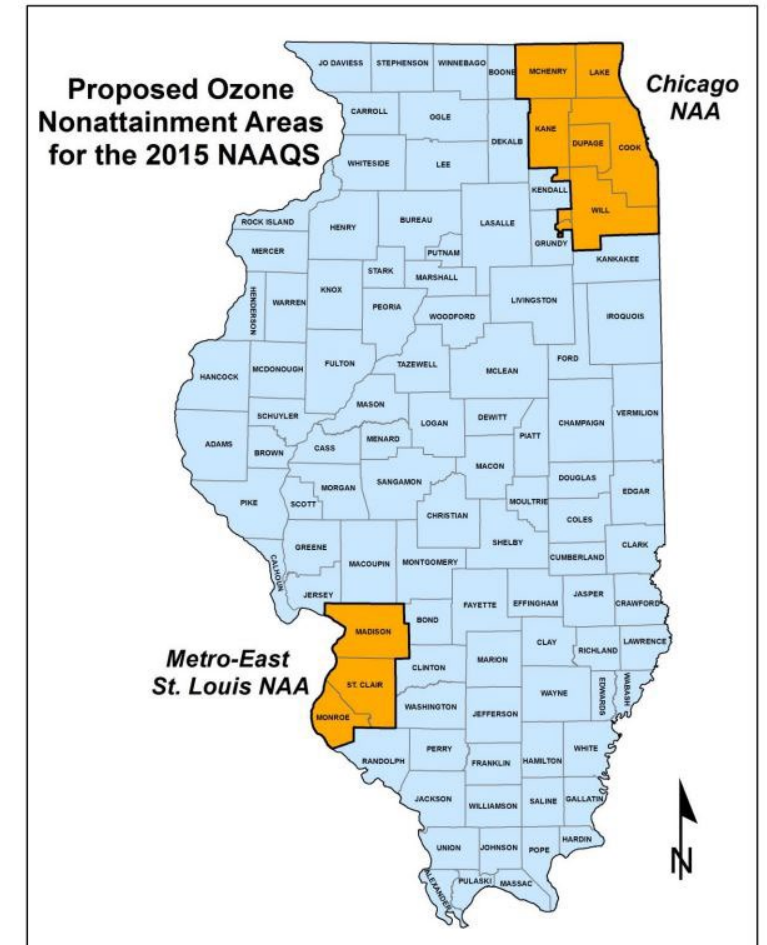


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# Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ)

- ~\$210 million annually
- Must be used in Nonattainment Areas (see map to the right)
- Eligible projects: transportation projects that clean air or reduce use of Single Occupancy Vehicles
- Project selection happens annually in St. Louis and every other year in Chicago
- <https://www.cmap.illinois.gov>
- <https://www.ewgateway.org/>



# IDOT Contact Information

Chris Schmidt – Air Quality Manager

On parental leave July-September

Office of Planning and Programming

[Christopher.schmidt@illinois.gov](mailto:Christopher.schmidt@illinois.gov)

217-685-4447

Elizabeth Irvin – Deputy Director

Office of Planning and Programming

[Elizabeth.irvin@illinois.gov](mailto:Elizabeth.irvin@illinois.gov)

312-636-0835



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# IPA Resource

- [Equity Factsheet](#) -The equity factsheet was developed by the IPA after CEJA was passed. It CEJA equity targets and mandates for the clean energy industry.
- Equity portal website link: <https://energyequity.illinois.gov/>: EEP, EEC, Equity Map
- [Equity Accountability System](#) -CEJA created an equity accountability system mandating minimum equity standards for IPA administered programs and procurements. **The Minimum Equity Standard went into effect on June 1, 2023 and will require that 10% of the work on renewable energy projects supported through certain IPA programs and procurements be performed by Equity Eligible Persons or contractors. That target will increase to 30% by 2030.**
- [How to be an Equity Eligible Contractor?](#) -CEJA created new financing resources to support Equity Eligible Contractors participating in the Illinois Shines Program (statutorily known as Adjustable Block Program). An Equity Eligible Contractor can submit projects to the Illinois Shines in dedicated blocks of capacity reserved for Equity Eligible Contractors. These blocks provide an opportunity for Equity Eligible Contractors to receive advances on capital, which will help reduce barriers to participate in the Program.
- [Illinois Shines postcard](#) -Illinois Shines is the market-based solar incentive program implemented by the Illinois Power Agency.
- [Illinois solar for All postcard](#) -Illinois Solar for All is the income-eligible program implemented by the Illinois Power Agency.

