

Programs from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity

Participation Loan Program

This program offers financing of up to 25 percent of the total project cost or up to \$750,000.

It provides loans to businesses at market or below-market interest rates in cooperation with private or public-sector lenders.

For more information, call the toll-free number 1-800-782-3891 or TDD 1-800-785-6055.

Enterprise Zone Participation Loan Program

Illinois has enterprise zones where state and local incentives are given to businesses for job creation and economic development. Please call 1-217-782-3891 or TDD 1-800-785-6055 for more information.

First Stop Business Information Centers

This center helps small and start-up businesses in the early stages of business. They can help navigate the local permit and regulatory process. For information, call 1-800-252-2923 or TDD 1-800-785-6055.

Business Expansion, Retention and Location Assistance

Companies relocating within or to Illinois can get development assistance. Call 1-217-785-6142 or TDD 1-800-785-6055, the DCEO Small-Business Information office.

Minority, Women and Disability Business Loan Program

With this program, public and private lenders cooperate to help businesses finance up to 50 percent of the total cost of a project or up to \$50,000 (at-market or below-market interest rates). Call 1-217-782-3891 or TDD 1-800-785-6055 for more information.

North American Free Trade Agreement Opportunity enters

Businesses can receive help wading through the NAFTA-based export regulation process with this program. For more information, call the Illinois Trade Office's NAFTA Opportunity Center Network. Chicago Area - 1-773-594-9292 ext 6805, Downstate Illinois International Trade Center - 1-309-677-3075.

Export Assistance

The International Trade Centers across the state, as well as foreign trade offices, can help Illinois businesses export their goods or gain entry to the world market. For additional information, call DCEO's International Business Division at 312-814-2828.

Environmental Regulatory Assistance Program

Small businesses can obtain assistance in complying with the Clean Air Act of 1990. Please contact the Illinois First Stop Business Information Center at 1-312-814-2828.

Employer Training Investment Program

The Employer Training Investment Program helps Illinois companies retrain or upgrade their workers. Businesses as they expand can also get help training new employees.

A company can receive up to 50 percent of approved training costs such as instructor fees, fringe benefits, travel expenses, tuition, training materials, rent/lease of training equipment and/or facilities.

Eligible training activities for ETIP help include:

- Training for changing technologies or processes
- Training for total quality management or improvement systems
- Training for career advancement and long-term job security
- Training for expanding into new export markets
- Training for new equipment, new product lines

For more information contact the Employer Training Investment Program at 1-312-814-2700, or email Cesar.Lopez@illinois.gov

Programs from the Illinois State Treasurer

You can also turn to the State Treasurer's Office for small-business support.

Employ Illinois

Employ Illinois provides Illinois companies with access to affordable capital to expand their operations to create jobs. Call 1-312-814-8953 for more information. or email: employillinois@treasurer.state.il.us

Cultivate Illinois

Cultivate Illinois and the Alternative Agriculture Program make funds available at a low-interest rate to farmers and producers. For more information, call 217-557-6436. or email: cultivateillinois@treasurer.state.il.us

Day Care Initiative

Day Care Initiative provides access to affordable capital to start or expand a day care facility. For more information call 217-814-8953 or 217-557-6436. Email: employillinois@treasurer.state.il.us

The State's Support of Small Business

In Illinois, more than 500,000 small businesses employ millions of workers all across the state. Small businesses are one of the fastest growing segments of the state's economy. The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) has established a network of grant, loan and assistance programs designed to facilitate the growth of Illinois small businesses.

Following is a brief description of some of the helpful programs, as well as the telephone numbers for getting more information about these programs.

One of the first places to turn with your questions is the **The Illinois First Stop Business Information Center: 1-800-252-2923 or TDD 1-800-785-6055**

You can also check out the DCEO website for more information about programs and additional contacts at www.commerce.state.il.us/dceo

Another place for small-business owners to turn for help is the Treasurer's office. The State Treasurer is responsible for investing taxpayers' dollars. The Treasurer's Office also initiates programs that create jobs in Illinois such as strengthening small businesses. For inquiries about small-business programs, contact her office in Chicago 312-814-8953 (TDD 312-814-6592) or in Springfield 217-557-6436. You can also visit the Web site www.treasurer.il.gov to learn of programs of interest.



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The State's Support of Small Business

This and other informational brochures
are available by contacting my office.

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