

# Energy Transition Community Grant Program

Illinois' Climate and Equitable Jobs Act (CEJA) states that, “as part of putting Illinois on a path to 100% renewable energy, the State of Illinois should ensure a just transition to that goal, providing support for the transition of Illinois' communities and workers impacted by closures or reduced use of fossil fuel power plants, nuclear power plants, or coal mines.”

## Grant Program Overview

The Energy Transition Community Grants were created by the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act ([Public Act 102-0662](#)) in 2021. The grants address the economic and social impacts of fossil fuel plant, coal mine, and nuclear plant closures. The first grant cycle was implemented in 2023.



### Eligible Grantees

Eligible grantees include local units of government, incl. municipalities, counties, school districts, and other taxing districts within 30 miles of a closed or closing coal, gas, or nuclear plant or coal mine. The plant/mine must have closed or significantly reduced operation within 6 years before the application or will closed or significantly reduce operation within 6 years following the application.

To apply, grantees must have a “letter of support” from the city or village that “hosts” the plant/mine. If the plant/mine is in an unincorporated area, the county becomes the “host” and issues the letters of support.



### Funding

The grant program is funded at \$40 million dollars per year. The funding for each eligible entity is determined by a funding formula based on lost tax revenue and lost jobs. All eligible entities receive at least \$50,000.



### Grant Administrator

The Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) is in charge of the grant. [CEO.CEJACommTransition@illinois.gov](mailto:CEO.CEJACommTransition@illinois.gov)

### Other key details

- A 2024 Notice of Funding Opportunity is expected to be released in early January 2024. The grant program is managed in a two-phase approach.
- An applicant must be registered in the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA) Grantee Portal to apply.
- Grantees are required to solicit community input and consultation with a diverse set of stakeholders.

### What is the grant for?

- Research, analysis, and planning regarding economic impact reduced or ceased operations of the regional facility
- Environmental remediation of sites of closed facilities and other local infrastructure improvements
- Marketing of tourist and recreation opportunities
- Business development initiatives to attract, expand, or retain employers
- Workforce development and support for individuals displaced by closures or reduced operations, including training for skilled trades in regional industries
- Investment for construction or improvement in local job training facilities
- Financial assistance for unemployed, underemployed, and/or low-income residents
- Public health initiatives
- Other initiatives to address the economic and social impact of reduced production or closure of regional facilities.