

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

Other key details

- The Notice of Funding Opportunity is often released in January. 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?

- Capacity building, consultants/prof services, etc.
- Energy Efficiency/Renewable Energy/Clean Energy Transition planning, development, and implementation
- Workforce development (including investment in training facilities and stipends for wraparound services)
- Financial assistance for unemployed, underemployed, and/or low-income residents (incl direct cash benefits, childcare, housing, transportation, and health care)
- Public infrastructure (water/sewer, transportation, drainage, broadband, public facilities, and other)
- Site cleanup and environmental remediation
- Grants to incentivize relocation/retention of companies.
- Marketing and other investment to boost tourism, recreation, and business development
- Affordable housing
- Public health initiatives & community health facilities
- Downtown/commercial redevelopment, (incl. improve energy efficiency/sustainability of facilities)
- Planning, along with supporting research and analysis, for economic development, transportation, or other programs to address the impact of closure
- Investment in local or regional operational capacity for economic development/business development/grant writing/planning