



# Grant Info Session

**OE3 State of Illinois Small Business Grant**

March 2025

Greater Chatham Initiative

[www.GreaterChathamInitiative.org](http://www.GreaterChathamInitiative.org)

# AGENDA

- Introduction to Greater Chatham Initiative
- Neighborhood Opportunity Fund (NOF)
- NOF Q&A w/Reuben Waddy



- OE3 State of Illinois Small Business Grant

# Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO): OE3 Capital Grant Program

Issued by the Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity (DCEO)  
Office of Economic Equity & Empowerment\* (OE3)

*\*Formerly OMEE*



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# Office of Economic Equity & Empowerment (OE3)

DCEO's Office of Economic Equity & Empowerment (OE3) is committed to providing minority-, women-, youth-, persons with disabilities and veteran-owned small businesses and entrepreneurs across the state with equitable access to opportunities and resources.

Through dynamic partnerships, targeted outreach, and tailored programs and initiatives, OE3 aims to create an inclusive business ecosystem for communities that have traditionally faced systemic barriers to entry and growth.



# OE3 Capital Grant Program

<https://dceo.illinois.gov/dceo-grants.html>

The Small Business Capital and Infrastructure Grant Program will award grants to support small businesses with capital resources that can be used for infrastructure improvements, acquisition of essential equipment, or the purchase of new property.

This funding opportunity is designed to support SEDI-owned businesses and VSBs by providing financial assistance for capital improvement projects that will drive business growth, enhance operational efficiency, promote sustainability, and support job creation and retention.

<https://dceo.illinois.gov/aboutdceo/grantopportunities/2160-2940.html>

[www.greaterchathaminitiative.org/grants-funding-2/#b2b](http://www.greaterchathaminitiative.org/grants-funding-2/#b2b)



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# Let's Talk Numbers



- Total funding = \$10,000,000
- Individual awards to range between \$10,000 - \$245,000

The Department expects to issue no more than 40 awards through this NOFO.

**Deadline to apply online for this NOFO is Monday, April 7, 2025, 5:00pm;** late applications will not be accepted (5:01pm is late).



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# OE3 Capital Grant Program Objectives



- Business Growth and Expansion
- Property Acquisition
- Operational Efficiency and Modernization
- Energy Efficiency and Sustainability
- Compliance and Accessibility Improvements
- Workforce Development and Job Creation
- Long-Term Business Sustainability

Refer to Page 2 of the  
NOFO for program  
objectives



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# Eligible Applicants



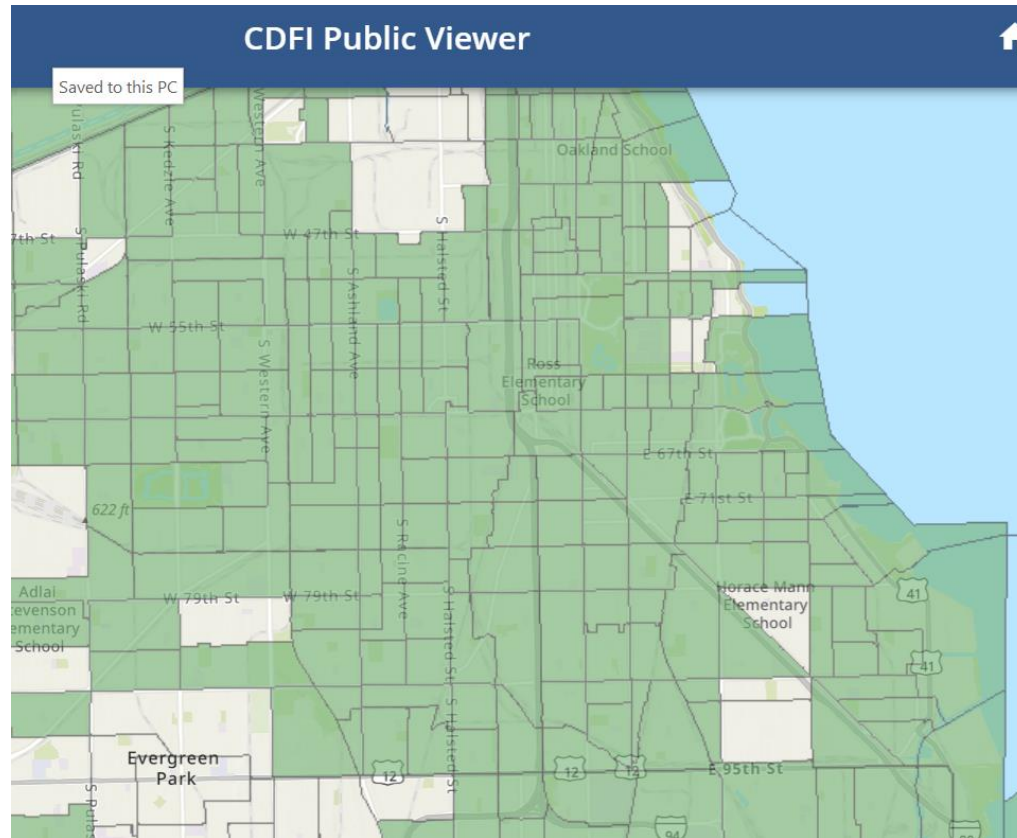
- Businesses owned by Socially Economically Disadvantaged Individuals (SEDI) with a maximum of 25 full-time permanent employees
- Very Small Businesses (VSBs), businesses with less than 10 employees

*Businesses located in Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) Investment Areas will be prioritized.*





# Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI Investment Area)



[www.GreaterChathamInitiative.org](http://www.GreaterChathamInitiative.org) “Grants”

GREATER  
*Chatham*  
INITIATIVE

# Eligible Project Expenses

Bondable capital and infrastructure projects, such as:

**Planning:** Architectural/engineering (A/E) design for construction or installation

**Land and Building Acquisition:** Costs for acquiring improved or unimproved property

**Buildings, Additions, or Structures:** Build new structures or facilities or expanding existing facilities to increase capacity

**Site Improvements:** Demolition or grading for new development.



Ungvar/Adobe Stock

This list is **not** exhaustive.

For more examples of eligible projects, refer to **Bondability Guidelines** at [bondability-guidelines-rebuild-il.pdf](https://www.bondability-guidelines-rebuild-il.pdf) ([illinois.gov](https://illinois.gov))



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# Eligible Project Expenses

## Allowable non-bondable projects:

**Rolling Stock:** A commercial vehicle that can move, or be relocated easily, that serves as the point-of-sale operation for the business (i.e., Food Trucks, Mobile Barbers, etc.)

**Durable Equipment:** Equipment essential to the rolling stock point-of-sale operations

**\*NOTE\*:** Vehicles that are not used as the point-of-sale operation for the business (i.e., fleet vehicle used for business errands) are NOT an allowable expense.



# Performance Goals and Measures

## Job Creation/Retention

- **Job Creation/Retention:** Number of jobs created/retained as a result of the project.
- **Salaries:** Average of annualized salaries for permanent full-time jobs created/retained.

## Impact on Business

- **Financial Impact Post-Project:** Evaluate the increase in revenue, profitability, or cost savings after the project completion.

## Sustainability and Long-Term Viability

- **Sustainability of Improvements:** Assess the ongoing viability and sustainability of the project.

## Community Impact

- **Local Economic Impact:** Measure the project's contribution to local economic development, particularly in underserved areas.



# Application Review



Criteria	Details	Points
Need	Identification of stakeholders, facts, and evidence that demonstrate the proposal supports the grant program purpose	30
Capacity	The ability of the applicant to execute the project according to requirements of the grant program	50
Quality	The totality of features and characteristics of the project that indicate its ability to satisfy the requirements of the grant program	20
<b>Total = 100</b>		

Refer to Page 8 of the NOFO for criteria details



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# Application Review

Need		30 Points
Financial Impact		10 Points
Job Creation/Retention		10 Points
Community Impact		10 Points
Capacity		50 Points
Clarity of Project Plan		10 Points
Budget Adequacy		10 Points
Project Execution Capability		15 Points
Financial Preparedness		15 Points
Quality		20 Points
Organizational Preparedness and Readiness to Launch		10 Points
Location-Based Priority in CDFI Investment Area		10 Points



# General Eligibility Information



- Must be registered in the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA) Grantee Portal
- Have a valid FEIN number (ITIN accepted in place of FEIN)
- Have a valid UEI number
- Have a current [SAM.gov](https://sam.gov) registration
- Be in Good Standing with the Illinois Secretary of State



# Prequalification

## STEPS TO GET PRE-QUALIFIED

**Please note this process can take 2+ weeks to complete, please ensure time to complete the steps in order not to miss the grant deadline.**



FEIN

cert good standing

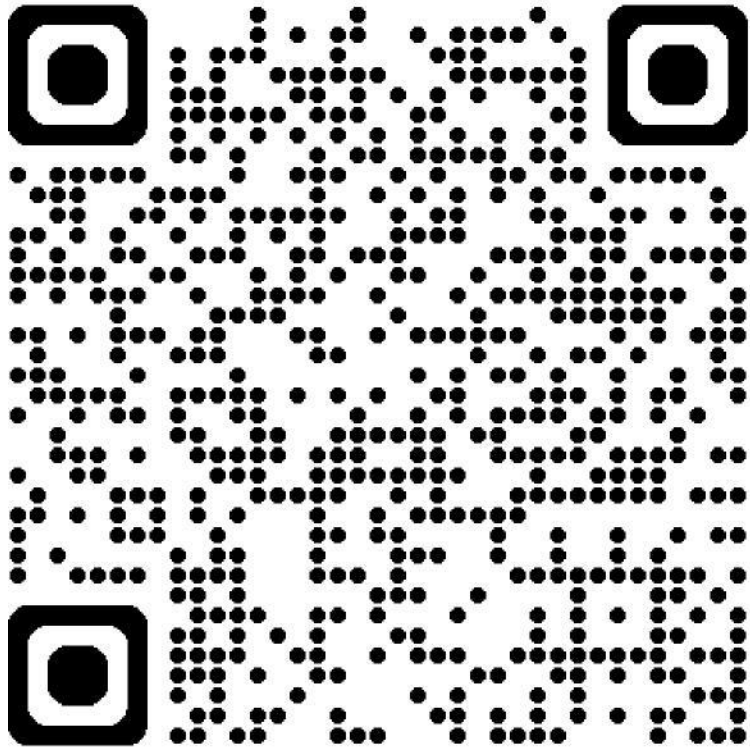
SAM.GOV

Register GATA

watch for Preq status



# How To Apply



Visit the [online Smartsheet Form](#) or scan the QR code.

Contact us via email at [CEO.OE3Grant@illinois.gov](mailto:CEO.OE3Grant@illinois.gov)



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# Application Package

## A Complete Application Package Must Include:

1. Uniform Grant Application in Fillable PDF Format
2. Uniform Budget (template provided by DCEO)
3. Conflict of Interest Disclosure
4. Mandatory Disclosure
5. **OE3 Capital Grant Program Application**
6. SEDI-Certification (if applicable)
7. Demographic Disclosure Survey (if applicable)
8. Any other required supplemental documentation



The Application Package must be submitted to DCEO via [Smartsheet](#)



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# Smartsheet Application Package



Illinois  
Department of Commerce  
& Economic Opportunity

Saved to this PC

## 2160-2940 Small Business Capital and Infrastructure Grant Program

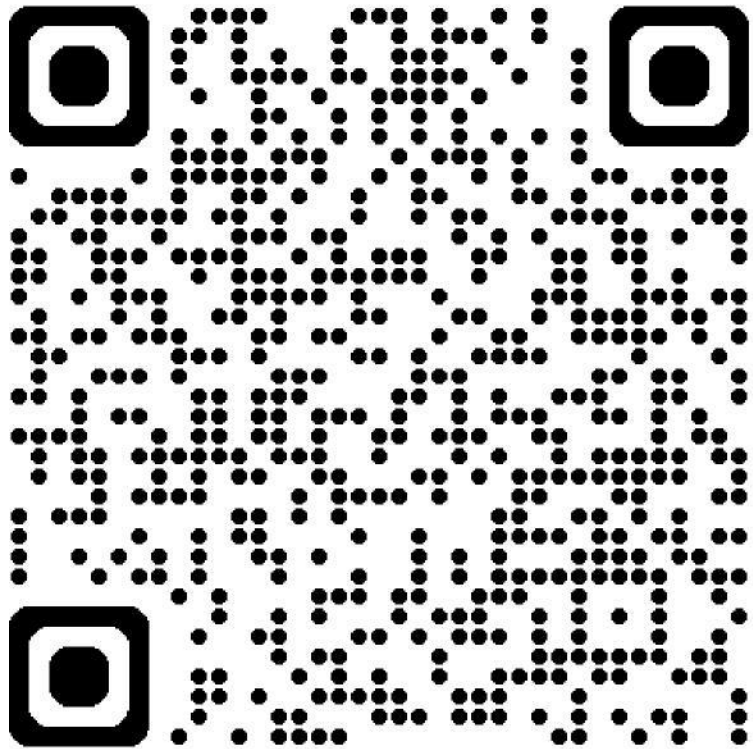
This program is designed to empower small businesses across Illinois by providing funding for essential infrastructure improvements, facility expansions, and property acquisitions. By prioritizing underserved and economically disadvantaged communities, the program supports projects that enhance operational efficiency, promote sustainability, and increase accessibility. These grants enable businesses to modernize their operations through upgrades in technology, equipment, and processes, helping to drive growth and long-term resilience.

Note: The demographic information requested below is strictly for informational purposes and will not be used to determine awards.

- By checking this box I understand for my application to be considered, my entity must be pre-qualified prior to application deadline. For more information on pre-qualification, please visit <https://www2.illinois.gov/dceo/AboutDCEO/GrantOpportunities/Pages/GranteeResources.aspx>. \*

Applicant Information

# Questions?



Visit the [OE3 Capital Grant Program Notice of Funding Opportunity \(NOFO\) webpage](#) or scan the QR Code to learn more.

Email us: [CEO.OE3Grant@illinois.gov](mailto:CEO.OE3Grant@illinois.gov)



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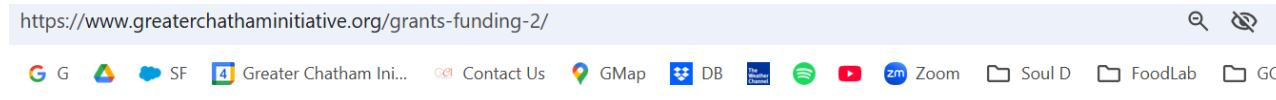
# Access to Capital

Maintained on our website

[www.GreaterChathamInitiative.org](http://www.GreaterChathamInitiative.org)



Active economic support opportunities  
"one-stop-shop" for economic support



[About Us](#) [Looking Forward Report](#) [Donate](#) [Contact Us](#) [Q](#)

## MEDIA

2023 Chicago Sun-Times FoodLab article: [FoodLab Chicago Sun-Times Feb 19th 2023](#)

## Grants and Loans

FoodLab Chicago	St IL OE3 Small Bus Grant	Community Development Grants	Cook County Source Grant
Allies for Business Good Food Fund GRANTS	Verizon \$10K grant	Neighborhood Opportunity Fund	SBIF Districts
Allies for Business Good Food Fund LOANS	Hello Alice Grants Progressive \$50K	LISC Coramino Fund \$10K Grant	Woman's Business Development Center (WBDC) Programs & Capital
Convention Aug 2024	Amex Main Street Grant		



# Access to Capital

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