

BUSINESS ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

The Village of Woodridge offers the following information as a service to its local businesses to support them in today's challenging economy. The programs listed can help business owners with business development, energy savings, and more! This information will be periodically updated, so check back on a regular basis to see what's new. For more information on any of these programs, please follow the links provided in the program title, or contact the sponsoring agency. UPDATED 1/22/10

Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity

http://www.illinoisbiz.biz/dceo/Bureaus/Business_Development/

Springfield Office
620 E. Adams
Springfield, IL 62701
Phone: 877-221-4403

James R. Thompson Center
100 W. Randolph
Chicago, IL 60601
Phone: 312-814-7179

The Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) is Illinois' leading economic development agency. It offers information, advocacy, programs, and services designed to help Illinois businesses thrive in today's economy. Information on Loans, Grants, and Tax Assistance Programs for Business Development and Energy Savings can be found on DCEO's website or by following the link in the titles below.

LOAN PROGRAMS

[Community Service Block Grant \(CSBG\) Loan Program](#)

The CSBG Loan Program is administered jointly by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO), statewide Community Action Agencies (CAAs) and Illinois Ventures for Community Action (IVCA). The Program provides long-term, fixed-rate financing to new or expanding small businesses in exchange for job creation and employment for low-income individuals. CSBG funds usually make up between 20-49% of the entire loan project and have a low interest rate of 5% to 7.5%.

[Illinois Capital Access Program \(CAP\)](#)

The Illinois Capital Access Program (CAP) is designed to encourage financial institutions to make loans to small and new businesses that do not qualify under conventional lending policies. CAP is a form of loan portfolio insurance, which provides additional reserve coverage to the lender on loan defaults. By participating in CAP, lenders have available to them a proven financing mechanism to meet the needs of financial institutions and Illinois small businesses.

[Participation Loan Program \(PLP\)](#)

The PLP program is designed to work through banks and other conventional lending institutions, to provide subordinated financial assistance to Illinois small businesses that employ Illinois workers. A business with 500 or fewer employees may apply for a PLP loan of not less than \$10,000 nor more than \$750,000. Loans shall not exceed 25% of the total project and may not be used for debt refinancing or contingency funding.

[Minority, Women, and Disabled Participation Loan Program \(MWD/PLP\)](#)

The MWD/PLP program is a variation of the conventional PLP, in that DCEO subordinates the loans through participating lending institutions, but the MWD/PLP program can provide Illinois small businesses that are 51 percent owned and managed by persons who are minorities, women, or disabled, with loans up to \$50,000 or 50 % of the total project.

[Manufacturing Modernization Loan Program](#)

The Manufacturing Modernization Loan Program is designed to provide manufacturers with access to adequate and affordable financing for upgrading and modernizing their manufacturing equipment and operations.

[Revolving Line of Credit Program \(RLOC\)](#)

The RLOC program can provide qualifying businesses with a subordinated line of credit through banks and other convention lending institutions at affordable interest rates.

GRANTS

[Illinois Department of Transportation \(IDOT\)](#)

IDOT has several programs that provide state assistance in improving highway and rail access improvements to new or expanding industrial, distribution or tourism developments. The focus of these programs is the retention and creation of Illinois jobs. Funding may be available for transportation improvement projects related to facilities that provide direct access to economic development projects. Projects providing access to retail establishments, office parks, government facilities or school/universities are not eligible.

[Employer Training Investment Program \(ETIP\)](#)

The Employer Training Investment Program (ETIP) helps keep Illinois workers' skills in pace with new technologies and business practices, which, in turn, helps businesses increase productivity, reduce costs, improve quality and boost competitiveness. ETIP grants can reimburse new or expanding companies for up to 50 percent of the cost of training their employees. Grants may be awarded to individual businesses, original equipment manufacturers sponsoring multi-company training for employees of their Illinois supplier companies, and to intermediary organizations operating multi-company training projects.

[Large Business Development Program \(LBDP\)](#)

The LBDP program is designed to provide grants to businesses undertaking a major expansion or relocation project that will result in substantial private investment and the creation and/or retention of a large number of Illinois jobs. Funds available through the program may be used by large businesses for bondable business activities, including financing the purchase of land or buildings, building construction or renovation, and certain types of machinery and equipment. Grant eligibility and amounts are determined by the amount of investment and job creation or retention involved.

[Business Development Public Infrastructure Program \(BDPIP\)](#)

The BDPIP program is designed to provide grants to units of local government for public improvements on behalf of businesses undertaking a major expansion or relocation project that will result in substantial private investment and the creation and/or retention of a large amount of Illinois jobs. The infrastructure improvements must be made for public benefit and on public property and must directly result in the creation or retention of private sector jobs. The local government must demonstrate clear need for financial assistance to undertake the improvements. Grant eligibility and amounts are determined by the amount of investment and job creation or retention involved.

TAX ASSISTANCE

[Economic Development For a Growing Economy Tax Credit Program \(EDGE\)](#)

The EDGE program offers a special tax incentive to encourage companies to locate or expand operations in Illinois. The program can provide tax credits to qualifying companies, equal to the amount of state income taxes withheld from the salaries of employees in the newly created jobs. The non-refundable credits can be used against corporate income taxes to be paid over a period not to exceed 10 years.

ENERGY SAVINGS

[Smart Energy Design Assistance](#)

The Smart Energy Design Assistance Center (SEDAC) provides free technical assistance services to businesses who are considering energy efficiency improvements at existing facilities or to enhance baseline design of new facilities. SEDAC services include free technical design assistance services (energy audits, utility bill analysis, energy cost reduction

recommendations, energy use modeling, investment analysis, implementation assistance), education and training, tax incentives through the 2005 Energy Policy Act, energy rates, and sources of loans and grants.

Large-Customer Energy Analysis Program (LEAP)

LEAP works with large Illinois clients including manufacturers, hospitals and universities to help manage their energy costs by making cost-effective efficiency improvements. The program involves key decision-makers and focuses on measures that can bring high returns with modest investments.

Solar Energy Incentive Program

The Solar Energy Incentive Program, through the State's Renewable Energy Resources Program, supports the development and implementation of solar thermal and solar photovoltaic technologies in Illinois by offering incentive awards for solar thermal and LEED Solar Photovoltaic systems.

Renewable Energy Business Development Grant Program

The Renewable Energy Business Development Grant Program supports domestic renewable energy production through the development of renewable energy businesses and component manufacturers. This program targets projects that develop and expand the renewable energy sector and corresponding supply chain while improving the economy of the State through new business development.

Illinois State Treasurer's Office

<http://www.treasurer.il.gov/index.aspx>

100 West Randolph, Suite 15-600
Chicago, IL 60601
Phone: 312-814-1700

Capitol Building
219 Statehouse
Springfield, IL 62706
Phone: 217-782-2211

The Illinois State Treasurer's programs are designed to help employers improve their businesses by providing them access to capital through an eligible financial institution.

Employ Illinois

<http://www.treasurer.il.gov/programs/employ-illinois/employ-illinois.aspx>

Employ Illinois gives business owners access to capital to start or enhance their businesses with the help of low-interest rate loans. The loans are available to business owners large and small, and include programs tailored to owners of child care facilities and self-employed Reserve Forces.

Access to Capital Program

<http://www.treasurer.il.gov/programs/access-to-capital/access-to-capital.aspx>

The Treasurer's Office provides low-cost liquidity to banks, credit unions and savings and loan institutions located in Illinois through the Access to Capital program. The goal is to provide an additional source of funding for Illinois financial institutions during the current economic and market conditions.

Illinois Finance Authority

<http://www.idfa.com/business/>

180 N. Stetson, #2555
Chicago, IL 60601
Phone: 312/651-1300

620 East Adams
Third Floor
Springfield, IL 62701
Phone: 217/782-5792

The Illinois Finance Authority (IFA) is a self-financed, state authority principally engaged in issuing taxable and tax-exempt bonds, making loans, and investing capital for businesses, non-profit corporations, and local government units statewide.

Participation Loans

http://www.idfa.com/products/business/ind_part.html

Illinois Finance Authority can help businesses with plans for expansion, upgrades, equipment purchases or other capital projects gain access to lower interest rates for fixed asset purchases and capital financings.

Industrial Revenue Bonds

http://www.idfa.com/products/business/ind_irb.html

The Illinois Finance Authority issues tax-exempt Industrial Revenue Bonds (IRB's) on behalf of manufacturing companies to finance the acquisition of fixed assets such as land, buildings and equipment. Bond proceeds also may be used for either new construction or renovation.

Illinois Ventures for Community Action

http://www.ilventures.org/loans_oview.cfm

P.O. Box 9285
Springfield, IL 62791-9285
Phone: 217.522.4553

Illinois Ventures for Community Action is a not-for-profit corporation whose purpose is to undertake job creation and economic development activities, and to distribute any profit therefrom to its member agencies to finance activities designed to eliminate poverty in Illinois.

IVCA Loan Program

The majority of loans provided by IVCA are through the Community Service Block Grant (CSBG) Loan Program. The CSBG Loan Program is administered jointly by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO), statewide Community Action Agencies (CAAs) and IVCA. The Program provides long-term, fixed-rate financing to new or expanding companies in exchange for job creation and employment for low income individuals. CSBG funds usually make up between 20-49% of the entire loan project and have a low interest rate of 5% to 7.5%.

Small Business Administration

<http://www.sba.gov/index.html>

409 3rd Street, SW
Washington, DC 20416
Phone: 800-827-5722

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) was created in 1953 as an independent agency of the federal government to aid, counsel, assist and protect the interests of small business concerns, to preserve free competitive enterprise and to maintain and strengthen the overall economy of our nation.

Basic 7(a) Loan Guaranty

<http://www.sba.gov/services/financialassistance/sbaloantopics/snapshot/index.html>

This is the SBA's primary business loan program to help qualified small businesses obtain financing when they might not be eligible for business loans through normal lending channels. Loan proceeds can be used for most sound business purposes including working capital, machinery and equipment, furniture and fixtures, land and building (including purchase, renovation and new construction), leasehold improvements, and debt refinancing (under special conditions). Loan maturity is up to 10 years for working capital and generally up to 25 years for fixed assets.

CDC/504 Program

<http://www.sba.gov/services/financialassistance/sbaloantopics/cdc504/index.html>

The CDC/504 loan program is a long-term financing tool that provides growing businesses with long-term, fixed-rate financing for major fixed assets. Proceeds from 504 loans must be used for purchasing land and improvements, including existing buildings, grading, street improvements, utilities, parking lots and landscaping; construction of new facilities, or modernizing, renovating or converting existing facilities; or purchasing long-term machinery and equipment. The 504 Program cannot be used for working capital or inventory, consolidating or repaying debt, or refinancing.

Special Purpose Loans

<http://www.sba.gov/services/financialassistance/sbaloantopics/SpecialPurposeLoans/index.html>

The SBA offers various special purpose loans that can assist you and your business. This includes loans to help you grow your business to meet demand internationally, to aid business that have been impacted by NAFTA, to assist you in implementing employee ownership plans and help implement pollution control mechanisms, in addition to other special programs.

ARC Loan Program

<http://www.sba.gov/recovery/arcloanprogram/index.html>

SBA's America's Recovery Capital Loan Program can provide up to \$35,000 in short-term relief for viable small businesses facing immediate financial hardship to help ride out the current uncertain economic times and return to profitability. ARC loans provide an immediate infusion of capital to small businesses to assist with making payments of principal and interest on existing debt. These loans allow borrowers to redirect cash flow from making loan payments to investing in their businesses, to help sustain the business and retain jobs. ARC loans are interest-free to the borrower, carry a 100 percent guaranty from the SBA to the lender, and require no fees paid to SBA. Loan proceeds are provided over a six-month period and repayment of the ARC loan principal is deferred for 12 months after the last disbursement of the proceeds. Repayment can extend up to five years.

DuPage County Economic Development and Planning Department

<http://www.dupageco.org/edp/>

421 North County Farm Road
Wheaton, IL 60187
Phone: 630-407-6700

DuPage County's Economic Development and Planning Department has several divisions to assist businesses including Regulatory Services, Planning, Environmental Concerns, Stormwater Management, Economic Development, and Workforce.

DuPage County Recovery Zone Facility Bond Program

Choose DuPage
2525 Cabot Drive, Suite 303
Lisle, IL 60532
phone: 630-955-2092
fax: 630-955-2081

<http://www.choosedupage.com/index.html>

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act allows DuPage County to allocate a volume cap of \$69 million in Recovery Zone Facility Bonds (RZFB) to private industry for development projects. The bonds can be used for the construction of new or expanded buildings and for the purchase of equipment used in the trade or business. Certain restrictions on the use of funds may apply to the rehabilitation or improvement of existing buildings. The benefit to the private sector is a lower cost of financing compared to conventional methods. Recovery Zone Facility Bonds must be issued prior to January 1, 2011. Applications will be accepted starting September 23, 2009, and will be processed on a first come-first serve basis. DuPage County's Recovery Zone Facility Bond Program is administered by Choose DuPage.

DuPage County Small Business Loan Program

Choose DuPage

2525 Cabot Drive, Suite 303

Lisle, IL 60532

phone: 630-955-2092

fax: 630-955-2081

<http://www.choosedupage.com/index.html>

The DuPage County Small Business Loan Program has received an infusion of \$120,000 from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The program is geared towards start-up businesses or businesses that are 1 – 2 years old and looking to take the next step. Funding priority will be given to businesses that are not retail, restaurants or service businesses. To qualify the business must be located in DuPage County, have a fully developed business plan and demonstrate the ability repay the loan. The program offers 3% interest and 49% project financing with loan term not to exceed 10 years. The average loan is \$50,000. Loans must be obtained by October of 2010. Choose DuPage administers the loan program on behalf of the County however; final approval of applications resides with the County Board.

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) provides numerous tax incentives for businesses. The following information may be found at <http://www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=204335,00.html>

Making Work Pay Tax Credit

The 2010 withholding rates, contained in [Notice 1036](#), reflect reduced withholding as directed by the ARRA. An optional withholding procedure is available for pension plan administrators.

Work Opportunity Tax Credit

This [newly-expanded credit](#) adds returning veterans and "disconnected youth" to the list of new hires covered by the credit that businesses may claim.

COBRA: Health Insurance Continuation Subsidy

The IRS has [extensive guidance for employers](#), including an updated Form 941, as well as [information for qualifying individuals](#).

Net Operating Loss Carryback

Small businesses can offset losses by getting refunds on taxes paid up to five years ago. [Information on the carryback](#), an expanded section 179 deduction and other business-related provisions, is now available. The Worker, Homeownership And Business Assistance Act Of 2009 (WHBAA) further [expands the five-year NOL carryback](#) to most businesses

ENERGY INCENTIVES FOR BUSINESSES

The following information may be found at <http://www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=204335,00.html>

Election of Investment Credit in Lieu of Production Credit (Section 1102): Businesses who place in service facilities that produce electricity from wind and some other renewable resources after Dec 31, 2008 can choose either the energy investment tax credit, which generally provides a 30 percent tax credit for investments in energy projects or the production tax credit, which can provide a credit of up to 2.1 cents per kilowatt-hour for electricity produced from renewable sources. A business may not claim both credits for the same facility.

Repeal of Certain Limits on Business Credits for Renewable Energy Property (Section 1103): The new law repeals the \$4,000 limit on the 30 percent tax credit for small wind energy property and the limitation on property financed by subsidized energy financing. The repeal applies to property placed in service after Dec. 31, 2008.

Coordination With Renewable Energy Grants (Section 1104): Business taxpayers also can apply for a grant instead of claiming either the energy investment tax credit or the renewable energy production tax credit for property placed in service in 2009 or 2010. In some cases, if construction begins in 2009 or 2010, the grant can be claimed for energy investment credit property placed in service through 2016, and for qualified renewable energy facilities, the grant is 30 percent of the investment in the facility and the property must be placed in service before 2014 (2013 for wind facilities).

Temporary Increase in Credit for Alternative Fuel Vehicle Refueling Property (Section 1123): The new law modifies the credit rate and limit amounts for property placed in service in 2009 and 2010. Qualified property (other than property relating to hydrogen) is now eligible for a 50 percent credit, and the per-location limit increases to \$50,000 for business property (increases to \$2,000 for other/residential locations). Property relating to hydrogen keeps the 30 percent rate as before, but the per-business location limit rises to \$200,000.