

**Executive Order Establishing
The Illinois Federal Clearinghouse**

WHEREAS, the Federal government provides numerous opportunities for Illinois state and local governments to receive technical and financial assistance that can improve the quality of service to the people of Illinois; and

WHEREAS, the method for receiving information about these opportunities may differ by State agency and program; and

WHEREAS, Illinois colleges and universities may have considerable knowledge about available Federal assistance and also have an interest in learning about new opportunities; and

WHEREAS, private companies, philanthropic institutions, and other non-profit associations and organizations may have information about other forms of assistance that may be of value to Illinois state and local governments; and

WHEREAS, Illinois has consistently ranked low in comparison to other states in terms of Federal grant and procurement money received; and

WHEREAS, a climate exists today for the State to improve its performance; and

WHEREAS, better coordination and prioritization of our efforts in this area will lead to improved performance.

THEREFORE, I, George H. Ryan, order the following:

There is created the Illinois Federal Clearinghouse headed by the Senior Advisor for Regulatory Affairs which shall be located within the Office of the Governor.

The purpose of the Clearinghouse shall be to improve the performance of Illinois state and local governments and Illinois private companies and non-profit organizations in receiving an appropriate share of Federal funding via grants to governments and other procurement opportunities. Specific functions shall include but not be limited to the following:

- Compiling information about assistance available from the Federal government, both technical and financial, beneficial to Illinois state and local governments.
- Serving as a central depository for similar information known by individual State agencies and Federal officials where the assistance could be of benefit to other State agencies or organizations in Illinois.
- Coordinating information about current projects in Illinois supported by national and regional philanthropic organizations that relate to Illinois state government activities.
- Assisting private companies, non-profit organizations, and Illinois institutions of higher education in gathering and sharing information about potential forms of assistance that could be beneficial to the particular needs of their organization and the broader needs of State government and the people of Illinois.

- Tracking performance of State agencies that receive and benefit from Federal funding opportunities and assisting State agencies in improving their performance.
- Sharing Clearinghouse information with as wide a range of sources as possible and encouraging as many sources to contribute information as possible.

Additional staffing for the Clearinghouse shall be provided by personnel in the Office of the Governor and other State agencies, as required. Coordination of efforts will be maintained with the Governor's Office of Statewide Performance Review, the Department of Commerce and Community Affairs, and the Illinois Commission on Intergovernmental Cooperation.

Each State agency will designate a single contact for the Clearinghouse, preferably the same contact chosen for the Statewide Performance Review, who will have primary responsibility for both gathering information from their agency and for sharing information available to the agency with the Clearinghouse. However, access to the Clearinghouse shall not be limited to the State agency contact person, and each Department and Agency under my jurisdiction shall encourage their employees to contact the Clearinghouse with any information the employee believes may be relevant and useful to the Clearinghouse. I also encourage State legislators and their staff, members of Congress and their staff, and Federal agency employees to access and contact the Clearinghouse with information they believe to be useful or relevant to the Clearinghouse.

Additional organizations, such as Illinois universities and foundations, may be designated for participation in the Clearinghouse and may be asked to select primary contacts to fulfill the same functions as the primary contacts in each State agency.

The Clearinghouse will provide a majority of its information electronically and maintain a web-site that can be quickly accessed and easily used.

This Executive Order Number 12 (1999) shall take effect immediately.

GEORGE H. RYAN
Governor

June 1, 1999