



December 22, 2011

Dear Governor and Members of the General Assembly:

The Employment Opportunities Grant Program - (EOGP) (20 ILCS 605 / 605 - 812) requires the Department to administer a grant program to expand employment opportunities for targeted populations in eligible grant areas in Illinois, and report to the Governor and the General Assembly on the activities undertaken by all awarded grant applicants. For your consideration, please review the program summary and modifications which are being implemented in the current fiscal year to enhance internal operations and maximize efficiencies related to the continued operation of the Employment Opportunity Grant Program.

SUMMARY

The Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity's Office of Urban Assistance is responsible for implementing the FY 11 EOGP. EOGP is undergoing a paradigm shift to refocus on the original intent of the legislation, utilizing traditional and alternative methods of achieving these goals. During the current grant year many building trades have modified the application periods for apprenticeship programs resulting in less applications being accepted, and consequently creating challenges to increase the number of women and minorities in the union apprenticeship programs. Prior to FY 11, EOGP grantees were forced to develop alternative methods to achieve their objectives, while being evaluated on their ability to create partnerships, forge relationships amongst the construction trade professionals, and enhance the economic and workforce development of the industry. In addition, the EOGP grantees operated within performance measures that increased the accountability of all grantees to meet strategic and legislative mandated goals.

Performance measures have been modified to reflect the actual number of participants accepted, trained, and successfully retained in unsubsidized employment six months to one year after successful completion of EOGP training. This is critical in that employment retention is a strong indicator as to the success of program completers, while also proving the credentials of the programs. In addition, we're measuring how many graduates continued their educational pursuits or created their own businesses as a result of EOGP training. The most significant modification is that all future EOGP grantees will be required to have met 75% of their performance measures as reflected in their proposal. Failure to meet their performance measures will result in non-eligibility status for future awards for thirty-six months.

PROGRAM MODEL

The FY 11 program model is focused on the fundamentals in construction, designed to provide students with an exposure to the skills and knowledge used in the building and construction trade industry. The economic outlook, while showing minor improvements, has proved the restructuring of the program is necessary. The restructuring streamlines the eligible grantees, ensures qualified applicants, and bolsters statewide public-private partnership collaboration with a single goal of strengthening job creation. Among the most significant change will be recommitment of staff resources to the program, allowing



enhanced monitoring of grantees addressing program outcomes which support job creation and job retention against a fluid economic landscape.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The FY 11 program year built on FY 10 successes. A competitive selection process was conducted. All applicants were competitively evaluated on their curriculum, grants management experience, partnerships, fiscal sustainability, and the cost effectiveness of the proposed program.

The Department funding was significantly reduced due to budgetary appropriations from \$3M in FY 10 to \$1.283M in FY11. The reduced funding allowed for eight (8) awards for a total of \$1,283,400. The majority of FY 10 grantees are adhering to program guidelines and are in compliance with programmatic and fiscal goals. In addition, the infrastructure for grant monitoring has also been restructured providing a detailed road map to success for the grantees.

GRANTEE SUCCESSES

There were several grantees who demonstrated alternative methods in developing strategic alliances for successful implementation as referenced below:

- Grantees developed partnerships with community banks to rehab foreclosed homes allowing EOGP participants to receive certification in several areas in the trades and landscaping;
- Grantees placed trainees in employment earning a living wage, while continuing EOGP training on an alternative schedule;
- Grantees have been very successful in preparing applicants for union testing, resulting in joining an apprenticeship program.



FY 11 GRANTEES

Organization Name	Address
Chicago Women In Trades - <i>Technical Opportunities Program</i>	2444 W. 16th Street - Suite 3E Chicago, IL 60609
Coalition for United Community Action Pre-Apprenticeship Program	2925 S. Wabash Avenue - Suite 102 Chicago, IL 60616
New Pisgah M. B. Church Pre-Apprenticeship Training Program	8130 S. Racine Avenue Chicago, IL 60620
Prairie State College Pre-Apprenticeship Program	202 S. Halsted Street Chicago Heights, IL 60411
Southwestern Illinois College Construction Training Program	2500 Carlyle Avenue Belleville, IL 62221
Will County Housing Development Corp. Pre-Apprenticeship Program	6 South Broadway Street Joliet, IL 60436
Youth Build Lake County Building Trade Apprenticeship Program	1636 Kristan Avenue North Chicago, IL 60064
Youth Conservation Corps, Inc, Building Trades Program	221 N. Genesee Street Waukegan, IL 60085

PERFORMANCE MEASURES FY 10 GRANTEES

# of individuals accepted:	458
# of individuals graduated:	194
# of individuals placed in employment:	142
# of individuals making union application:	122
# of individuals accepted in apprenticeship program:	28
# of individuals becoming self-employed entrepreneurs:	6
# of individuals continuing education:	17



Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity

Pat Quinn, Governor • Warren Ribley, Director

The Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity - Office of Urban Assistance is strongly committed to the revitalization of the Employment Opportunity Grant Program. Our goal is make the Employment Opportunity Grant Program a model program which enhances the building and construction trade employment industry for low income individuals. We are committed to continued Job Creation and Job Retention as we address the needs of our communities. Thank you for your continued support.

Respectfully submitted,

Warren Ribley
Director

www.idceo.net

500 East Monroe
Springfield, Illinois 62701-1643
217/782-7500 • TDD: 800/785-6055

James R. Thompson Center
100 West Randolph Street, Suite 3-400
Chicago, Illinois 60601-3219
312/814-7179 • TDD: 800/785-6055

2309 West Main, Suite 118
Marion, Illinois 62959-1180
618/997-4394 • TDD: 800/785-6055