



Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity

Bruce Rauner, Governor

We are pleased to update you on the status of applications to establish Enterprise Zones in communities across Illinois. The Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) is working to accelerate the application scoring and review schedule and announce final designations by the end of this summer.

DCEO received 66 applications from communities around the State for new Enterprise Zones in 2016. The department is already scoring the applications submitted for the final round of review, after which the Enterprise Board will approve or deny applications. DCEO must submit scored applications to the Board by June 30, 2015. New zones will go into effect January 1, 2016.

Under state law, the Board may approve up to 49 Enterprise Zones in 2015; the remainder of the state's 97 available zones will be designated in 2016 through 2020. Once designated, a community may remain an Enterprise Zone for 15 years, with a review by the board after 13 years for a possible 10-year extension.

We also are pleased to inform you that on Tuesday March 31, Governor Bruce Rauner announced the appointment of three individuals to the Illinois Enterprise Zone Board, completing the five-member board. The board is chaired by DCEO Director James M. Schultz. Constance Beard, Director of the Illinois Department of Revenue, also sits on the board.

Governor Rauner made the following appointments:

Jovita Carranza **Board Member – Illinois Enterprise Zone Board**

Jovita Carranza has extensive experience developing businesses in both public and private sectors.

Carranza was a Deputy Administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration from 2006 to 2009. She was responsible for the agency's turnaround, built an executive development program now used by 200 small businesses in 10 states and oversaw 80 national field offices. President George W. Bush appointed her to the position, and she was unanimously confirmed by the U.S. Senate.

Currently, Carranza is the President and Founder of The JCR Group, which provides business development services to companies and non-governmental organizations. Previously, she was the Vice President of Airline Operations and was the highest ranking Latina in the company.

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Carranza earned her M.B.A. from the University of Miami. She lives in Skokie.

Lawrence W. Falbe
Board Member – Illinois Enterprise Zone Board

Larry Falbe has 20 years of experience in site selection and environmental law and is uniquely qualified for the position. Falbe's extensive planning experience and public service include eight years on the Lake County Regional Plan Commission, and he currently serves as a member of the METRA Citizens Advisory Board, among numerous other boards and community leadership positions.

Currently, Falbe is a Chicago-based environmental and energy attorney at the national law firm of Quarles & Brady LLP. His practice focuses on environmental transactional support, Brownfields issues, environmental regulations and litigation, energy development and facility siting. Falbe has worked extensively with Illinois state agencies like the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and the Illinois Pollution Control Board.

Falbe is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Augustana College, Illinois, and earned his law degree from DePaul University College of Law. He is licensed to practice law in Illinois and Wisconsin, and is admitted to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court and numerous Federal District Courts. Falbe is also a former adjunct professor of environmental law at Northwestern University. He currently lives in Mettawa, in Lake County Illinois, where he previously served as a Village Trustee.

Larry Ivory
Board Member – Illinois Enterprise Zone Board

Larry Ivory's experience as a member of the Business Enterprise Program Council and his business background make him qualified for the position.

Currently, Ivory is the President and CEO of the Illinois State Black Chamber of Commerce, which promotes job creation and growth of African-American businesses. Ivory oversees the daily operations of the organization while promoting its mission across the state. He was the Chamber's Chairman from 1997-2002. Ivory is also a board member of the National Black Chamber of Commerce, and the Regional Vice President for Illinois, Ohio, Michigan, Indiana and Wisconsin.

Ivory previously worked for Salomon Smith Barney Holdings Inc. as the Vice President of Investment Services from 1998 to 2004. He also was a Senior Financial Consultant at Merrill Lynch from 1991 to 1998.

Ivory is a veteran of the U.S. Marines. He graduated from Saddleback College and currently lives in Peoria.

For more information on Illinois' Enterprise Zone Program and for more resources about doing business in Illinois, please visit www.illinois.gov/dceo.

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