



**Illinois  
Department of Commerce  
& Economic Opportunity**

Pat Quinn, Governor

December 31, 2014

Dear Governor and Members of the General Assembly:

The Employment Opportunities Grant Program (EOGP) (20 ILCS 605/605-812) requires the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DEO) 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 awardees. For your review, please find below a program summary and a list of 2014 activities taken to optimize efficiency and execution of the EOGP.

**PROGRAM SUMMARY**

EOGP is administered by DCEO's Office of Urban Assistance (OUA). The goal of EOGP is to prepare targeted populations - minorities, women, homeless, long-term unemployed, veterans, youth aging out of foster care, and ex-offenders - to enter and complete building trades pre-apprenticeship programs, apprenticeship programs, and/or obtain employment in the building trades industry.

After addressing challenges from the last several fiscal years and through a strengthened program, EOGP was able to release a competitive Request for Application (RFA) for FY14 with a \$1,250,000 appropriation. Sixteen (16) applications were submitted, of which fourteen (14) were approved for funding. Program staff is currently focused on monitoring these grantees to ensure fiscal and programmatic compliance.

**PROGRAM MODEL**

The EOGP program model continues to focus on the core fundamentals of preparing targeted populations for the building trades industry by providing program participants with exposure to the technical skills, basic soft skills, and on-the-job training deemed necessary to be successful in the building and construction industry. This knowledge and understanding of the industry will enable many program participants to become self-employed entrepreneurs, continue their education, and obtain careers in the building trades and/or construction industry.

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EOGP can also impact the Illinois economy by creating a stronger pipeline of trained workers who are able to obtain and keep jobs in the building trades industry. Opening these doors increases diversity within this industry and prepares more individuals for careers in a vital field, which will help keep the workforce strong and competitive and provide better opportunities for Illinois' working families.

**CHALLENGES/ ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

**CHALLENGES**

- Without consistent funding or funds dedicated to EOGP administrative needs, staffing this program has been difficult
- FY14 performance metrics were adversely impacted by grantee staff turnover and a 60% drug screening failure rate among initial recruits (which in turn meant a new group had to be recruited)

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- Successful award and implementation of FY14 EOGP grant awards
- Improved communication with grantees and monitoring of grant programs
- Draft of EOGP administrative rules completed
- Establishment of EOGP consortium to maximize the partnership among grantees, DCEO, construction contractors, and organized labor that is the heart of this program

**PROGRAM RESULTS**

***2014 YTD Cumulative EOGP Performance Metrics***

# of individuals accepted into a program	231		
# of individuals who complete a program	76		
# of program completers accepted into apprenticeship program	18	23%	Percentage of program completers
# of program completers placed in building trades employment (union and/or non-union)	19	25%	
# of program completers entering non-union non-building trades employment	4	5%	
# program completers becoming self-employed entrepreneurs	0	0%	
# of program completers continuing education	6	7%	

*These metrics are reflective of the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter 2014 and the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2015 performance measures submitted; grants end December 2015 therefore these metrics will adjusted throughout calendar year 2015.*

## **KEY HIGHLIGHTS/SUCCESS STORIES/IMPACT**

### *FY13 EOGP Grantee – Public Building Commission, Chicago (grant ends May 2015)*

- In FY13, the Public Building Commission (PBC) was awarded grant funds to offer a specialized program utilizing the EOGP platform to Chicago Public School (CPS) students providing advanced job skills training and industry-relevant, hands-on training. While the program initially experienced some hiccups due to unsuccessful recruitment of the target population and grantee staff turnover, in the summer of 2014 PBC was able to offer 56 internships to CPS students, putting them on a pathway to careers within the building trades. 90 percent of the program participants were able to continue their education in a major related to architecture, engineering, pre-law, and construction management.

### *FY14 EOGP Grantee - Prairie State College, Chicago Heights (grant ends December 2015)*

- Jose Oliver, a student from the EOGP funded Prairie State College (PSC) carpentry program, spoke at his graduation of how he constantly struggled until he found this program. He previously had been kicked out of multiple high schools and could not keep steady employment. He wanted to prove to his family and instructors that he could complete this program. Jose not only completed the program, but became a class leader. He was nominated by his class to speak at graduation and to share his success story with families and the community.
- Mario Bugg, alumnus of the EOGP-funded PSC painting and drywall program, has since completed his training and become successful in starting his own business, fully utilizing the building trade skills attained. He spoke to the carpentry graduating class about how the program changed his life, presented each graduate with a surprise monetary gift, and encouraged them to use it to pursue their own goals and paying forward what they have learned.
- Fifteen (15) of the twenty-three (23) students who completed the PSC carpentry program have been selected for sponsorships in the Apprentice and Training Program of the Chicago Regional Council of Carpenters, Locals #62, #272, and #434.

### *FY14 EOGP Grantee – St. Paul Church of God in Christ Community Development Ministries, Chicago (grant ends December 2015)*

- On November 25, 2014, EOGP program staff attended a graduation ceremony for St. Paul Church of God in Christ Community Development Ministries (SPCDM) Career-Readiness program where they had 20 program graduates, all on the pathway to enter apprenticeships or building trades employment.

- With funding provided by the Department, SPCDM trained eleven (11) individuals specifically to enter the pipefitters apprenticeship program. These participants have met or exceeded the training requirements in math, reading, and other curricula. As a result, these 11 program completers have advanced to the welding certification program provided by Pipefitters Local 597. This program has been provided exclusively to SPCDM to enhance the students' probability of entering the apprenticeship program.
- An additional six (6) program completers of SPCDM have been accepted into the riggers apprenticeship program.

*FY14 EOGP Grantee – Homework Hangout, Decatur (grant ends December 2015)*

- Homework Hangout Club has used an FY14 EOGP grant to develop a strong collaboration with the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades (IUPAT) through Painter's District Council 58 (DC58). DC58 has designed a hands-on training curriculum that gives each program participant trade skills that will enable him or her to immediately enter the union trade apprenticeship and employment at \$15-\$16 hour upon completion of the program. The painter's union is also providing an instructor and assistant instructor for the project. Moreover, the painter's union has a) donated time to construct five (5) drywall/frame mockups for hands-on training; b) donated software and labor to helping Homework Hangout Club install a new computer lab; c) donated time to provide computer skills instruction to EOGP participants.

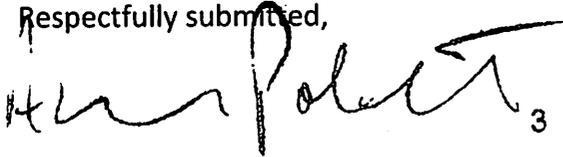
**GRANTEE SUMMARY**

<b>FY14 Approved Applicants</b>	<b>Type of Organization</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Grant Award</b>
Black Chamber of Commerce of Lake County (BCCLC)	Community-Based Organization	Lake	\$ 125,000.00
Black United Fund of Illinois, Inc	Community-Based Organization	Cook	\$ 125,000.00
Chicago Federation of Labor Workers Assistance Committee	Labor Union Community-Based Organization	Cook	\$ 125,000.00
Chicago Women in Trades	Community-Based Organization	Cook	\$ 125,000.00
Chicagoland Prison Outreach	Community-Based Organization	Cook	\$ 125,000.00
Coalition for United Community Action - O.R.T.C, Inc	Community-Based Organization	Cook	\$ 125,000.00

Community College District No. 508, County of Cook and State of IL	Educational Institution	Cook	\$ 125,000.00
Developing Communities Project	Community- Based Organization	Cook	\$ 125,000.00
Emerson Park Developmental Corporation	Community- Based Organization	St. Clair	\$ 125,000.00
Homework Hangout Club, Inc	Community- Based Organization	Macon	\$ 125,000.00
Illinois Central College	Educational Institution	Peoria	\$ 125,000.00
Prairie State College	Educational Institution	Cook	\$ 125,000.00
Saint Paul Church of God in Christ Community Development Ministires, Inc	Community- Based Organization	Cook	\$ 125,000.00
SGA Youth and Family Services	Community- Based Organization	Cook	\$ 125,000.00

The DCEO's Office of Urban Assistance continues to strengthen EOGP, both in terms of grantee accountability and program effectiveness. Our primary objective remains ensuring program participants who successfully complete their EOGP-funded training programs are armed with the skills necessary to enter a building trades apprenticeship program or building trades employment, and have increased opportunities for jobs that pay a living wage.

Respectfully submitted,



Adam Pollet  
Director