

CLIMATE AND EQUITABLE JOBS ACT IMPLEMENTATION

The Climate and Equitable Jobs Act (CEJA, [P.A. 102-0662](#)) was signed into law by Governor Pritzker on September 15, 2021. CEJA is comprehensive energy legislation that expands renewable development, provides funding for EVs and charging stations, created clean energy workforce training programs, provides support for communities experiencing a plant closure, and much more.

DCEO's role through CEJA is to implement the workforce and community investment programs as established by the law. This includes helping Illinois residents be prepared and trained to capitalize on the jobs created by this Act and to provide support to workers and communities facing plant closures. Most importantly, these programs will bolster a diverse workforce in the clean energy industry and ensure that those individuals who have historically faced economic and environmental barriers have priority in these training programs. A summary of the programs listed below.

TRAINING AN EQUITABLE, GROWING CLEAN ENERGY WORKFORCE

Clean Jobs Workforce Hubs Network Program

- 13 Hubs sites across the state, program participation prioritized for equity eligible communities
- Offer training, certification preparation, skill development, in clean energy related industries
- Hub sites/workforce training programs operated by community-based organizations, defined as groups that have experience in providing employment or skill development.
- Training offered will follow Clean Jobs Curriculum and coordinate with Energy Transition Navigators

Clean Jobs Curriculum

- training curriculum that identifies career pathways, training curriculum, and skill sets needed for participants to enter clean energy jobs and be work ready.
- Developed and informed by a broad stakeholder process that includes IL Community Colleges, workforce development providers, labor unions, environmental justice communities, and others.

Climate Works Preapprenticeship Hubs

- Three locations across the State (North, Central, South)
- Recruit, prescreen and provide pre-apprenticeship training in order to create a qualified, diverse pipeline of workers that are prepared for careers in the construction, building trades and clean energy jobs. Upon completion, graduates will be connected to an apprenticeship program.

Returning Residents Clean Jobs Training Program

- Participants are individuals currently in the custody of Illinois Department of Corrections
- Training should allow participants to graduate as hireable or enter into programs like Clean Jobs Workforce Hubs upon release
- Receive employability skills training along with vocational training in clean energy. Program administrators will also work with potential employers to develop policies that support hiring returning residents, provide job coaching, and help with job placement.

Clean Energy Contractor Incubator Program

- 13 Hubs sites across the state, to provide services to minority contractors. Priority for program participants from equity eligible communities

- Provide access to low-cost capital and financial support for small clean energy businesses and contractors; provide support for business operations, such as obtaining permits and insurance, and provide training and mentorships; provide recruitment and ongoing engagement with entities that hire contractors and subcontractors for renewable energy projects.

Prime Contractor Accelerator Program

- Provide mentorship and financial support to businesses and contractors through regional cohorts with business coaching and operational support.
- Participants will receive five-year long, one-on-one coaching to develop a five-year business plan; operational support grants up to \$1m annually; mentorship; help preparing bids; and more.

Energy Transition Navigators

- Energy Transition Navigators will perform outreach, education, and recruitment to eligible individuals to successfully participate in the Clean Jobs Workforce Program, Climate Works Preapprenticeship Program, Returning Residents Program, Clean Energy Contractor Incubator Program, and Clean Energy Primes Contractor Accelerator Program. Navigators will also work with the local job market to help place trainees in careers.
- Navigators will work with other organizations to identify individuals who need upskilling to advance in their careers and work with local industry to identify skill needs for localized training curriculum.
- Operated by community-based organizations that have a history of serving low-wage or low-skilled workers from economically disadvantaged communities.

Energy Transition Barrier Reduction Program

- This program will provide supportive and financial assistance services to individuals participating in Clean Jobs Workforce Network program and Climate Works Preapprenticeship Program to overcome barriers to engaging and completing the workforce programs.
- Program elements will include financial supports to reduce barriers and costs. The services will be wide ranging, and are intended to include life coaching, mentorship, tutoring, and referrals to other services such as mental health and housing. Financial supports could include childcare, transportation, emergency bill payments. DCEO will further identify supportive and financial program elements as it develops the program.

Jobs and Environmental Justice Grant Program

- The program will provide upfront and seed capital to disadvantaged businesses to support community ownership and development of renewable energy projects.

Energy Workforce Advisory Council

- Council shall provide information on federal, state, local, and private programs, resources, and activities; review CEJA workforce program performance metrics and provide recommendations on the administration of workforce programs operated by DCEO.

FEJA Qualified Job Training Programs

- Created by the Future Energy Jobs Act, these workforce development programs offer job and skill set training in the electric and solar industry.

INVESTING IN COMMUNITIES

Energy Transition Community Assistance Grant

- Provide grants to communities that have experienced or will experience a fossil fuel, nuclear plant or mine closure. Eligible communities will be those that had a facility retire or significantly reduced services in the past six years or will close within the next six years.
- Grants can be used to address the economic and social impact on the community of plant retirement or transition.

Displaced Energy Worker Bill of Rights

- Set of requirements to support energy workers transition by providing skills matching, reemployment services and other supportive services.

Energy Transition Workforce Commission

- The Commission shall produce a report on the anticipated impact of the energy transition and a set of recommendations to address to change to Illinois' workforce and communities and local government.

Coal to Solar and Energy Storage Program Grant

- This grant program will support the installation and operation of energy storage facilities at the sites of qualifying electric generating facilities. Up to five projects are authorized.