

**State of Illinois Uniform Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)
Summary Information**

Awarding Agency Name	Commerce And Econ Opp
Agency Contact	Kristi Dula (bit.ly/ILWetLabs (case sensitive))
Announcement Type	Initial
Type of Assistance Instrument	Grant
Funding Opportunity Number	420-35-2363
Funding Opportunity Title	Wet Lab Capital Program
CSFA Number	420-35-2363
CSFA Popular Name	Wet Lab Capital Program
Anticipated Number of Awards	0
Estimated Total Program Funding	\$9,000,000
Award Range	Not Applicable
Source of Funding	State
Cost Sharing or Matching Requirements	Yes
Indirect Costs Allowed	No
Restrictions on Indirect Costs	Yes : This grant opportunity is limited to capital improvement expenses. The grant will not compensate for indirect costs, overhead, or administrative expenses associated with the execution of the program.
Posted Date	11/13/2020
Application Date Range	11/13/2020 - 01/27/2021 : 5:00pm
Grant Application Link	Please select the entire address below and paste it into the browser... http://bit.ly/ILWetLabsApplication
Technical Assistance Session	Offered : Yes Mandatory : No Date : 11/18/2020 : 11:00am Registration link : http://bit.ly/WetLabTA

Agency-specific Content for the Notice of Funding Opportunity

Wet Lab Capital Program NOFO ID 2363-1673

A. Program Description

This Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) sets forth the requirements of the 2021 Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) Wet Lab grant opportunity. DCEO administers grant programs designed to promote and enhance economic development as specified by the Fiscal Year 2021 appropriation bill (Public Act 101-0638) enacted by the Illinois General Assembly.

Illinois is a global leader in the life sciences industry, featuring some of the top research hospitals and chemical manufacturers in the country. Wet labs, or laboratories with specialized ventilation and utility connections to allow for research of chemicals and materials, are critical for life sciences innovation to thrive but require large amounts of physical space and are costly to build. Available wet lab space is scarce throughout Illinois, which limits the competitiveness of the state's life sciences sector, despite our other advantages. This grant will encourage the development of wet lab space that will be multi-tenant shared space available to incubators, corporations, university researchers, and start-ups.

Grant funds will be awarded on a competitive basis to fund the construction or renovation of facilities that house wet lab space and promote the growth of life sciences in Illinois. The project will use Build Illinois Bond Funds as outlined in 30 ILCS 425 and will be limited to capital expenses. A successful applicant will be able to demonstrate that grant funds are necessary to complete the project or that the funding will remove significant barriers to the construction of otherwise economically viable wet lab facilities.

The chosen location(s) will be where new wet lab development is likely to act as a catalyst to the local economy due to its proximity to other life sciences companies, researchers, and/or educational institutions. The facility operators are encouraged to provide business support services to tenants and to partner with universities, community colleges, and Local Workforce Innovation Boards (LWIBs) that will allow tenants to recruit members of the local workforce, including recent graduates.

Reporting on the expenditure of funds and the specific improvements rendered as a result of this funding will be required of the grantee. Using the Periodic Financial Report (PFR) and Periodic Performance Report (PPR) templates, and providing all required detailed supporting information including the expense tracking spreadsheet, grantees must be able to relate financial data to performance measures established in the grant agreement. Expenses must support DCEO's mission to promote the creation of wet lab space and supporting structure for the life sciences industry in Illinois.

B. Funding Information

This grant program is utilizing state capital funds appropriated by the Illinois General Assembly as indicated in Public Act 101-0638. The total amount of grant funds anticipated for these awards is \$9,000,000 and we anticipate awarding 1 to 4 grants.

These grants originate from Rebuild Illinois capital funds, so expenditures for these funds are subject to Bondability Guidelines (see separate guidebook available at the same webpage where this NOFO is posted). Eligible expenses for these funds include:

- architectural planning and engineering design;
- land and building acquisition;

NOFO ID 2363-1673

- costs related to site selection, preparation and improvement;
- utility work;
- new construction of buildings and structures;
- reconstruction or improvement of existing buildings or structures; and
- original furnishings and durable equipment, including scientific instruments and apparatuses with a long useful life.

Ineligible expenses include:

- Operational expenses;
- Lease payments for rental of equipment or facilities;
- Costs of staff or resident labor and material outside of project construction;
- Expenditures to acquire or construct temporary facilities;
- Purchase of automobiles, trucks, farm equipment, boats or rolling stock; and
- Livestock or laboratory animals.

Applicants must submit a project narrative that describes in detail how the award will be executed. The project narrative should include enough information for DCEO to understand the scope of the project, the budget, including a detailed breakdown of the costs associated with each budget line and any additional necessary detail to enable DCEO to manage the grant agreement activity against planned project performance. The Project Narrative must include evidence of capacity, quality and need as defined in Section E.1.

Agreement(s) and budget(s) with subrecipients and subcontractors must be pre-approved by and on file with DCEO. Agreements can be submitted to DCEO when available. Subcontractors and subrecipients are subject to all applicable provisions of the Agreement(s) executed between DCEO and the grantee. The successful applicant shall retain sole responsibility for the performance of its subrecipient(s) and/or subcontractor(s).

The release of this NOFO does not obligate the Department to make an award.

C. Eligibility Information

An entity must be pre-qualified through the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA) Grantee Portal, www.grants.illinois.gov/portal at the time of grant application.

Applicants must register their agency on the GATA Grantee Portal to verify compliance with pre-qualification requirements. The portal will verify that the entity:

- Has a valid FEIN number;
- Has a valid DUNS number;
- Has a current SAM.gov account;
- Is not on the Federal Excluded Parties List;
- Is in Good Standing with the Illinois Secretary of State, as applicable;
- Is not on the Illinois Stop Payment list; and
- Is not on the Department of Healthcare and Family Services Provider Sanctions list.

An automated email notification to the entity alerts them of “qualified” status or informs how to remediate a negative verification (e.g., inactive DUNS, not in good standing with the Secretary of State). A federal Debarred and Suspended status cannot be remediated.

NOFO ID 2363-1673

Pursuant to the policy of the Illinois Office of the Comptroller, to receive grant funds from the State of Illinois, a grantee must be considered a regarded entity by the IRS for federal income tax purposes. Disregarded entities will not be eligible to receive grant funds.

1. Eligible Applicants include:

All potential applicants are eligible.

The Department complies with all applicable provisions of state and federal laws and regulations pertaining to nondiscrimination, sexual harassment and equal employment opportunity including, but not limited to: The Illinois Human Rights Act (775 ILCS 5/1-101 et seq.), The Public Works Employment Discrimination Act (775 ILCS 10/1 et seq.), The United States Civil Rights Act of 1964 (as amended) (42 USC 2000a-and 2000H-6), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 USC 794), The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 USC 12101 et seq.), and The Age Discrimination Act (42 USC 6101 et seq.).

2. Cost Sharing or Matching.

This grant opportunity requires that grantees match the state grant by at least a 1:1 match.

3. Indirect Cost Rate.

This grant opportunity is limited to capital improvement expenses. The grant will not compensate for indirect costs, overhead, or administrative expenses associated with the execution of the program.

4. Other, if applicable.

Business Enterprise Program: For grant awards of \$250,000 or more, the grantee will be required to comply with the Business Enterprise Program for Minorities, Females, and Persons with Disabilities Act (30 ILCS 575/0.01 et seq.), which establishes a goal for contracting with businesses that have been certified as owned and controlled by persons who are minority, female or who have disabilities. The Department and the Capital Development Board will work with the grantee to ensure compliance prior to the establishment of the grant agreement as well as through the life of the grant.

Environmental Review Requirements: Capital grants will be reviewed to determine environmental review requirements. Based on the scope of the project, the grantee may be required to complete additional environmental approvals before a grant agreement can be initiated.

Illinois Works Jobs Program Act (30 ILCS 559/20-1 et seq.): For grants with an estimated total project cost of \$500,000 or more, the grantee will be required to comply with the Illinois Works Apprenticeship Initiative (30 ILCS 559/20-20 to 20-25) and all applicable administrative rules. The "estimated total project cost" is a good faith approximation at the time an applicant submits to the Department a grant application of the costs of an entire project being paid for in whole or in part by appropriated capital funds to construct a public work. The goal of the Illinois Apprenticeship Initiative is that apprentices will perform either 10% of the total labor hours actually worked in each prevailing wage classification or 10% of the estimated labor hours in each prevailing wage classification, whichever is less. Grantees will be permitted to seek from the Department a waiver or reduction of this goal in certain circumstances pursuant to 30 ILCS 559/20-20(b). The grantee must ensure compliance for the life of the entire project, including during the term of the grant and after the term ends, if applicable, and will be required to report on and certify its compliance.

Prevailing Wage Act (820 ILCS 130/0.01 et seq.): Applicants that are awarded grants shall comply with all requirements of the Prevailing Wage Act, including but not limited to, inserting into all contracts for construction a stipulation to the effect that not less than the prevailing rate of wages as applicable to the project shall be paid to all laborers, workers, and mechanics performing work under the award and requiring all bonds of contractors to include a provision as will guarantee the faithful performance of such prevailing wage clause as provided by contract. Grantees will be required to report on Prevailing Wage Act compliance on a monthly basis.

Applicants may only submit (1) one application for this program.

D. Application and Submission Information

1. Address to Request Application Package.

Grant application forms are available on the digital application (<http://bit.ly/ILWetLabsApplication>) or by contacting the Program Manager:

Kristi Dula
Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity
Office of Entrepreneurship, Innovation & Technology
100 W. Randolph St., Suite 3-400
Chicago, IL 60601

If forms cannot be accessed through the digital application, requests for forms may be submitted through bit.ly/ILWetLabs

2. Content and Form of Application Submission.

A standard application package is required. Required documents will be available on the digital application link (<http://bit.ly/ILWetLabsApplication>) and must be submitted and reviewed by the Department. Each package should contain the following items:

1. Uniform Grant Application (this is the fillable information on the digital application)
2. Uniform Capital Budget utilizing the template provided by DCEO for this project. The entire budget with all worksheets included even if the worksheets are not relevant to the grant opportunity must be submitted with the application materials. (Print, sign and scan signature page with submission)
3. Conflict of Interest Disclosure
4. Mandatory Disclosures

This Notice of Funding Opportunity also requires the submission of the following other programmatic specific items:

5. Project Narrative – no limit on number of pages, spacing, font, etc.

The Project Narrative shall include the following, where applicable:

NOFO ID 2363-1673

- Detailed information about the applicant including organizational structure, scope of business, internal organization, number of personnel and any relationship with subcontractors or significant partners.
- Experience in:
 - Development of wet lab facilities
 - Provision of business support services for wet lab tenants
 - Projects funded through federal or state government grants
- Clearly defined layout of the facility, square footage of each lab space, and significant equipment included in each lab space. If possible, include photos and plot maps.
- Support services that will be provided to tenants. Applicants are encouraged to provide services that may include management training, business advisory services, mentorship, support in accessing capital, supply chain resources, and recruiting.
- Budget for construction/renovation and operations and proposed funding sources for each. (Note: Grant funds can only be used for construction costs and capital expenses. Capital costs are the only ones that should be included in the Uniform Budget template.)
- Recent monetary investments or anticipated monetary awards and grants for investment in the facility
- Demonstration that the facility will fill a gap for needed wet lab space in the region (e.g. market study or feasibility study).
- Plan for recruitment and training of the local workforce, including strategies to encourage work-based learning (apprenticeships, internships, etc.)
- Percentage of space that will be allocated for startups and small enterprises
- Percentage of space that will be open for student research
- Targeted outreach/programming for minority/women-owned startups and small enterprises
- Extent of partnerships in the region that will support the viability and growth of the local life sciences industry and success of wet lab facility tenants, including:
 - Universities and community colleges, for research, tech transfer, job training, and/or job placement
 - Local Workforce Innovation Boards (LWIB) for workforce placement and training
 - Health care and medical organizations
 - Start-up businesses that require wet lab space
 - Economic development organizations and trade associations
 - Investors and financial institutions
 - Corporations in the health care and life sciences sector

3. Dun and Bradstreet Universal Numbering System (DUNS) Number and System for Award Management (SAM)

Each applicant (unless the applicant is an individual or Federal or State awarding agency that is exempt from those requirements under 2 CFR § 25.110(b) or (c), or has an exception approved by the Federal or State awarding agency under 2 CFR § 25.110(d)) is required to:

- (i) Be registered in the System for Award Management (SAM) before submitting its application. To establish a SAM registration, go to www.SAM.gov and/or utilize this instructional link: [How to Register in SAM from the www.grants.illinois.gov Resource Links tab.](#)
- (ii) Provide a valid DUNS number in its application; and,

NOFO ID 2363-1673

- (iii) Continue to maintain an active SAM registration with current information at all times during which it has an active Federal, Federal pass-through or State award or an application or plan under consideration by a Federal or State awarding agency. The State awarding agency may not make a Federal pass-through or State award to an applicant until the applicant has complied with all applicable DUNS and SAM requirements and, if an applicant has not fully complied with the requirements by the time the State awarding agency is ready to make a Federal pass-through or State award, the State awarding agency may determine that the applicant is not qualified to receive a Federal pass-through or State award and use that determination as a basis for making a Federal pass-through or State award to another applicant.

4. Submission Dates and Times.

The application and all required documentation shall be submitted electronically and must be received no later than **5:00 p.m. on January 27, 2021**.

Failure to meet the application deadline may result in the Department returning application without review or may preclude the Department from making the award.

5. Intergovernmental Review, if applicable.

N/A

6. Funding Restrictions.

Pre-award costs are not allowable.

7. Other Submission Requirements.

Application materials must be submitted to the Department via the digital application. All required attachments must be uploaded into the digital application. The digital application can be found at bit.ly/ILWetLabsApplication (case sensitive).

If you have questions concerning the online digital application please submit them through bit.ly/ILWetLabs (case sensitive).

E. Application Review Information.

1. Criteria.

Grant proposals will be reviewed on a competitive basis. Each proposal will be scored on a 100-point scale. DCEO shall consider the following criteria when evaluating the application submittal:

(25 points) Need – Up to 25 points will be awarded to the applicant that can demonstrate the need in the region for wet lab space proposed by the applicant. This will be based on:

- The demonstration that the facility will fill a gap for needed wet lab space in the region (e.g. market study or feasibility study).
- The extent of partnerships in the region that will support the viability and growth of the local life sciences industry.

NOFO ID 2363-1673

(35 Points) Capacity – Up to 35 points will be awarded to the entity which demonstrates the ability to successfully complete the project for which the funds were intended within this funding opportunity. This grant program is for capital improvements. This will be based on:

- Experience in development of wet lab facilities, provision of business support services for wet lab tenants, and projects involving state or federal grants.
- Detail of budget for construction/renovation and operations, and adequacy of proposed funding sources for each. Higher scores will be awarded if budgets and funding sources can be verified through quotes/bids and letters of commitment, respectively.
- Timeline and identification or acquisition of necessary permits to perform construction.
- Recent monetary investments or anticipated monetary awards and grants for investment in the facility.

(40 Points) Quality – Up to 40 points will be awarded to the entity that demonstrates the totality of features and characteristics and project details defined in this funding opportunity and the ability to satisfy the requirements of the NOFO. This will be based on:

- Clearly defined layout and characteristics of the proposed facility, including photos and plot maps.
- Support services that will be provided to tenants. Higher scores will be awarded for the scope and quality of services that may include management training, business advisory services, mentorship, access to capital, supply chain resources, and recruiting.
- Plan for recruitment of the local workforce.
- Extent of partnerships in the region that will support the viability and growth of the local life sciences industry and success of wet lab facility tenants.
- Percentage of space that will be allocated for startups and small enterprises
- Percentage of space that will be open for student research
- Support services that will be provided to tenants. Higher scores will be awarded for the scope and quality of services that may include management training, business advisory services, mentorship, access to capital, supply chain resources, recruiting, programming and outreach for minority/women-owned startups or small enterprises

2. Review and Selection Process.

Applications will be graded using the Merit Review Process and scored on the criteria specified in Section E.1. DCEO will designate an Evaluation Committee to grade each application received for this funding opportunity. The final score of each committee member will be calculated and an average of all scores will be the final grantee score. Each applicant will then be ranked by their score. DCEO may consider geographic distribution of grantees in determining awards.

The Merit Based Review process is subject to appeal. However, evaluation scores cannot be appealed. The appeal must be submitted in writing to the Department within 14 calendar days after the date that the grant award notice has been published. The written appeal shall include the name and address of the appealing party, the identification of the grant and a statement of reasons for the appeal. To file an appeal, applicants must submit the appeal in writing and in accordance with the Merit-Based Application Review Appeals Process listed on the Grant Opportunities page of the DCEO website:

<https://www2.illinois.gov/dceo/AboutDCEO/GrantOpportunities/Pages/MeritAppReview.aspx>.

3. Anticipated Announcement and State Award Dates, if applicable.

The Department anticipates sending Notices of State Award by approximately March 3, 2021 but reserves the right to issue a reduced award, or not to issue any award.

F. Award Administration Information

1. State Award Notices.

The Notice of State Award (NOSA) will specify the funding terms and specific conditions resulting from the pre-award risk assessments. The NOSA must be accepted in the GATA Portal by an authorized representative of the grantee organization. The NOSA is not an authorization to begin performance or incur costs.

Unsuccessful applicants will be notified after the acceptance of the NOSA.

2. Administrative and National Policy Requirements. Code of Federal Regulations / Title 2 - Grants and Agreements / Vol. 1 / 2014-01-01194

Grant Award Payment

The grant agreement will specify the payment terms and the payment schedule pursuant to cash management requirements as stated in 44 Ill Admin. Code Title 44, Subtitle F, Part 7000 Section 120. The Department reserves the right to determine the appropriate payment structure.

3. Reporting.

Periodic Performance Report (PPR) and Periodic Financial Report (PFR)

Grantees funded through this NOFO are required to submit in the format required by the Grantor, at least on a quarterly basis, the PPR and PFR electronically to their assigned grant manager. The first of such reports shall cover the first three months after the award begins. Pursuant to 2 CFR 200.327, Periodic Financial Reports shall be submitted no later than 30 calendar days following the period covered by the report. Pursuant to 2 CFR 200.328, Periodic Performance Reports shall be submitted no later than 30 calendar days following the period covered by the report. Any additional reporting requirements will be disclosed in the NOSA.

Grantees are required within 60 calendar days following the end of the period of performance to submit a final closeout report in the format required by the Grantor (See 2 CFR 200.343).

Monitoring

Grantees funded through this NOFO are subject to fiscal and programmatic monitoring visits by the Department in accordance with 2 CFR 200.336. They must have an open-door policy allowing periodic visits by Department monitors to evaluate the progress of the project and provide documentation upon request of the monitor. Program staff will also maintain contact with participants and monitor progress and performance of the contracts. The Department may modify grants based on performance.

Audit

Grantees shall be subject to Illinois' statewide Audit Report Review requirements. Terms of the Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996 (31 USC 7501-7507), Subpart F of 2 CFR Part 200, and the audit rules set forth under the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act shall apply (See 30 ILCS 708/65(c)).

G. State Awarding Agency Contact(s)

Please direct any questions regarding this NOFO to bit.ly/ILWetLabs (case sensitive).

H. Other Information, if applicable

This is a one-time initiative as defined within the annual appropriation bill (Public Act 101-0638) set forth by the Illinois General Assembly. This notice does not obligate the State of Illinois to make any State awards.