



**Illinois**  
**Department of Commerce**  
& Economic Opportunity  

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**OFFICE OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP,**  
**INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY**  
JB Pritzker, Governor

## Rebuild Illinois Wet Lab Capital Program

### FAQ

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## General Questions

**Q: Are these funds of Rebuild Illinois federal flow through funds?**

*A: No. These are state funds.*

**Q: As I understood, there will be a maximum of 4 grants made?**

*A: We anticipate 1 to 4 awards will be made. The number of awards made will be determined by the competitive review process.*

**Q: Will applications be submitted under confidential terms or will they be publicly available?**

*A: Grant applications are considered public information. Generally, the Department would redact any “private information” under 7(1)(b) of FOIA which includes signatures, email addresses, bank accounts etc. We also generally redact any hourly pricing (competitive pricing) information under 7(1)(g) which exempts trade secrets, commercial and financial information furnished under a claim of confidentiality.*

*If there is specific financial or commercial information or trade secrets you would like to keep private, you should mark that information as confidential (“submitted under a claim of confidentiality”) and provide a narrative of the competitive harm.*

## Eligibility

### Applicant Type

**Q: Can government agencies be awarded the grant?**

*A: Yes, if they meet all other eligibility criteria noted in the NOFO Overview [here](#) and are selected through the competitive process.*

**Q: Does it make any difference if applicant is a not for profit vs. profit organization?**

*A: All potential applicants are eligible as long as they meet all the other eligibility requirements noted in the NOFO Overview [here](#).*

**Q: Is this available to private corporations as long as they meet requirements?**

*A: Yes. All potential applicants are eligible as long as they meet all the other eligibility requirements noted in the NOFO Overview [here](#).*

**Q: Would a company with a current government contract (DoD, USDA, etc..) still qualify for this?**

*A: Yes, as long as they meet all the other eligibility requirements noted in the NOFO Overview [here](#).*

**Q: If an organization is located in an Illinois Enterprise Zone, can that be noted?**

*A: Yes, this information should be included in the project narrative and/or application.*

## Project Type

**Q: Does the scope of the Wet Lab Funding Opportunity include laboratory space for green technologies such as energy storage or is it primarily focused on the life sciences?**

*A: Projects must support the life sciences industry, which can be viewed broadly.*

**Q: Is life science to be viewed broadly or narrowly? Does the use have to be specific to drug development and healthcare research and development, or more broadly with application in life-sciences, advanced manufacturing and beyond?**

*A: This is to be viewed broadly.*

**Q: Will this grant cover capital projects on a leased building?**

*A: Yes, however it's worth noting lease payments are ineligible expenses for grant funds and cannot be included as match.*

**Q: Does the project space need to be multi-tenant, or can it be a single tenant if there is a broader proposal for collaboration (regardless of tenancy) that satisfies program objectives?**

*A: The project space needs to be multi-tenant.*

## Program Requirements

**Q: Regarding the 10% apprenticeship requirement: Do I understand correctly – if the project costs \$100 million, \$1.0M needs to be spent on apprentice labor?**

*A: IL Works is not related to dollar value like BEP is. Illinois Works is an apprenticeship goal for US Dept. of Labor certified apprentices to perform:*

- 1. 10% of total labor hours actually worked on a project, or*
- 2. 10% of the estimated labor hours in each prevailing wage category, **whichever is less.***

## Timing

### Program

**Q: What is the deadline for submission?**

*A: March 1, 2021 at 5:00pm.*

**Q: When will grantees be awarded?**

*A: We anticipate we will notify successful applicants on April 5, 2021. The post-notification process – which involves working with DCEO's Grant Management Unit to pull the grant agreement together can take around 3 months following the notification, although we work to pull this together sooner, if possible.*

### Project

**Q: Can projects can start mid-2021?**

*A: Yes. Per the NOFO overview [here](#), 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, therefore funds can be used for new projects and others that are currently underway.*

**Q: What is the envisioned performance period for these awards? i.e., when do grant dollars need to be spent by?**

*A: That has not been predetermined. It would be settled when entering into a grant agreement for those selected for an award.*

**Q: Can timeline to start project impact score?**

**A:** Yes. This will be considered as part of the “Capacity” portion of scoring. Below is an overview of this section and the rest can be found [here](#).

*(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.*

## Preparation for Application

**Q: How do you get a DUNS number?**

**A:** Any company can get a DUNS number for free in just a matter of days. You can find information about how to do that [here](#).

**Q: Does a specific site/location need to be selected by time of application or are proposed sites acceptable?**

**A:** No. This would impact the “Capacity” portion of scoring but is not required. Below is an overview of this section and the rest can be found [here](#).

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- *Recent monetary investments or anticipated monetary awards and grants for investment in the facility.*

## Application

### Budget

### Template

**Q: The Section B worksheet only includes lines 1-11, with line 12 stating “Total Costs NON-State Grant Funds (17 & 18).” Where are these lines?**

*A: Lines 17 and 18 are hidden, but they are automatically calculated based on other cells/tabs, as is the “Total Costs” line. As long as other tabs are filled in correctly, you do not need to worry about this.*

**Q: The instructions of the Section A and Section B references that there are lines 1-18 but there are only lines 1-12. Are the instructions incorrect or the budget sections are missing lines 13 to 18?**

*A: Lines 13 to 18 are hidden, but they are automatically calculated based on other cells/tabs, as is the “Total Costs” line. As long as other tabs are filled in correctly, you do not need to worry about this.*

**Q: What is the definition of Program Income?**

*A: Program income is revenue generated from activities associated with or generated as a result of the grant program.*

*Examples include but are not limited to:*

- *Fees charged to register participants for a workshop or conference.*
- *The sale of commodities, services or items fabricated or produced under a sponsored program.*

- *Rental or usage fees charged for use of supplies or equipment purchased with grant program funds.*
- *Revenue from license fees, royalties, copyrights and patents developed as a result of grant funded activities.*
- *Revenue realized through the sale of products made under a program.*
- *Sale of real property.*
- *Membership fees charged to individuals and organizations for grant related activities.*

## Match

**Q: Are in-kind company contributions inclusive of capital, operating expenses and other costs that the company will contribute to this site?**

*A: No, this must be capital.*

**Q: It is my understanding that the matching costs must meet the eligible expenses indicated in the NOFO. Thus, would you confirm that operational expenses (salaries and fringes of grantee's personnel that will oversee the project) cannot be used as matching costs?**

*A: Salaries and fringes of grantee's personnel that will oversee the project cannot be used as matching costs.*

**Q: Is the 1:1 match required to be cash?**

*A: The match can be cash or in-kind.*

*NOTE: All match, including in-kind, would need to be in alignment with the bondability guidelines found [here](#).*

**Q: Is the match applied periodically as project expenses are incurred?**

*A: Applicants will need to report match spending on their standard Periodic Financial Report. This does not have to match every single dollar within each specific budget item category for each reporting period as long as the total match of the period of the project equates to the total grant amount.*

*Example: An applicant could have \$5,000 in their State (Grant) Budget – Section A – for Design/Engineering but \$20,000 in their non-State (Match) Budget – Section B – for that category. Then they the reverse could be true for the Wiring/Electrical category, with \$20,000 in the Section A State tab and \$5,000 in the Section B non-State (match) tab. The total is still a 1:1, with \$25,000 on each side, but the individual categories don't have to be identical in that regard. In this example, it would lead to more of the match being spent early on (for Design/Engineering)*

*and more Grant funds spent later (for Wiring/Electrical). Many grantees do decide to spread it out evenly though.*

**Q: Can the value of a newly constructed Core and Shell space be considered for matching funds? If so, do the compliance requirements apply to the pre-existing structure?**

*A: Yes, donation of the structure is allowable. As it already exists, in an of itself, and it's a building- not an activity, compliance aspects would not technically apply to it as far as BEP and IllinoisWorks.*

**Q: Will the 1:1 match be a minimum criterion? Is it anticipated that a larger match would make the project more competitive?**

*A: A larger match does not directly make the project more competitive (i.e. it's not a direct scoring criterion). But a greater match might be associated with other things that would make a project more competitive.*

**Q: Is the awardee required to have the entire estimated match amount in-hand at project start?**

*A: While it would be good business practice and would be part of the Merit Review scoring, applicants can include estimated match they have yet to obtain. If a successful application does not already indicate an expected timeframe for the availability of the match, the DCEO Grants Management Unit would reach out to obtain that information.*

*NOTE: The scoring portion mentioned above is for "Capacity" which includes "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."*

**Q: Will all matching funds be subject to the same minority contracting, and apprenticeship requirements?**

*A: Minority contracting and apprenticeship requirements apply to the whole project.*

## Expenses

**Q: Regarding this NOFO, grant funds can only be requested for construction costs and capital expenses. Section A of the Budget template has a category called Construction Management and Oversight, is this category allowed as part of the construction costs and capital expenses?**

**A:** Yes. That is a standard allowance limited to 10% - 15% of total State Grant funds in the budget. Not all grantees include it as part of their budgets, but when they do it's allowable up to that range.

**Q:** Are eligible expenses limited to wet lab spaces or include additional infrastructure work required to support wet lab space (i.e. chemical storage, offices, etc)?

**A:** If they are bondable expenses, listed in the application and directly related to the program, this should be allowable.

## Other

**Q:** When loading documents into the web portal, are there any file size limits?

**A:** For "Areas Affected by the Project (maps)" you can upload up to 20 documents with a file size of 100MB or less. For all others, you are able to upload 1 document with a file size of 1G or less.

## Application Review

**Q:** Is the scoring criteria on the website?

**A:** Yes. The scoring criteria can be found in the Wet Lab Capital Program NOFO Overview [here](#).

**Q:** Are applications reviewed and awarded on a rolling basis, or collectively after the final application date?

**A:** Collectively, after the final application date.

**Q:** If the tenant is also the grant awardee (i.e. the owner of the facility is also the user) how does this impact the quality scoring criteria which evaluates services provided to tenants, or asks for space distribution by tenant entity type?

**A:** This must be multi-tenant space. Additionally, the "Quality" portion of the score (40 pts) would be impacted by services provided to tenants and percentage of space available for startups, small enterprises and student research.

## Funding

**Q: Does the state reimburse awardee as project expenses are incurred?**

*A: Capital funding payment provisions allow advance disbursement up to 25% of the grant amount if the grantee indicates to DCEO's Grants Management Unit, in writing (via letter), that they need such an advance in order to begin the project. The balance would then be via reimbursement based on reported expenditures. However, if a grantee indicates no need for an advance, then the grant is set up as 100% reimbursement. DCEO can't do advances across the board, as that would be outside the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA) rules. There has to be an indicated need in order to generate an advance.*