

Upcoming Events

June 17th

DBE Certification
Session

10:00 am - 2:00 pm
D-1 DBE Resource
Center
900 South Des Plaines
Street
Chicago, IL
Contact:
Theo Joyner
(312)419-7260

June 26th

Documentation &
Survey Workshop
9:30 am - 12:30 pm
EIGERlab
605 Fulton Ave
Rockford, IL
Contact:
Kayla McCoy
kayla.mccoy@illinois.gov

June 27th

Navigating the IDOT
Construction Manuals
Workshop
9:30 am - 12:30 pm
River Valley Metro
1137 E. 5000 North
Road
Bourbonnais, IL
Contact:
Minal Hahm
(262)376-4246

For a complete list of
events, visit [http://www.
diversity.dot.illinois.gov/
event_calendar.aspx](http://www.diversity.dot.illinois.gov/event_calendar.aspx)



Illinois Department of Transportation Diversity Matters!

June 2013

Legislation to Provide DBEs with Loan Assistance Awaits Governor's Action

Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBEs) throughout the state of Illinois could soon have the opportunity to receive loan assistance through the Disadvantaged Business Revolving Loan Program. Recently, both chambers in the Illinois General Assembly passed legislation to create the Working Capital Revolving Loan Fund. The bill is now sitting on the Governor's desk awaiting action.

"I am pleased that the House and Senate passed this measure that provides

a more level playing field for ready and willing firms to participate on state construction projects," Governor Quinn said. "This legislation will support jobs and encourage business growth in Illinois. We are committed to helping disadvantaged business enterprises build capacity and compete for economic opportunities."

Lack of financing for working capital, or the inability to attain lines of credit are among the issues that severely hinder DBEs from obtaining bonding and

reaching the greater goal of becoming prime contractors. IDOT's disparity study recommended and supported a financing program to help eligible DBEs find relief to those barriers.

This is not a guaranteed loan. DBEs must be participating on a contract for a current IDOT project, meet financial viability requirements and use the funds for payment of items in the normal course of business, i.e., certified payrolls and pay items. Application requirements will be established through rules in JCAR.

Surety Bonding for Contractors Competing for Public Works Projects

Small contractors can now qualify for surety bonding to compete for local, state and federal public works contracts in Illinois through the Small Contractor Bridge Loan Program. Surety bonding has long been a major barrier for small contractors, especially contractors certified as minority owned (MBE), women-owned (WBE) and Disadvantage Business Enterprises (DBE).

The program is currently in the pilot stage, with \$500,000 from both the Illinois Finance Authority and Chicago Community Loan

Fund (CCLF) for a total of \$1 million in available financing. Initially, the program will be available to businesses headquartered in the six county Chicago metropolitan areas (Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry and Will counties).

Working capital is available to small contractors after they have successfully competed for and own a public works contract with a local, state or federal agency that has signed onto the program. Currently, several state agencies have signed on to participate, including

the Illinois Department of Transportation, the Illinois Tollway and the Capital Development Board.

For contractors accepted into the Contractor Empowerment Program, the ability to bid on public works contracts will open up new and more lucrative business opportunities. For more information on the Small Contractor Empowerment Program, contact Juan A. Cordero Vasquez at jvasques@inner-city.net or (312) 341-9080 x 203.

IDOT Announces Current Procurement Opportunities

The Illinois Department of Transportation announces current procurement opportunities open for bid. To find a full list of opportunities, potential vendors can visit the Illinois Procurement Bulletin at www.purchase.state.il.us.

Winning with the State II Offers Tools for a Successful Business Venture

As part of Governor Quinn's efforts to expand opportunities for minority contractors, Winning with the State II business forum was held on Monday, June 3 at Malcolm X College in Chicago attracting dozens of Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBEs). The forum is designed to boost participation of minority- and women-owned firms in state contracts. This event follows a successful Winning with the State kick-off business forum held in March at the Illinois Institute of Technology.

"In order to promote growth and self-sufficiency for DBEs and other small emerging businesses in Illinois, it is important to give qualified firms that are interested to do business with

the state a fair opportunity on state contracts and support and retain them," Governor Pat Quinn said.

Through outreach events like these, the Illinois Department of Transportation hopes to improve communication to ensure business owners know the resources that are available to help businesses qualify for contracts, understand the contracting process, build mutually beneficial relationships with majority contractors, and develop better bid proposals when contract opportunities arise.

"It is imperative that in order to successfully carry out Governor Quinn's transportation vision of

making Illinois globally competitive and boosting economic growth, we have to become proactive to maximize contract participation opportunities for socially or economically disadvantaged business owners throughout the state," Illinois Transportation Secretary Ann L. Schneider said.

Representatives from the Illinois Tollway, Central Management Services, Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity and the Capital Development Board were among attendees at the Winning with the State II event. Planning is already under way for the next Winning with the State forum, which will be held in the South Suburbs of Chicago.

IDOT Receives Recognition for Disability Program at Annual Awards Program

The Illinois Department of Transportation was recognized, along with several other state agencies, for hiring employees through the Successful Disability Opportunities Program at the annual Interagency Committee on Employees with Disabilities (ICED) Awards Program. Created through statute in 1974, ICED advocates for the rights of state employees with disabilities, serves as a resource for state agencies on disability-related issues and achieves its goals through education and legislation.

Illinois Department of Human Rights Director Rocco J. Claps and Department

of Illinois Human Services Secretary Michelle R.B. Saddler also presented awards to the Illinois Tollway, State Representative Greg Harris, Schnucks grocery store and four employees of the Illinois Department of Human Services (DHS) for doing an exceptional job of supporting persons with disabilities in the workplace over the past year.

The ICED "Advocate of the Year" was awarded to Wanda Bethel Satkas (DHS) who works at the Ludeman Developmental Center in Park Forest. Satkas has advocated for years on behalf of her son and others with autism. The ICED "Employee of the Year" went to

Richard Jonathas who has worked for DHS in the Division of Rehabilitative Services in Waukegan for ten years. Receiving Certificates of Awards were DHS employees Elisabeth Mann of Rockford and Benro Ogunyipe of Chicago.

To obtain more information about ICED, contact Susan Allen at the Department of Human Rights, (217) 785-5119 (V), (866) 740-3953 (TTY) or Susan.Allen@Illinois.gov. You can also visit www.state.il.us/iced.

2013 Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program Applications Now Being Accepted

The Illinois Department of Transportation is now accepting applications from eligible project sponsors interested in applying for funding from the 2013 Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP). ITEP is a federally funded program designed to improve the quality of life in Illinois by promoting alternative transportation, such as bike and hike trails, streetscape and beautification, and preserving transportation resources.

"We are very excited to facilitate this program and encourage those eligible to apply," Illinois Transportation Secretary Ann L. Schneider said. "This program will expand travel options, improve safety and enhance the quality of life of residents throughout Illinois."

ITEP provides federal funds to promote sustainable and livable communities, develop alternative transportation, and preserve visual and cultural resources. Any local or state government with

taxing authority is eligible to apply and sponsor an enhancement project for the competitive awarded funds. Local matching funds are required and work must begin on the projects within three years.

The application information is on the ITEP website at: <http://www.dot.il.gov/opp/itep.html>. The deadline to submit on-line applications is Tuesday, August 20, 2013.

Mississippi River Bridge Project Snapshot

One of the goals of the Mississippi River Bridge (MRB) project is to create a diverse job site contractor workforce. For the week of May 19-25, 2013, there was an overall workforce of 27.5% minorities and 6% female on the MRB project. For more information, please visit <http://www.newriverbridge.org/>.