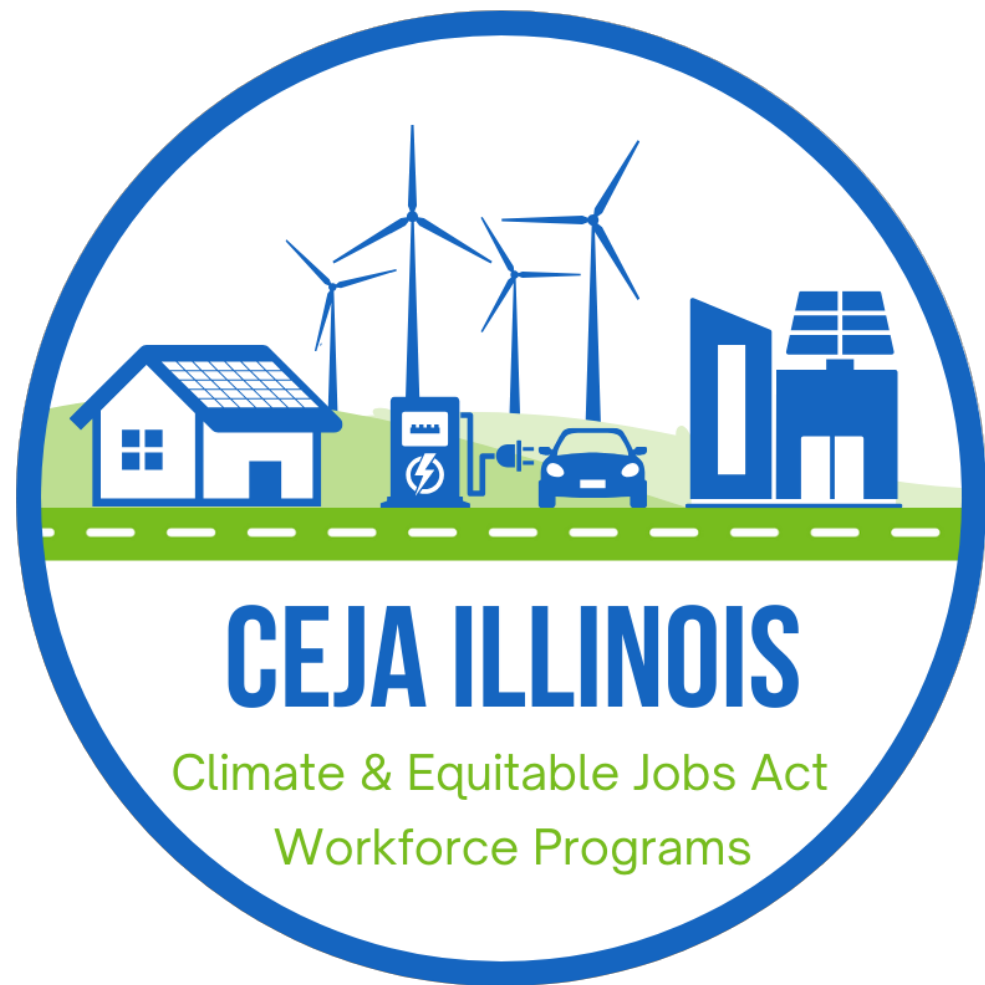




CEJA Workforce Programs Overview

September 23, 2026

Presented by
Larry Dawson, Northern Regional Administrator

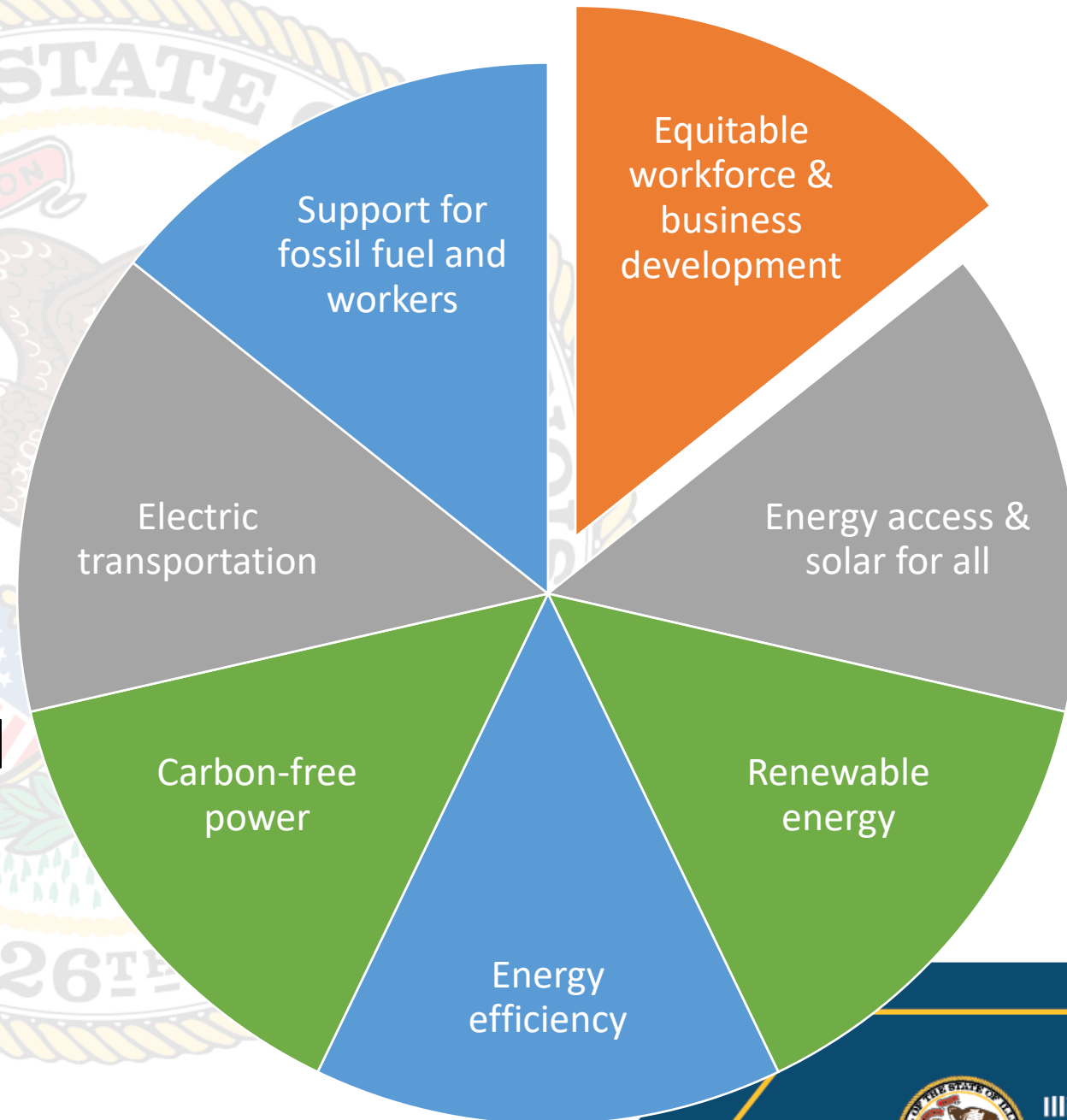


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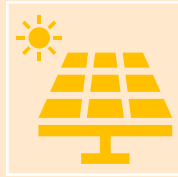
JB Pritzker, Governor

Climate and Equitable Jobs Act (CEJA)

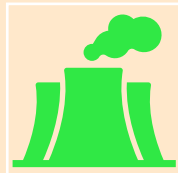
Comprehensive energy legislation enacted in 2021 to equitably accelerate the adoption of renewable energy generation, electrification, electric vehicles and energy efficiency



A few of CEJA's Main Goals



Reach 40% renewable energy by 2030, 50% by 2040, 100% by 2050.



Achieve a carbon-free power grid by 2045, closing all fossil-fuel power plants.



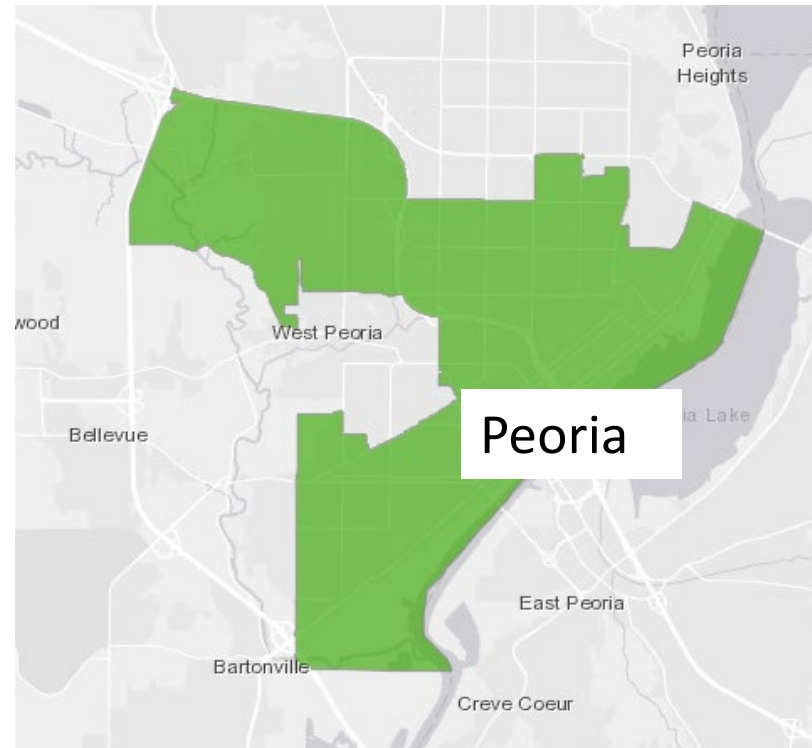
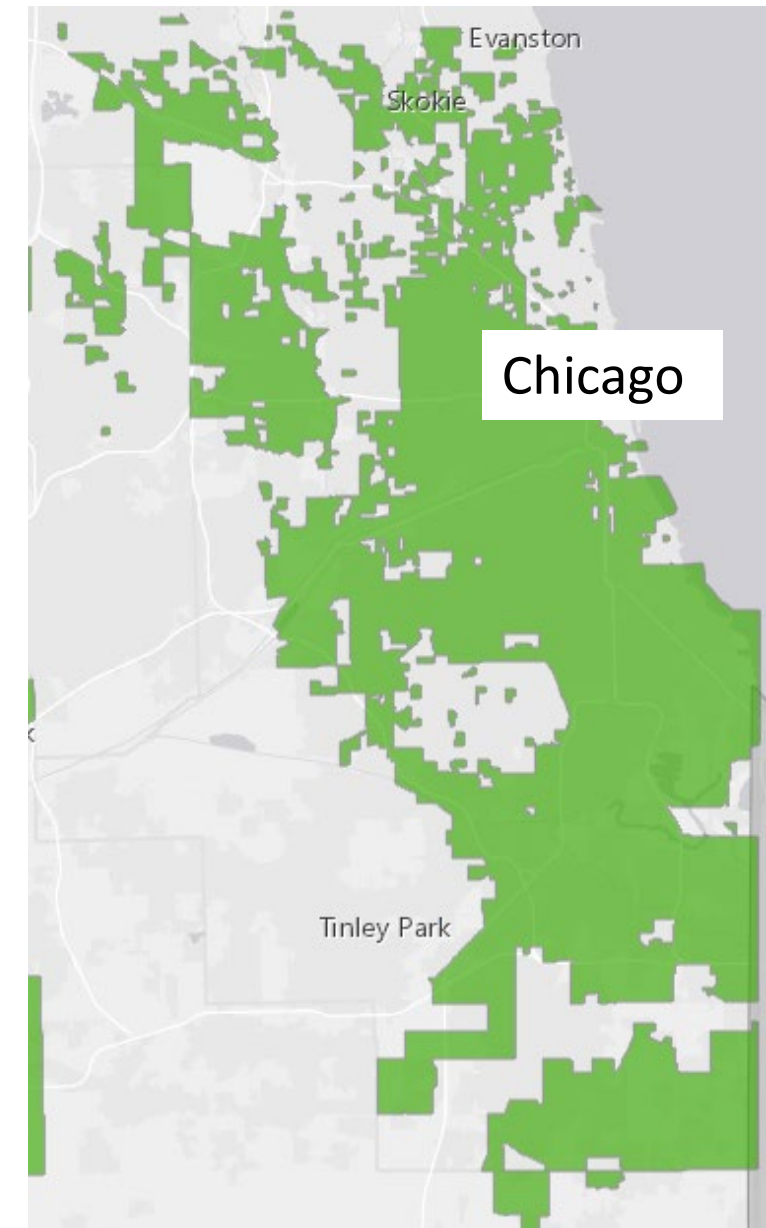
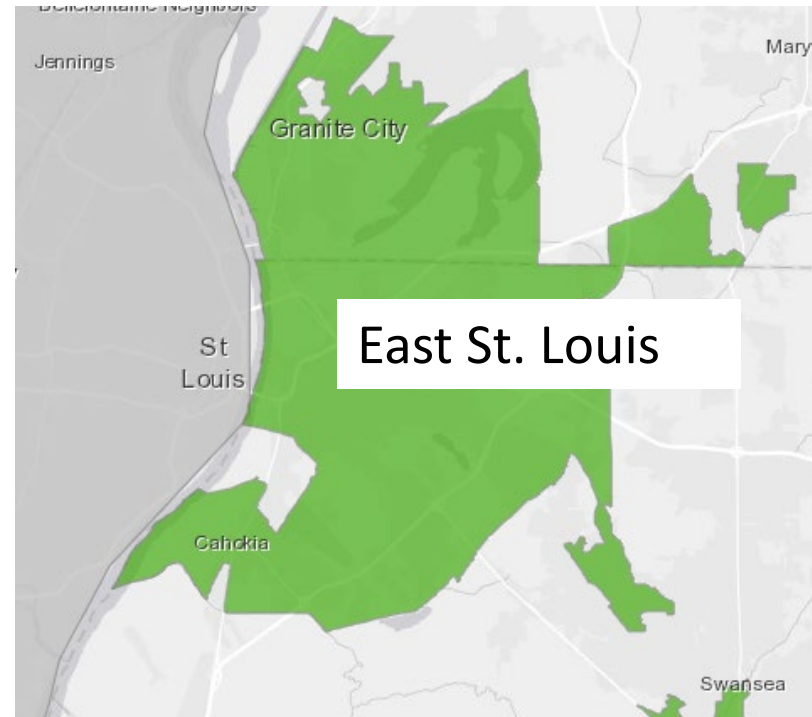
Equitably grow the clean energy workforce to meet the demand for clean energy technologies and services.



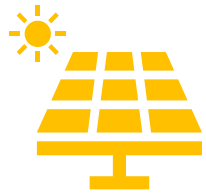
Who will programs serve?

Target populations:

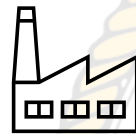
- People living in equity investment eligible communities (environmental justice or R3 communities)
- Former members of foster care
- People with barriers to employment (such as incarceration)



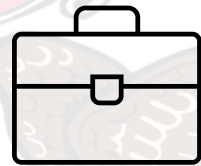
What clean energy jobs will the programs prepare people for?



- Solar energy
- Solar thermal



- Manufacturing



- Professional Services
- Sales
- Site Assessment
- HR



- Energy efficiency
- Healthy building materials



- Energy storage
- Industries achieving emission reductions

Clean energy jobs **manufacture, develop, build, install, maintain, or provide ancillary services** in these industries. They provide administrative, sales, and other support functions in these industries.

*Listed occupations are examples of the kinds of jobs a person might get after receiving CEJA training

Core Responsibilities

1

Workforce Training Programs



Climate Works Pre-apprenticeship prepares participants for registered apprenticeships and Network Hubs target jobs in clean energy sectors

2

Contractor Support Programs



Contractor Incubator Program and Primes Contractor Accelerator support small businesses entering the clean energy sector

3

Economic Development & Justice



Energy Transition Community Grants and Community Solar Energy Sovereignty initiatives ensure equitable distribution of benefits

CEJA Workforce Programs



Clean Jobs Workforce Network Program

- Prepares individuals for entry-level clean energy jobs
- 14 locations across Illinois with standardized curriculum
- Includes funding for barrier reduction assistance
- Provide supportive services and \$15 per training hr in stipends



Energy Transition Navigators Program

- Recruits participants for CEJA workforce programs
- Conducts community outreach and education
- Builds connections between communities, employers, and stakeholders

These complementary programs create a comprehensive ecosystem to support Illinois residents entering the clean energy workforce, with special focus on equity and accessibility.

CEJA Workforce Programs



Climate Works Pre -apprenticeship Program

Three regional centers deliver pre-apprenticeship training with basic construction skills and clean energy focus

Includes barrier reduction funding to ensure program accessibility

Provide supportive services and \$15 per training hr in stipends



Returning Resident Clean Jobs Training Program

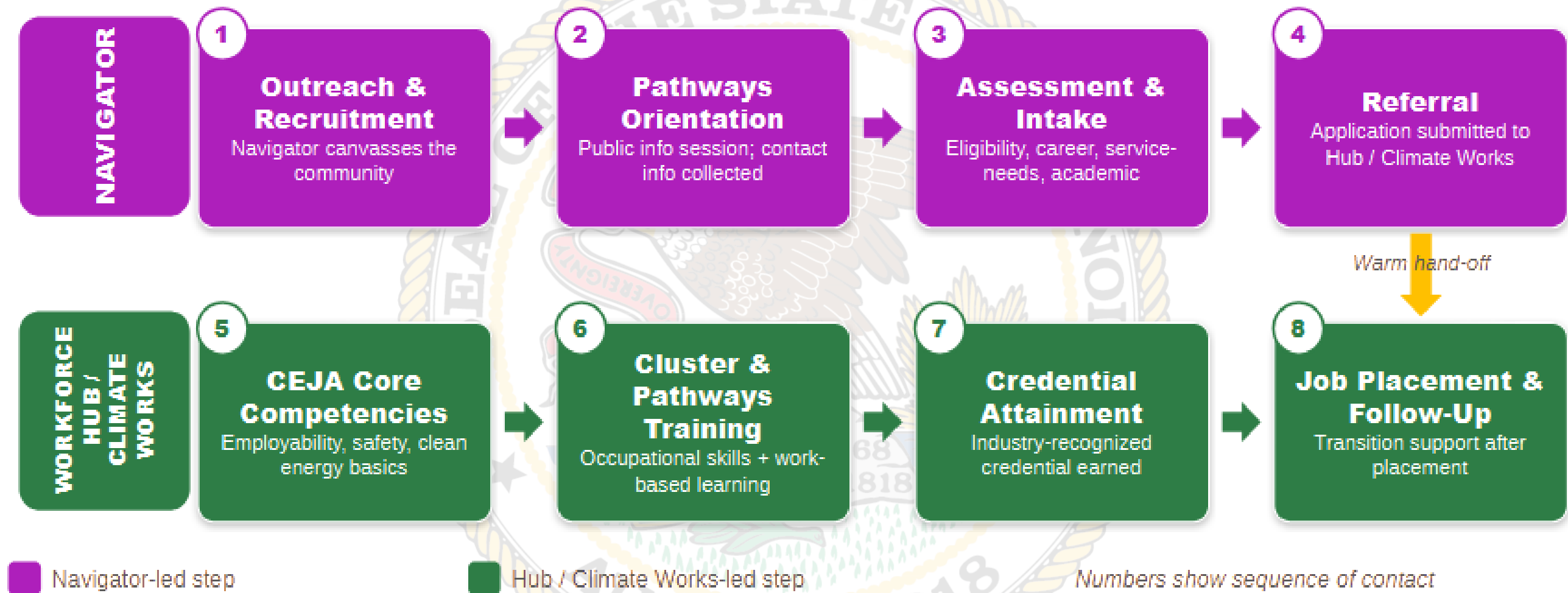
Provides specialized training for individuals in IDOC custody to prepare for entry-level clean energy jobs

Uses standardized clean energy curriculum with adaptations for correctional settings

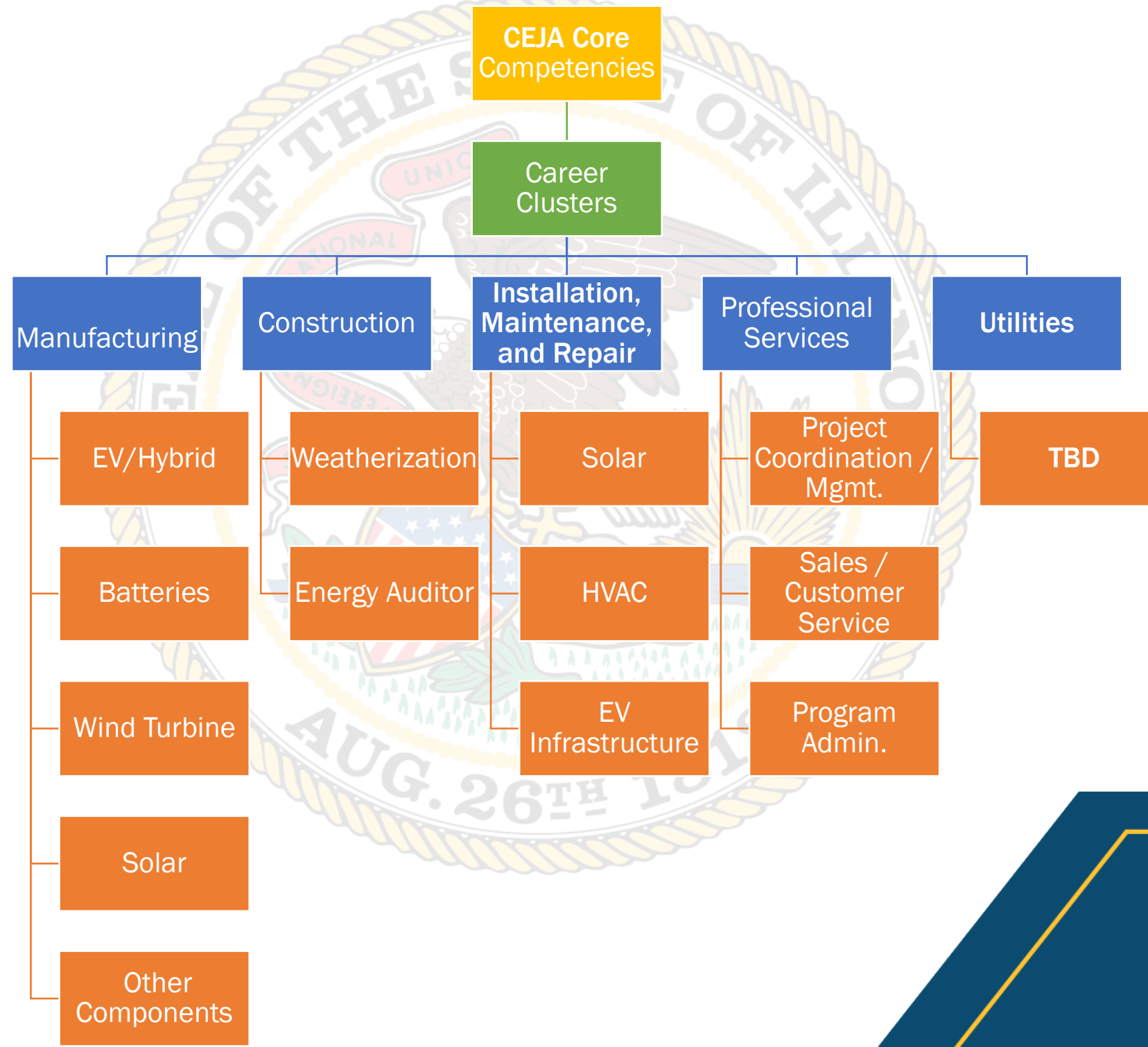


Both programs create career pathways for traditionally underserved populations, ensuring that the clean energy transition benefits all Illinois communities.

Participant Flow



New Framework



Barrier Reduction Services

Navigators help assess the need for support during intake, assessment, and career exploration.

Transportation

Childcare costs

Driver's education
fees

Personal health

Emergency bill
payments

Referrals for other
services (mental
health, housing,
substance use)

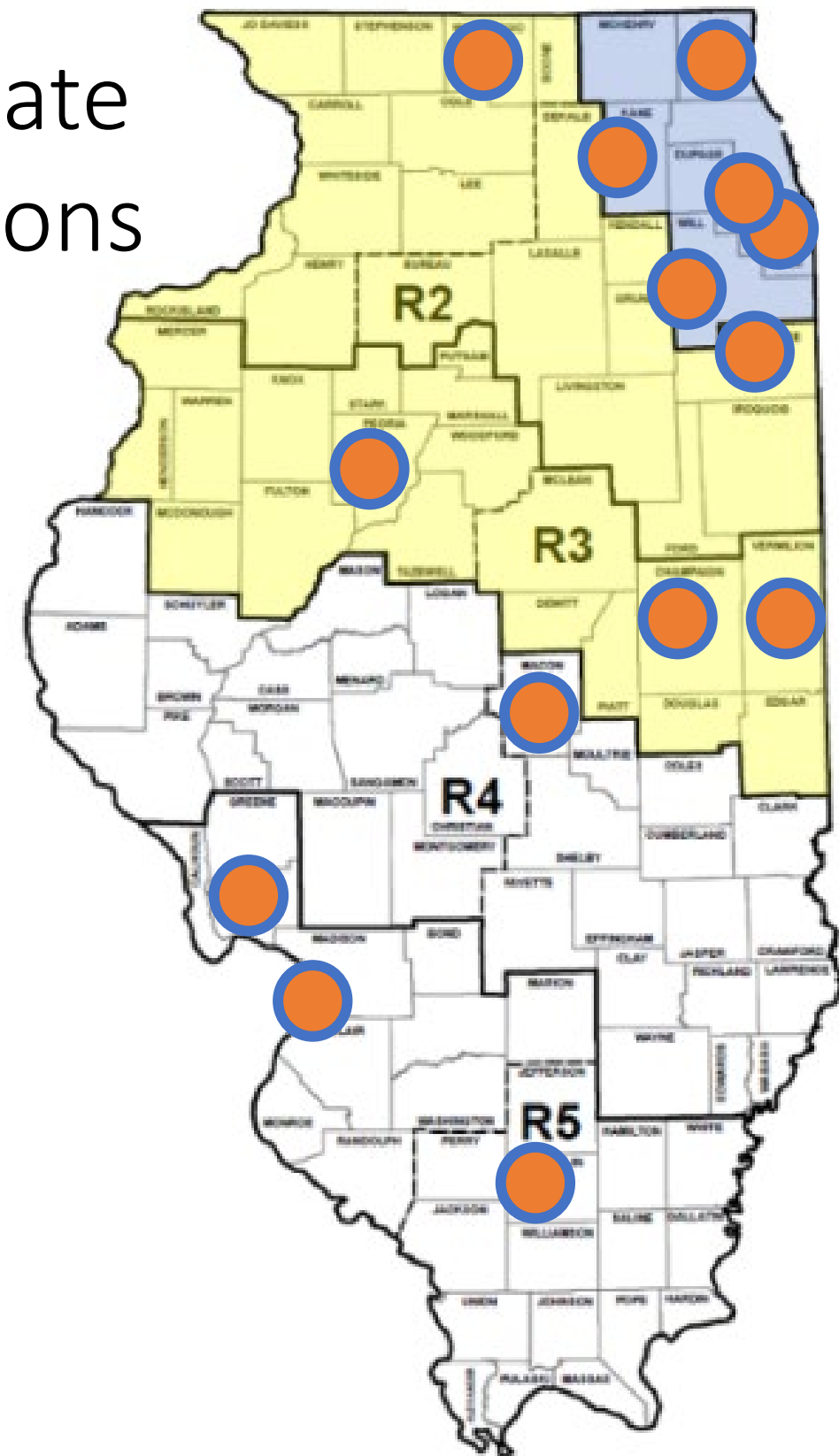
Work boots and
uniforms

Apprenticeship
application fees

Workforce Hubs, ET Navigators, and Climate Works Pre-Apprenticeship Program Locations

- Chicago West/Southwest Side
- Chicago South Side
- Kankakee
- Joliet
- Waukegan
- Aurora
- Rockford
- Champaign
- Peoria
- Danville
- Decatur
- Carbondale
- East St. Louis
- Alton

<https://www.illinoisworknet.com/ceja/>



CEJA Workforce & Business Development Ecosystem

Workforce training programs



Clean Jobs
Workforce
Network
Program



Climate Works
Pre-
apprenticeship
Program



Energy Transition
Navigator
Program



Returning
Resident
Clean Jobs
Training Program



FEJA
workforce
programs

Contractor support programs



Contractor
Incubator
Program



Primes
Contractor
Accelerator

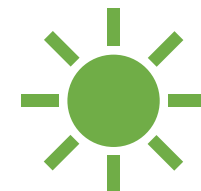
Economic development, jobs & environmental justice



Energy Transition
Community Grant



Equitable
Energy Future
Grant



Coal to
solar



Community
Solar Energy
Sovereignty

Future Energy Jobs Act (FEJA)

FEJA: The Foundation for CEJA

The Future Energy Jobs Act, enacted in 2016, laid the groundwork for CEJA with three key workforce development programs:

Craft Apprenticeship Program

Supports entry into skilled trades with focus on renewable energy installations and infrastructure

Multi -Cultural Jobs Program

Provides innovative, employer-driven training approaches for underrepresented communities

Solar Pipeline Training Program

Focuses specifically on developing skills for solar energy occupations and installation



Multi -Cultural Jobs Program



The Multi-Cultural Jobs Program provides an opportunity to provide innovative, employer-driven training approaches that pair education and occupational training with work-based learning and supportive services to individuals in need of self-sustaining employment.

Key Program Elements:

- Wrap-around supportive services address barriers
- Work-based learning provides real-world experience
- Employer partnerships ensure relevant skill development

The program reaches communities traditionally underrepresented in the energy sector, including:

- Black and Latino communities
- Women in energy trades
- Rural communities affected by energy transitions
- Environmental justice areas

The Solar Pipeline Training Program

Designed to support skill development, supportive services, and solar training services for qualified, traditionally underserved participants seeking employment in the clean energy industry, *specifically in solar occupations.*

Program Goals

1 Increase Solar Workforce Diversity

Create pathways for underrepresented groups to enter the rapidly growing solar industry

2 Build Technical Competency

Develop skills in solar installation, maintenance, sales, and design to meet industry demand

3 Support Industry Growth

Address workforce shortages in the solar sector to enable Illinois' renewable energy expansion



Programs Included in Cycle 2 NOFO Release (2027-2030)

- Energy Transition Navigator Program (“Navigator”) — recruits, screens, and refers participants into training
- Clean Jobs Workforce Network Program (“Workforce Hub”) — delivers clean energy job training
- Climate Works Pre-apprenticeship Program – provides construction pre-apprenticeship training to prepare people for registered apprenticeship programs (RAPs)
- These three programs are designed to work together, region by region
 - The Navigator is the front door; the Hub delivers the training and placement



Clean Jobs Curriculum Framework Revisions

- CEJA Statute requires updates every 3 years
- Stakeholder Outreach and Engagement
 - 135 stakeholders – grantees, employers, CBOs, workforce
 - 18 focus groups
 - RFI responses
- Informed by 2026 Clean Energy Jobs Inventory:
<https://ler.illinois.edu/climate-jobs-institute-archive/inventoryil/>
- 2027-2029 Clean Jobs Curriculum Framework:
<https://dceo.illinois.gov/content/dam/soi/en/web/dceo/ceja/documents/ceja-2027-2029-clean-jobs-curriculum-framework.pdf>

Funding Opportunities Information

September 29th, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm: CEJA ET Navigator and Workforce Hub Bidders' Conference - [REGISTRATION](#)

September 30th, 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm: CEJA Climate Works Bidders' Conference – [REGISTRATION](#)

October 6th, 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm: Tips for Responding to CEJA Workforce NOFOs - [REGISTRATION](#)



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Partnerships Potential Partner List

*email CEO.CEJA@illinois.gov to be added to the list

CEJA Map: <https://dceo.illinois.gov/ceja/map.html>



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Questions?



thank you!

Thank you for your attention today. We welcome your questions about CEJA programs and how they can benefit your community or organization.

For more information, visit: illinois.gov/ceja