



# Economic Development Week

## May 2021



**Illinois**  
**Department of Commerce**  
& Economic Opportunity  
JB Pritzker, Governor



**INTERSECT**Illinois



## Dear State of Illinois Partner,

Illinois is and always has been a powerhouse in the US and the global economy. Illinoisans have a long legacy of playing to our strengths and leading the nation in the sectors where we thrive – and time and time again throughout history, we've found success in manufacturing. We created the first modern skyscraper, revolutionized the agriculture industry, and connected the nation through rail. As home to a broad range of industries – from agriculture to manufacturing, tech to transportation and logistics, life sciences and more – our state is constantly at the cutting edge of innovation. Despite the impact the global pandemic has brought upon us all, it's our diverse communities and our diverse economy here in Illinois that has propelled growth, sustained our resiliency during this unprecedented time, and that will continue to carry us forward.

Illinois is home to one of the most highly educated and skilled workforces of anywhere in the nation. Our world class universities, and a strategic geographic location continues to make us a global hub for diverse industries across the board. We are the 18th largest economy in the world, the most diverse economy in the Midwest, and have unmatched access to transportation systems and the global supply chain. We know these core assets are what companies look for when they weigh critical choices on where to invest, grow, and locate their workers. It's for this reason and more that 37 Fortune 500 Companies currently call Illinois home – including ADM, John Deere, United Airlines and Walgreens – and with that list growing every year.

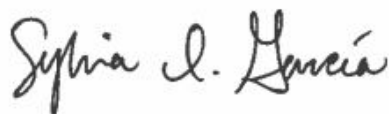
With the right investments, we will continue to grow our economy and our communities. In our 5-year economic growth plan – we provide a blueprint for the future of Illinois – one which calls for investment in robust workforce development, infrastructure, and policies to promote inclusive growth for companies and communities alike. This includes crafting equity driven programs to support small, minority and women owned businesses and entrepreneurs. As key contributors to our economy, we know that we must also focus on quality of life enhancements that make all our communities more desirable to live, work, and thrive. Illinois cannot prosper unless everyone, no matter their geographic location, is given an equitable opportunity to succeed.

Despite the damage of COVID-19, Illinois is showing signs of an economic rebound. Today, we see people returning to work, industries reopening, and new business starts with over 169,000 of them in 2020 alone. With over a \$1 billion in economic relief deployed by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) to date – we are committed to rolling out additional resources that will help small businesses make up for lost revenues, and focus on bringing workers and consumers back safely. Most importantly, economic recovery is incumbent on continued efforts to increase vaccination rates, expand testing and provide public health driven mitigations to ensure case counts decrease at a rapid pace.

Investment in Illinois is picking up – with several major recent company commitments to the State creating 90,000 jobs collectively. This serves as an optimistic preview of what is in store for the Illinois economy, and the economic opportunity on the horizon.

We did not get here by accident – and we surely cannot do this work alone. That's why, this year, as we celebrate National Economic Development Week in Illinois, we give special thanks to the economic developers and partners who contribute to the success of our great state. Our economic development partners, local units of government, and communities will and continue to play a pivotal role in driving investments to our communities.

Sincerely,



Governor JB Pritzker & DCEO Acting Director Sylvia Garcia



Dear Colleagues,

Economic development involves a broad range of activities to attract, create, and retain jobs, foster growth and develop an inclusive economy, intentionally improving a community's economic well-being and quality of life. This requires strong collaboration between industry, government and a multitude of community stakeholders. Both the Illinois Economic Development Association (IEDA) and Intersect Illinois embrace these unique partnerships to advance strong and thriving communities throughout the state.

While 2020 was a challenging year for us all, we are humbled and proud of how our community - and the entire state of Illinois - rose to meet that challenge. Across the state, people and organizations stood up to ensure that Illinois businesses received the support that was needed, while we worked to position the state for increased growth in 2021 and beyond.

As we celebrate Economic Development Week in Illinois, we applaud the work done by IEDA members and economic development colleagues. Over the past year, we became coaches, cheerleaders, and therapists, worked longer hours, took Zoom meetings at night and on weekends, but we were happy to do it. The following pages reflect the community of public and private organizations that has come together to get us through this challenging year and highlight successes throughout the state that collaboration can bring. You will find great examples of how the State of Illinois, community organizations, utilities and the private sector collaborate and cooperate to foster development.

We hope these stories inspire you to think about the different ways you can spur growth within your community, and also to reach out to us for support. As vaccine distribution is underway and the economy recovers from the impact of COVID-19, companies are continuing to make location decisions and to bring jobs to Illinois. As we look to expand our efforts in 2021, the Illinois Economic Development Association and Intersect Illinois remain resources and advocates for our economic development partners across the state. We welcome your collaboration as we work to attract companies to Illinois, help existing companies expand and showcase the countless assets that make Illinois a premier global business destination.

Sincerely,



*Bryan Gay*

**Bryan Gay**

IEDA Chairman, 2020-2021

President & CEO, Invest Aurora



*Alya Woods*

**Alya Adamany Woods**

Acting CEO/COO, Intersect Illinois

# Collaborative Economic Development in Illinois

The State of Illinois is committed to fostering a strong and supportive business climate. To offer current and prospective Illinois companies a line of support – the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) works hand in hand with economic development organizations, local governments, and its partners at Intersect Illinois. Working with Intersect, the State is focused on efforts to attract new investment throughout the state while ensuring existing companies have the resources they need to continue to grow and thrive.

## Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO)

DCEO's mission is to support and maintain a strong economic environment for taxpayers, employers, workers, and communities by actively recruiting and growing businesses, maintaining a 21st-century workforce, enhancing innovation, and bringing jobs and investment to underserved communities throughout Illinois.

To accomplish this mission, DCEO includes the following bureaus that provide specialized assistance to businesses and communities:

### **The Office of Regional Economic Development (Team RED)**

serves as the regional business development arm for communities throughout the state based on geography. Team Red coordinates workforce development efforts, provides regional site selection services, and connection to key stakeholders, civic, and business partners

### **The Office of Business Development**

provides free and confidential services to companies seeking to locate or expand in Illinois. Its mission is to retain and create jobs by marketing to existing businesses, encouraging them to reinvest and inviting new businesses to relocate and invest in Illinois

### **The Office of Minority Economic Empowerment (OMEE)**

ensures minority enterprises have an equitable opportunity to participate in state and federal programs. Through dynamic partnerships, targeted outreach, and tailored programs and initiatives, OMEE aims to create an inclusive business ecosystem

### **The Office of Employment and Training**

provides resources, policy, oversight, and technical assistance to support the workforce system in developing qualified workers that fulfill the needs of businesses. The office oversees and administers the statewide workforce system, which consists of 22 Local Workforce Innovation Areas, coordinating and promoting initiatives to bridge the skills gap

### **The Office of Entrepreneurship, Innovation & Technology**

supports entrepreneurs, innovators, and small businesses with programs including:

- **First Stop Business Information Center** offers technical support to businesses
- **Illinois Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs)** provide small business owners and entrepreneurs with no-cost confidential business guidance and resources
- **Procurement Technical Assistance Centers (PTACs)** assist companies seeking to expand into government contracting

### **The Office for Trade and Investment (OTI)**

connects Illinois businesses to global opportunities and provides export assistance to companies interested in growing their global footprint through a network of trade specialists located in Chicago and seven well established regional foreign offices

### **The Office of Community Assistance**

helps low-income households maintain utility services and reduce energy costs, assisting individuals and families to move toward stabilization

### **The Office of Community Development**

supports economic and community development and infrastructure improvements in communities with substantial low-to-moderate-income populations



# Collaborative Economic Development in Illinois

DCEO administers business incentives and tax assistance programs that encourage business growth and job creation. In addition, DCEO supports programs such as:

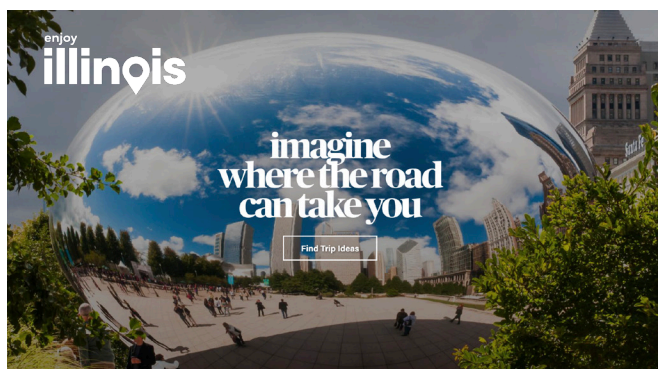
**Rebuild Illinois** - Governor Pritzker's historic \$45 billion capital plan aims to modernize and repair Illinois' hard and soft infrastructure alike – directing improvements for roads, bridges, education and training facilities, tech/broadband, and other community assets

**Illinois Film Office** - Works with communities across Illinois to bolster Illinois' thriving film industry by leveraging tax credits and assisting with site selection



**Illinois Office of Tourism** - Markets tourism for the state and manages industry efforts that result in sustainable and significant economic and quality-of-life benefits for all Illinois residents

**COVID-19 Emergency Relief** - DCEO and the Pritzker administration have deployed numerous business and community emergency assistance programs totaling over \$1.3 billion



Follow DCEO



## Intersect Illinois

Intersect Illinois brings new jobs, investment and economic prosperity to the state of Illinois through dynamic partnerships and collaborations with companies, universities, not-for-profit organizations and the government, delivering a unified approach to economic development. A resource for doing business in Illinois, Intersect Illinois promotes the state's diverse economy, abundant talent, unparalleled infrastructure and transportation network and superior quality of life. Intersect Illinois works closely with DCEO on business attraction and expansion efforts, providing services including:

- Site selection assistance
- Distribution and management of state-wide or geography-specific RFPs
- Regional and local collaboration
- Connection to key stakeholders and civic & business partners
- Coordination of site visits
- Project-specific data analyses
- Market and competitive analyses
- Workforce, labor, and wage analyses



**Intersect Illinois' real estate database and proposal management system** presents properties available throughout the state to site selection consultants and companies decision makers.

# Governor Pritzker's Plan to Revitalize the Illinois Economy

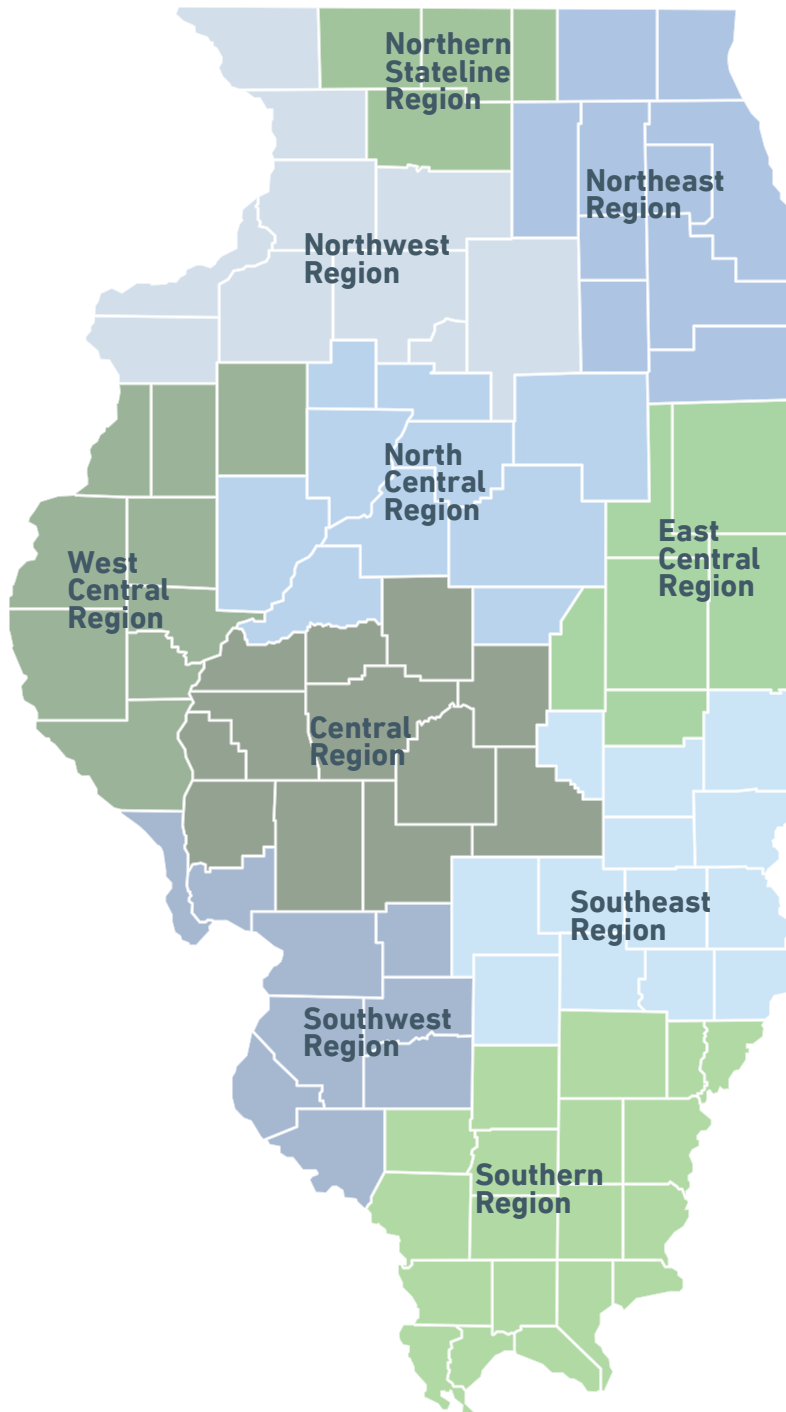
In October of 2019, Governor Pritzker released the **State's economic plan**, outlining a vision to reinvigorate the economy and spur equitable growth. The plan is intended to:

- Lay the foundation for long-term growth by investing in and fostering research, entrepreneurship and innovation
- Reduce the equity gap by investing in, providing support to, and taking down barriers for economically disadvantaged populations
- Attract more workers and businesses to Illinois by aggressively marketing the state and providing a solid foundation for business growth

The plan focuses on goals including (outcomes of these goals are highlighted in the examples on the following pages):

- Providing world-class customer service
- Building the workforce of the future
- Winning in key industries
  - Agribusiness and Ag Tech
  - Energy
  - Information Technology
  - Life Sciences and Healthcare
  - Manufacturing
  - Transportation and Logistics

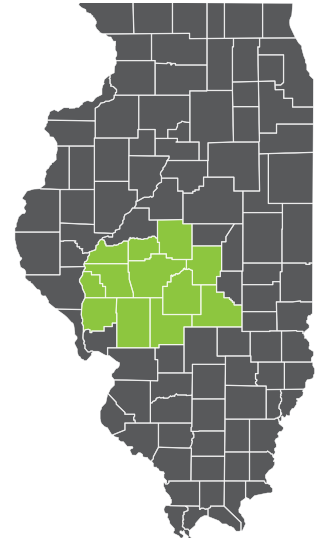
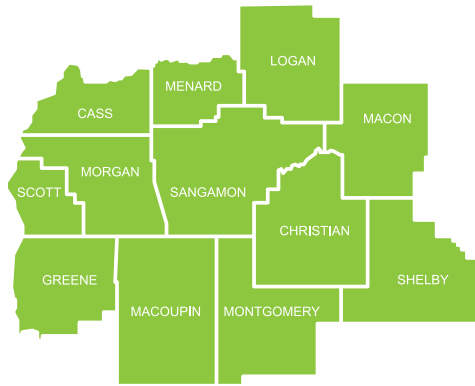
# Illinois' Economic Development Regions



## **The Office of Regional Economic Development (Team RED)**

provides free and confidential services to companies seeking to locate in communities statewide and connects businesses to the programs and resources the State and its partners have to offer. Team RED is divided into 10 economic development regions supported by a field team of 15 regional economic development managers.





## Central Region

### InnovaFeed

DCEO joined ADM and leading French animal nutrition and feed company, InnovaFeed, to announce plans to bring the world's largest insect protein production facility to Decatur. The facility will be owned and operated by InnovaFeed and will co-locate with ADM's Decatur corn processing complex. These investments will bolster Illinois' access to a sustainable agriculture feed supply, while creating 280 direct and 400 indirect jobs and advancing the growing agriculture industry in Illinois. DCEO and the Illinois workNet Center are partnering with InnovaFeed to develop recruiting strategies and on-the-job training programs. An EDGE agreement will support this large-scale capital investment, in addition to Decatur-Macon County Enterprise Zone and customized incentive opportunities from the City of Decatur and Economic Development Corporation of Decatur-Macon County.

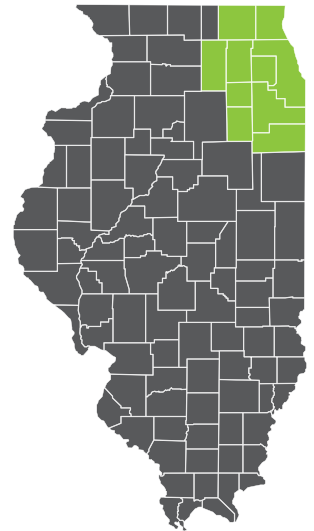
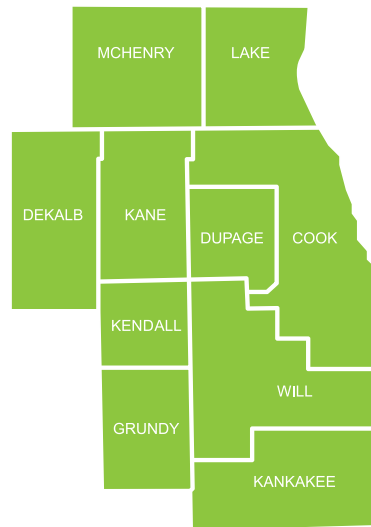
### 5 Year Plan: Winning in Key Industries (Manufacturing & Ag Tech)

## Economic Developer Spotlight

“Economic development is a team sport, and the State of Illinois was ready to assist when I called upon them to help attract InnovaFeed to Decatur. Our colleagues at DCEO communicated with client leadership and me throughout the process which resulted in an offer for the EDGE incentive program, a valuable tool for attracting new businesses to our great state. Collaboration with DCEO is a key highlight in demonstrating how local and state officials can bring valuable jobs to your community. ”

**Nicole Bateman**   
President  
Decatur-Mason County EDC





## Northeast Region

### Kimberly-Clark

In April 2021, Kimberly-Clark announced it will bring its North American Commercial Hub and 250 jobs to a recently restored building in Chicago's Fulton Market District in 2022. With Illinois' unmatched distribution logistics, central location, and highly skilled workforce, Kimberly-Clark joins many more Fortune 500 companies in recognizing Illinois as a top choice for growth and investment. Kimberly-Clark qualified for the EDGE incentive program offered by DCEO to support companies making large scale capital investments. DCEO worked collaboratively with World Business Chicago, Intersect Illinois, and local stakeholders to attract Kimberly Clark.

### 5 Year Plan: Attract Businesses and Workers, Winning in Key Industries (Manufacturing)

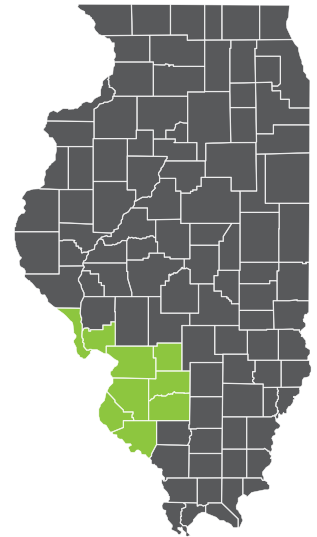
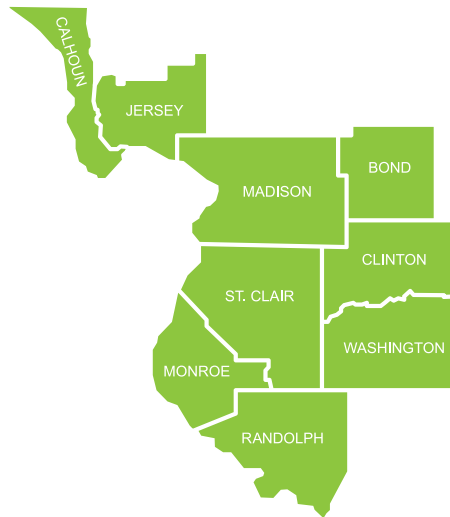
## Economic Developer Spotlight

“ DCEO's Regional Economic Development Team, in collaboration with Intersect Illinois, works hand-in-hand with local economic developers to ensure that we provide world class customer service, competitive incentive packages, and connections to our local workforce agencies to ensure that the world's leading companies know that Illinois is the right choice for them. At DCEO, we are cultivating an ecosystem of economic support that will be critical for future companies to thrive in Illinois. ”

**Jonathan McGee** 

Deputy Director  
Bureau of Regional Economic Development





## Southwest Region

### Broadview Hotel

The Historic Broadview Hotel project was a recipient of a \$1.5 million Rebuild Illinois Shovel Ready Site grant. The former hotel will serve as a catalyst for the revitalization of Downtown East St. Louis by providing mixed-use residential, retail and community commercial services that will advance full housing and community-based business services for senior and veteran residents living within the city of East St. Louis. Approximately 297 jobs will result from the construction of this project, with wages totaling nearly \$12 million, a clear economic generator for downtown East St. Louis. This was a public-private partnership between the State of Illinois, St. Clair County Economic Development Corporation, and municipal leaders to make this project a reality.

### 5 Year Plan: Reduce the Equity Gap

## Economic Developer Spotlight

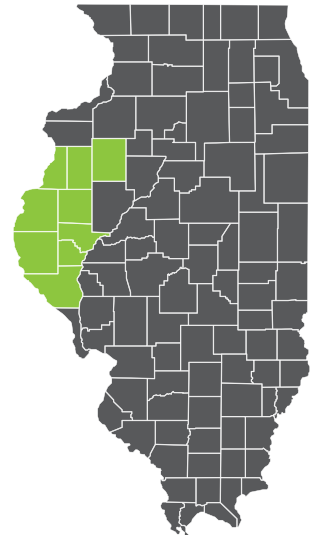
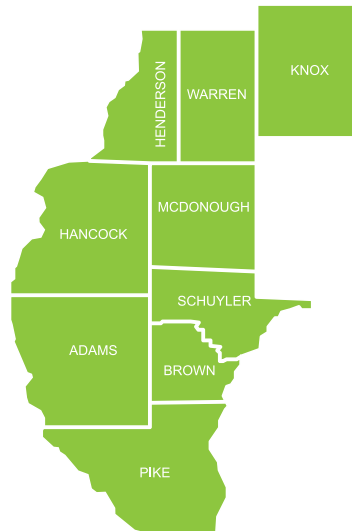
“ The Broadview Hotel project is a perfect example of a public private partnership blending a variety of funding to save a historic building. Working together with City, County and State leaders and using a variety of mechanisms to make this project a reality I am grateful to all of the parties that came together, especially the Department of Commerce. Being fairly new to this position I rely on the Department of Commerce for guidance related to funding and partnerships that can make opportunities like the Broadview a reality. ”

**Rick Stubblefield** 

Executive Director

St. Clair County Intergovernmental Grants &  
Economic Development Departments





## West Central Region

### Innovative Production, USA

Innovative Production USA, a South Dakota-based venture involving RIBUS Inc. and Innovative Proteins USA, announced plans to open a production facility in Galesburg. The company is focused on converting sustainably grown agricultural inputs into high-quality plant-based food ingredients. In the facility's first 24 months of operation up to 45 new jobs will be created. The company, which supplies plant-based ingredients to food processing companies to create food products such as snack bars and protein shakes, selected Illinois and specifically Galesburg due to state and local support through the Enterprise Zone Program. DCEO's customer service, strategic understanding of the region, and collaboration with Knox County made Illinois an easy choice.

### 5 Year Plan: Winning in Key Industries (Agribusiness & Manufacturing)

## Economic Developer Spotlight

“Teamwork is necessary to succeed in economic development. Every single project requires strong communication and a commitment to collaboration with other partners. The Innovative Production project involved close coordination with the City of Galesburg, the Galesburg Sanitary District, DCEO and multiple other entities. The end result for our community was the successful location of a cutting-edge company and a local entry into the rapidly growing plant-based proteins industry. Projects like these are what make Economic Development so much fun. ”

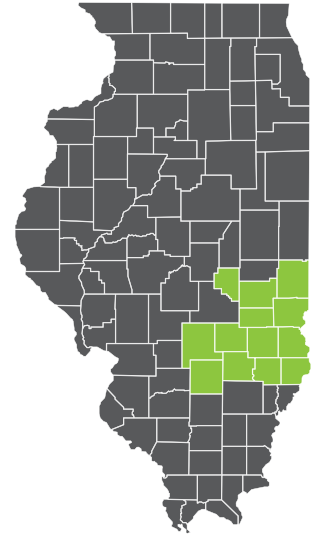
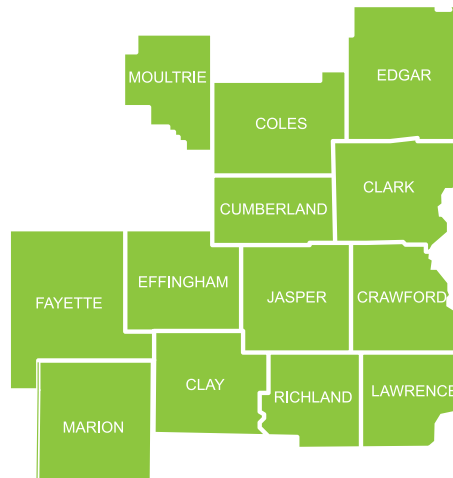
**Ken Springer** 

President

The Knox County Area Partnership







## Southeast Region

### Kanata Blanket

Kanata Blanket, a leading manufacturer of premium blankets and promotional products, relocated its U.S. operations to the former home of Purina Mills in Vandalia. The company's move brought 20 new jobs, with the potential for up to 50 new jobs in the coming years. Kanata's move to Vandalia was supported in part with an investment from the Illinois New Markets Development Program (NMDP) and the federal New Markets Tax Credit (NMTC) program, which helps small and developing businesses located in underserved areas by making capital funds more easily available and making Illinois more attractive to possible investors. DCEO worked closely with state and local leaders to bring the foreign direct investment to southeastern Illinois through incentives, and workforce development initiatives.

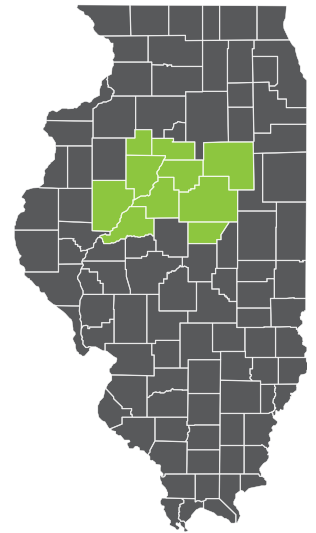
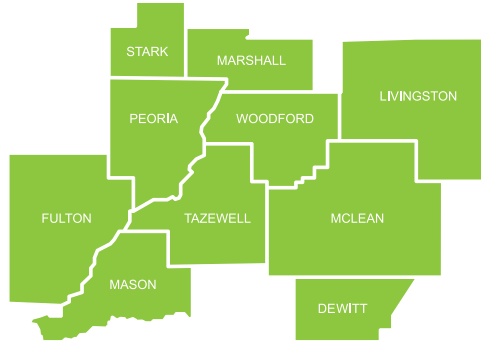
### 5 Year Plan: Attract Workers and Businesses, Winning in Key Industries (Manufacturing)

## Economic Developer Spotlight

“ The support and collaboration I've received from DCEO is very much appreciated. In the early discussions with Kanata Blanket, I wasn't familiar with the Illinois New Markets Development Program or the federal New Markets Tax Credit program; I reached out to Team RED for guidance and direction and met with Legal Counsel for DCEO. They were instrumental in helping me understand and communicate with the leaders at Kanata how they could benefit from this program, which made all the difference in their ability to locate their U.S. operations to Vandalia, Illinois. I would encourage Illinois Economic Development Directors to reach out to their TEAM RED DCEO representative and meet with them to learn more about the incentives we are able to utilize to recruit new industries to the State of Illinois. ”



**Amber Daulbaugh**   
Economic Development Director  
City of Vandalia



## North Central Region

### Natural Fiber Welding

Founded in 2015 by a Bradley University Professor, Natural Fiber Welding (NFW), a clean technology plant-based textiles company, announced plans for a new 110,000-square-foot manufacturing facility just south of downtown Peoria. The new space will create more than 100 jobs as NFW expands its production of Mirum, a plant-based artificial leather used in the production of clothing, shoes and automobiles. NFW is being supported by the State of Illinois through an EDGE agreement. In addition, the company received \$13 million in funding led by the Ralph Lauren Corporation in 2020. The company was first based in the Peoria NEXT Innovation Center before moving within Peoria, where it currently employs 80 people. This collaboration between the State, City of Peoria, and regional economic development leaders solidified NFW's presence as a global supplier in the heart of Illinois.

### 5 Year Plan: Attract Businesses and Workers, Winning in Key Industries (Manufacturing)

## Economic Developer Spotlight

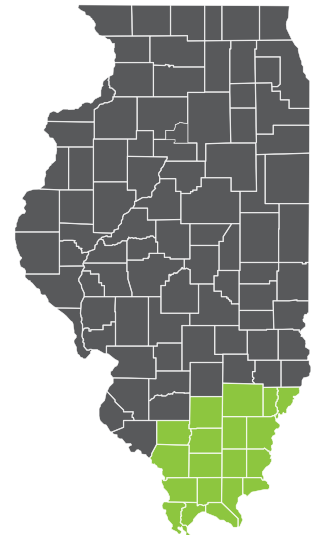
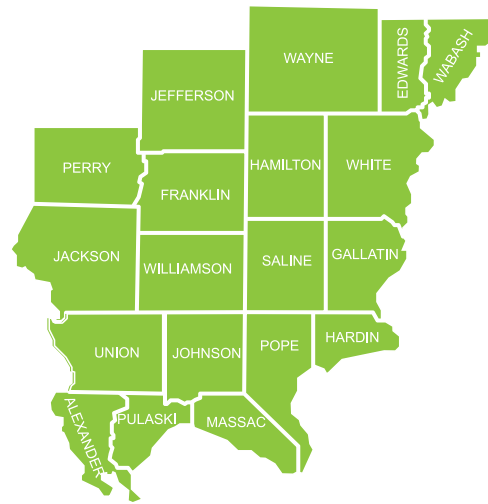
“ The natural Fiber Welding project is an excellent example of a group effort translating into an economic development win. While the NFW team was working hard to make an amazing product and company, the Greater Peoria EDC and local and state officials worked collaboratively to ensure the company received a competitive incentive package and connections with workforce leaders to ensure the company can successfully grow here in Illinois. My thanks to the City of Peoria and DCEO for working alongside us to support this great company. ”

**Chris Setti** 

Chief Executive Officer

Greater Peoria Economic Development Council (GPEDC)





## Southern Region

### Pike Systems

Pike Systems, an independent, woman-owned business headquartered in Montgomery, chose to expand its operations in Mt. Vernon. The distributor of janitorial supplies and personal protective equipment has opened a new 98,000-square-foot distribution hub and learning center in Southern Illinois. Total investment for the project exceeds \$1.5 million and 15 new jobs will be created. DCEO provided technical assistance and collaborated with the local workforce agency to support the Jefferson County Development Corporation with this project, which is located in an Enterprise Zone and an underserved area. This is an example of how local workforce development agencies and DCEO Regional Economic Development Team drive economic opportunity in rural Illinois.

### 5 Year Plan: Winning in Key Industries (Manufacturing)

## Economic Developer Spotlight

“ Working closely with Tony Iritti, Executive Director of Jefferson County Development Corporation, city officials, and DCEO's Kim Watson, Senior Account manager Southern Region, we were able to understand the vision and mission of Pike Systems. The Southern Illinois Workforce Development Board has committed On the Job Training funds and placed a re-trained worker who currently serves as facility manager. On-going partner collaboration and workforce funds will continue to support the growth of Pike Systems and our region. As a result of our coordination, collaboration, and communication, Pike Systems has revitalized a former NEON facility and has a commitment of hiring dislocated workers from that closure. ”



**Kathy Lively**

Chief Executive Officer

Man-Tra-Con Corporation (Southern Illinois)



## Northern State Line Region

### Ingersoll Machine Tools

Rockford's Ingersoll Machine Tools recently broke ground on a major expansion of its Illinois campus that will support construction of the new Giant Magellan Telescope Mount (GMTM). Ingersoll competed globally on an RFP to win the contract to construct the mount. This new investment will give way to state-of-the-art technology, while creating 75 new jobs and adding an additional 40,000 square feet to the current 500,000-square-foot campus. "Ingersoll's latest investment in Illinois will pave the way to one of the largest and most powerful telescopes in the world, rivaling that of the Hubble", said Governor JB Pritzker. "We are excited that 'made in Illinois' will be part of this important new program, investing in cutting-edge technology that's manufactured here will expand new job opportunities for our state. Ingersoll is an important part of our manufacturing base, and thanks to our state's top-notch talent and infrastructure, companies continue to choose Illinois as their future home." DCEO worked collaboratively with the Local Workforce Development Agency to support Ingersoll on workforce efforts, local and regional stakeholders to incentivize Ingersoll's expansion, and ensured that we created an ecosystem of support for Ingersoll to thrive.

### 5 Year Plan: Winning in Key Industries (Manufacturing)

## Economic Developer Spotlight

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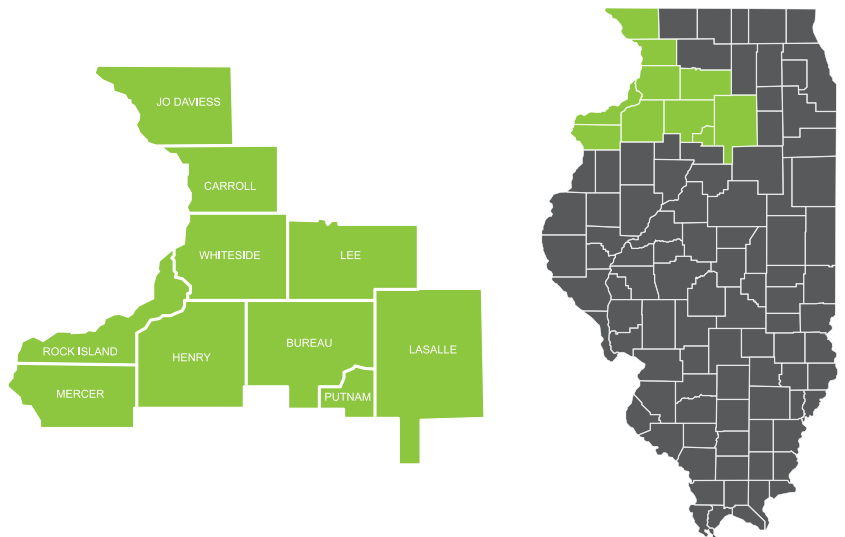
Economic development projects are inherently complicated. Businesses build capital stacks from the private markets and local economic developers build similar stacks from public programs that can fill gaps for projects that meet economic development priorities. The City of Rockford utilizes its local tools to drive private investment in its downtown, its neighborhoods, and within its industrial sector. Tools like its State of Illinois Enterprise Zones and River Edge Redevelopment Zone are critical at securing projects that grow Rockford's tax base and employment opportunities, like the expansion at Ingersoll Machine Tools. Ingersoll's \$12 million decision to build the giant Magellan Telescope on its Rockford campus was the result of collaboration between the City of Rockford and State of Illinois in building a business-friendly environment within the City. ”



**Karl Franzen**

Community & Economic Development Director  
City of Rockford





## Northwest Region

### HALO Branded Solutions

HALO Branded Solutions is a leader in the promotional products industry, which has been growing for nearly six decades. In 2018 the company completed a \$21 million, 175,000-square-foot expansion, creating 250 new jobs. HALO's second expansion, completed in Sterling in early 2020, is a \$26 million project adding an additional 275,000 square feet and will create 300 new jobs when fully staffed. This latest project brings HALO's footprint in Whiteside County to over 500,000 square feet with over 1,000 employees, and an investment of \$47 million over the last three years. This project is another excellent example of how DCEO worked hand-in-hand with the local economic development organization, municipality, and workforce partners to bolster the growth of a flagship company in the Northwest Region.

#### 5 Year Plan: Winning in Key Industries (Manufacturing & Distribution)

## Economic Developer Spotlight

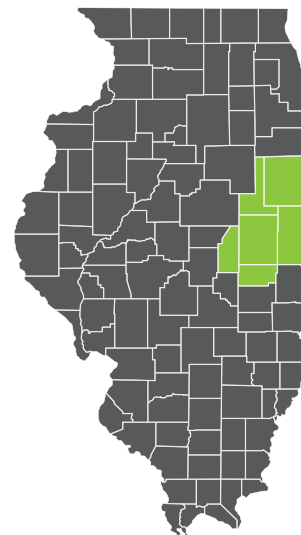
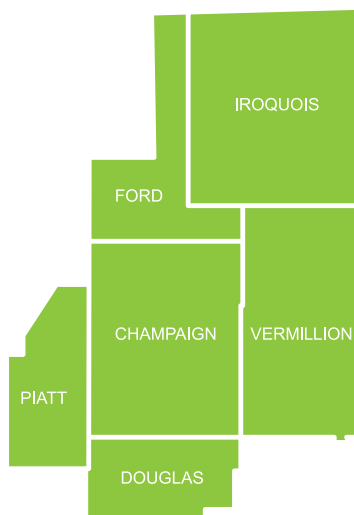
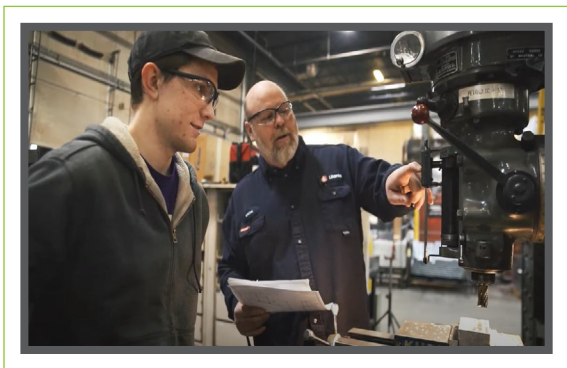
“ Business retention and growth is a top priority for the Greater Sterling Development Corporation. When HALO Branded Solutions requested our assistance with their plans to rapidly expand and grow their workforce, we worked with HALO's leaders to meet their location, development, and workforce needs. In a community that was hit hard by the manufacturing and steel industry crisis of the early 2000's, our work to help existing local companies with growth and diversification is vital for the continued prosperity of our local economy. The partnership between HALO, the Greater Sterling Development Corporation, and DCEO is proof that the retention and growth of local business can move Illinois forward. ”



**Heather Sotelo** 

Executive Director

Greater Sterling EDC (Whiteside County)



## East Central Region


### Silgan Closures and Litania Sports Group

In Champaign, Silgan Closures and Litania Sports Group have teamed up with Parkland College and Industry Consortium for Advanced Technical Training (ICATT) to offer a three-year apprenticeship program to cover students' tuition as they earn Parkland's Industrial Technology AAS degree. Students earn apprenticeship wages by working three days per week on the job and receive assistance with travel expenses. ICATT is fully benchmarked on the German Dual Education System – an approach recognized globally for its combination of company-specific knowledge, theory, and hands-on learning – resulting in highly-trained employees that position companies to embrace technical advances, keep pace with market demands, and harness growth opportunities. The Illinois Apprenticeship Education Expense Tax Credit Program offers a credit of up to \$3,500 per apprentice making this a win-win for employers and apprentices.

### 5 Year Plan: Building the Workforce of the Future, Winning in Key Industries (Manufacturing)

## Economic Developer Spotlight

“ We worked closely with local employers and Parkland College to bring ICATT to Champaign County. This program is a workforce development strategy with benefits for both employers and the apprentices themselves. We believe ICATT is a long-term, sustainable solution that builds a skilled workforce and provides a talent pipeline for manufacturers. It also allows companies to embrace technology, keep pace with market and skill demands, and harness growth opportunities. Why should economic developers be interested in this model? The talent pipeline is a critical success factor for regions. ”

**Carly McCrory-McKay**   
Executive Director  
Champaign County EDC



### Connect Illinois

The State of Illinois awarded \$4.95M to Adams Telesystems Inc. to provide more than 1,100 homes, businesses and farms in Adams and Brown counties access to high-speed fiber-optic internet. The grant was one of several totaling \$50M announced in June as part of Governor Pritzker's \$400 million Connect Illinois broadband internet expansion program. Rural communities and all industries will benefit from the expansion, including agriculture, health care and education. Additional rounds of funding will be made available in the coming years – with the program's goal of closing the digital divide with high-speed broadband access for every Illinois community by 2024.



#### Connect Illinois

#### 5 Year Plan: Laying the Foundation for Long-Term Growth

### Community Development Block Grant

Governor Pritzker joined DCEO Acting Director Sylvia Garcia and local community officials to announce \$18 million in public infrastructure grants awarded to 34 downstate and rural communities. The 2020 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for Public Infrastructure is intended to reach downstate and rural communities and implement vital upgrades to water and sewer infrastructures, ensuring safe, reliable, and sanitary water utilities. These public infrastructure projects will impact the wellbeing of over 113,000 rural Illinois citizens while alleviating further deterioration of inadequate facilities.

**ANNOUNCING:**  
**2020 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Public Infrastructure Recipients**

- \$18.2 Million Awarded
- 34 Communities Reached
- 113,266 Residents Served

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#### Community Development Block Grant

#### 5 Year Plan: Attract More Workers and Businesses

### Manufacturing Training Academies

Rebuild Illinois Capital Plan will fund the establishment of two new, cutting edge training academies to prepare Illinoisans for future jobs and boost investment in downstate communities

Governor Pritzker announced the construction of Manufacturing Training Academies (MTAs) at Heartland Community College in Normal and Southwestern Illinois College (SWIC) in Belleville to expand training for high-demand manufacturing jobs. Both MTAs were made possible by a \$15 million capital investment under the Rebuild Illinois capital plan. State funds will be met with \$4.95 million in matching commitments for capital projects, as well as additional support from employers and regional partners to establish the new training academies.

At Heartland, a \$7.5 million grant from the State will enable the development of the new Electric Vehicle-Energy Storage Manufacturing Training Academy (EVES). This first-of-its-kind EV manufacturing training program, in partnership with electric vehicle manufacturer, Rivian, is expected to create an additional 1,600 jobs in the next two years alone. At SWIC, a second \$7.5 million grant will create a new manufacturing education hub in Belleville. The Advanced Manufacturing Center will break ground in 2021 and will welcome students by fall 2022. The project will create a new precision machining pathway; and expand career training for roles in industrial electricity and welding manufacturing. DCEO is pioneering innovation in the Electric Vehicle industry, fulfilling the Governor's pledge to make Illinois a clean energy state by 2050, and cementing Illinois as the top manufacturing destination for companies due to its robust workforce.



#### Manufacturing Training Academies

#### 5 Year Plan: Building the Workforce of the Future



### Office of Minority Economic Empowerment Grant

The Will Group received a \$500,000 grant from DCEO's Office of Minority Economic Empowerment (OMEE) to assist with \$7 million in project costs related to the purchase of City of Chicago-owned property, which the company redeveloped into a 60,000-square-foot industrial business center. The mixed-use facility has the potential to create more than 100 jobs. For over 35 years, the Will Group has been supplying light fixtures and ancillary electrical products in the Chicago area, growing exponentially to include the manufacturing of light fixtures and energy efficient lighting throughout Illinois.



#### Minority Empowerment Grant

#### 5 Year Plan: Reducing the Equity Gap

### Women's HERstory Month

Throughout the month March, DCEO celebrated Women's HERstory Month with a series of virtual events and features including a spotlight of Allison Allgaier, owner of Phoenix Modular Elevator in Mt. Vernon, which has recently doubled its manufacturing space. Working with DCEO, Phoenix secured an EDGE tax credit, helping to finance the firm's rapid expansion. "Outgrowing a leased space, we were able to build a new, more efficient manufacturing facility and now have grown to 40 employees. We also host Manufacturing Day events and tours and participate in local apprenticeship programs to build awareness for careers at Phoenix Modular Elevator," says Allison.



#### Women's HERstory Month

#### 5 Year Plan: Reduce the Equity Gap, Winning in Key Industries (Manufacturing)

### Rebuild Illinois Shovel Ready Capital Grants

As a recipient of one of 11 Rebuild Illinois Shovel Ready Capital Grants, the Chicago Southland Economic Development Corporation (CSEDC) will kickstart improvements on the site of a former refinery in Alsip, to make way for a state-of-the-art transportation, distribution, and logistics (TDL) hub. Situated between two rail lines, this new hub is ideally located to handle rapid growth of Illinois' transportation sector. One of several CSEDC TDL projects, this \$1.5 million capital investment will fuel long-term economic benefits and jobs in the area.

The Village of Calumet Park received a \$1.5 million Rebuild Illinois Shovel Ready Capital Grant to begin site preparation of a 6-acre, former mobile home park for mixed-use, transit-oriented development. Ideally located near the Metra Electric Ashland Avenue Station, Calumet Park's plan is to capitalize on this prime location to attract residential and commercial properties near the adjacent commuter rail station. Calumet Park will prioritize robust diversity and inclusion contracting goals; a key component of the Rebuild Illinois plan is equitable inclusion in all phases of economic development.



Rebuild Illinois

**5 Year Plan: Attract Workers and Businesses,  
Reduce the Equity Gap**

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