

**Fiscal Year 2024**

Rev Up EV Community College Initiative

*Electric Vehicle Technology Grant*

Notice of Funding Opportunity

**Application Due Date/Time:** December 1, 2023, 11:59 p.m.

**Submit Application To:** [**ICCB.cte@illinois.gov**](mailto:ICCB.cte@illinois.gov)

**UNIFORM NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY (NOFO) SUMMARY INFORMATION**

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| **1.** | Awarding Agency Name: | *Illinois Community College Board (ICCB)* |
| **2.** | Agency Contact: | *Whitney Thompson,* [*whitney.thompson@illinois.gov*](mailto:whitney.thompson@illinois.gov) |
| **3.** | Announcement Type: | *Initial announcement* |
| **4.** | Type of Assistance Instrument: | *Grant* |
| **5.** | Funding Opportunity Number: | None |
| **6.** | Funding Opportunity Title: | *SFY2024 Rev Up EV Community College Initiative* |
| **7.** | CSFA Number: | *Not applicable (N/A)* |
| **8.** | CSFA Popular Name: | *N/A* |
| **9.** | CFDA Number(s): | *N/A* |
| **10.** | Grant Period | *Objective A: January 15, 2024- December 31, 2024*  *Objective B: January 15, 2024- June 30, 2025.* |
| **11.** | Anticipated Number of Awards: | *Up to 9: Building Capacity for EV*  *Up to 18: EV Technology Development and Expansion* |
| **12.** | Estimated Total Program Funding: | *$9,400,000* |
| **13.** | Award Range | *$90,000 maximum: Objective A-Building Capacity for EV Grants*  *$100,000 - $525,000: Objective B- EV Technology Development and Expansion* |
| **14.** | Source of Funding: | *State* |
| **15.** | Cost Sharing/Matching Requirement: | *No* |
| **16.** | Indirect Costs Allowed  Restrictions on Indirect Costs | *Yes*  *No* |
| **17.** | Posted Date: | *October 20, 2023* |
| **18.** | Closing Date for Applications: | *December 1, 2023, 11:59 p.m.* |
| **19.** | Technical Assistance: | *A Bidder’s Conference will be held on November 2, 2023, at 1 p.m. Additional technical assistance will be provided throughout the grant period to grant recipients.* |

# Background and Purpose

In 2021, Governor Pritzker signed the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act (Illinois P.A. 102—0662) establishing Illinois policy to equitably transition to 100 percent clean energy by 2050[[1]](#footnote-1). Electric vehicles (EV) are instrumental to decarbonization, whereas vehicle carbon pollution accounts for one-sixth of global emissions[[2]](#footnote-2). Optimistically, electric vehicle sales have jumped significantly in the last year, up 14 percent in 2022, more than 10 times their share in 2017[[3]](#footnote-3). In order to support the growth of electric vehicles and critical infrastructure for deployment, maintenance, and support, Illinois needs adequate training programs producing more talent in EV priority program areas (see Section D). To support these clean energy goals, the administration is leveraging the strength of the community college system by investing $10 million in SFY2024 to promote the scale of EV technology programs, as well as manufacturing programs that support EV infrastructure more broadly.

The Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) is inviting eligible applicants to apply for the **SFY2024 Rev Up EV Community College Initiative**. The purpose of this initiative is to promote the development and growth of training programs that prepare individuals for careers in EV technology and EV specific advanced manufacturing fields, with a priority focus on programs and training in areas that are most in demand by EV business and industry partners. The ICCB will provide approximately $9.4 million in competitive grant funds to be administered by way of two competitive grant opportunities:

* **$700,000** for Building Capacity for EV. *Maximum of $90,000 per college.*
* **$8.7 million** for EV Technology Development and Expansion. *Grant award range: $100,000-$525,000.*

# Eligible Applicants

Community colleges in the State of Illinois are invited to submit proposals under this NOFO.

# Grant Objectives

Under this funding opportunity, applicants are able to select from **one** of two objectives. The objectives differ in funding ranges, allowable activities, and scope. Each objective will be cohort-based receiving specialized support from the Illinois Community College Board, the Illinois Green Economy Network (IGEN), and other partners through the *EV Network*. The objectives are detailed below.

**Objective A: Building Capacity for Electric Vehicles:**

Objective A is designed to support a cohort of community colleges to build capacity at their institutions and communities for the transition to electric vehicle technology. This objective is intended to prepare and position institutions for future funding opportunities and to build capacity for program development and implementation. Use of funds could include, but not necessarily be limited to, employer and community engagement, participation in the EV network, curriculum mapping and development, professional development and training for faculty, community needs assessment, etc.

**Objective B: Electric Vehicle Technology Development and Expansion:**

Objective B is focused on developing and/or expanding EV Technology and related programs. The grant prioritizes education and training programs that span across the EV Technology occupational continuum from development and production to maintenance of Electric Vehicles, as well as installation and maintenance of critical infrastructure.

# Required and Allowable Activities

**Priority Programs**

Priority programs for capacity-building (Objective A) as well as development, expansion, or revision (Objective B) are based upon local, state, and regional labor market data and might include areas such as:

* + Electrical Engineering Technology
  + Mechatronics
  + Electrical Technology
  + Manufacturing Engineering Technology
  + Alternative Fuel Vehicle Technology
  + High Voltage Battery Technology
  + Automotive Technology
  + Software Development
  + Programs aligned to industry certifications (e.g. TESLA Independent Repair Certified).
  + Programs that advance the development and maintenance of EV charging infrastructure.

Other programs of interest are identified in the [Illinois Clean Energy Jobs and Training Program Inventory](https://energyequity.illinois.gov/content/dam/soi/en/web/energyequity/documents/2023-03-mar/training-program-inventory_1128.pdf). As competitive grant opportunities are developed, a specific focus on high demand areas, a sound labor market argument for the college’s focus in those areas, and the ability to effectively accelerate training will be key elements for evaluation of proposals. It should be noted that the ICCB program approval process requires a labor market focused argument for program approval.

**Required Activities**

Each cohort of grantees, capacity-building (Obj A) and development/expansion (Obj B), will be supported by ICCB and IGEN through the EV Network and will be required to carry out a specific set of activities. The required activities for each Objective are detailed in the chart and defined below.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Required Activities** | **Objective A: Capacity- Building** | **Objective B: Development and Expansion** |
| Participation in EV Network |  |  |
| Employer and Community Engagement |  |  |
| Pathway Mapping (i.e. dual credit, adult education integrated education and training, non-credit to credit, as appropriate) |  |  |
| Build Capacity and Infrastructure |  |  |
| Develop New Programs (as LMI requires) |  |  |
| Revise or Expand Existing Programs (as LMI requires) |  |  |
| Support Students Enrolled in Eligible Programs |  |  |

**Definitions of Required Activities:**

*Participation in EV Network*: Grantees are required to participate in the IL EV Network, an industry collaborative of key stakeholders from industry, higher education (faculty, staff, two-year and four-year), and state agencies to guide the development of light and heavy-duty Electric Vehicle training that satisfies industry demand for high-skill individuals. The EV Network will be facilitated by IGEN whereas applicants will engage in discussions on industry trends, talent needs in high-priority roles, systemwide strategies, barriers, solutions, and opportunities for collaboration to expand the EV / related advanced manufacturing workforce in Illinois.

*Employer and Community Engagement:* Engaging in strategic partnerships within your region to conduct needs assessments, inclusive of both labor market and community readiness, develop and implement new programs, curriculum, work-based learning opportunities, etc. Partnerships must include employers, high school districts, labor organizations, and local workforce boards. Other partners could include other institutions of higher education, community-based organizations, industry associations, etc.

*Pathway Mapping*: Creating [career pathways](https://pathwaysdictionary.org/) and [programs of study](https://edsystemsniu.org/model-programs-of-study-guides/) that provide seamless transition from high school to postsecondary education and employment. This includes dual credit and other accelerated onramps such as adult education integrated education and training programs and non-credit to credit pathways, with an EV focus. Curriculum development and pathway mapping will be facilitated through the EV Network. Grantees should also consider mapping pathways to include relevant [CEJA workforce programs](https://dceo.illinois.gov/climateandequitablejobs/clean-jobs-workforce-network-program.html) and [Apprenticeship Illinois](https://www.illinoisworknet.com/ApprenticeshipIL/Pages/default.aspx) frameworks that exist in their regions.

*Build Capacity and Infrastructure:* Updating existing programs/programs of study, purchasing or upgrading equipment to meet or exceed current industry standards, providing professional development and training to faculty and staff- including externship opportunities, creating partnerships and identifying efficiencies to maximize capacity.

*Develop, Revise, and/or Expand Programs*: Developing new programs to meet the emerging needs of EV technology and related fields; revising existing programs (e.g. automotive technology) to address skills specific to electric vehicle servicing, including the use of stackable and micro-credentials for incumbent workers; expanding existing programs to meet labor market demand, which may include increasing capacity of offerings, offering programs in flexible formats to increase enrollment, hiring additional faculty, etc.

*Support Students Enrolled in Eligible Programs:* Providing academic and non-academic support services, such as navigators, coaches, and wraparound support services, to overcome barriers to persistence and completion, including career services to support students’ successful completion to employment; partnering with community-based organizations to braid barrier reduction funding; offering work-based learning opportunities. While barrier reduction funding (e.g. stipends, covering tuition and fees, etc.) is an allowable use of funds, this grant project models Perkins, whereas the majority of funding should be program-oriented.

**Other Allowable Activities**

The expectation is that applicants will propose activities that will align with statewide priorities that promote equity and diversity in career pathways for EV and related programs. Grantees should utilize existing frameworks and resources, where applicable. Other allowable activities to be carried out by grantees could include:

* Incentivizing Development and/or Alignment of Curriculum: Furthering the alignment of coursework by contextualizing and integrating basic, safety, and advanced levels of training and education.
* Creating non-credit, short-term training programs that support minority students’ transition into EV and Advanced Manufacturing programs.
* Engaging in innovative instructional models such as competency-based education, virtual reality, artificial intelligence, and other online modalities.
* Developing a student support center model for basic needs including but not limited to food insecurity, transportation, childcare, textbook loans/lending library, financial literacy, tutoring, and other wrap around support services that will reduce barriers to educational success for all students that will enhance services to underrepresented populations, including special populations and justice-involved individuals.
* Supplemental instruction
* High touch academic advising and career guidance including hiring a CTE Navigator(s)
* Testing and assessment preparation for related certifications and licenses
* Improving technology and instructional materials to align with current industry standards and expectations.
* Implementing innovative and collaborative career exploration activities or programs that increase secondary student awareness of EV opportunities to expand and diversify the pipeline of prospective learners entering these programs, including engaging middle school students in grades 5 – 8.

**Grant Deliverables**

1. Carry out deliverables of the proposed scope of work, encompassing all required activities for the selected Objective.
2. Report on achievement of performance metrics via required quarterly reporting and other supplemental reports as necessary.
3. Submit required programmatic and fiscal reports on a quarterly basis per the schedule below to ICCB.[cte@illinois.gov](mailto:cte@illinois.gov). Reporting templates and other instructions will be made available to grant recipients at a later date.
4. Participate in any required Operational Meetings or learning workshops, including those led by IGEN through the EV Network.
5. Provide to the ICCB copies of any curriculum, documents, toolkits, modules, etc., that are developed because of these grant funds.

# Application Package

Applications submitted under this grant program will undergo a merit-based review process. **All parts of the application package must be completed by the deadline to be considered**. Applicants should ensure that all elements are clearly addressed and are strongly encouraged to use headers to address all elements or some consistent form of response delineation. Applicants will receive a receipt of application. However, applicants will not be notified if there are items that are missing from their application. Applicants must use the templates on the ICCB website when provided: [www.iccb.org/grant-opportunities/](http://www.iccb.org/grant-opportunities/). The application must be organized as listed below.

1. **GATA-Exempt Grant Application**

Applicants must complete each section of the “Applicant Information” section in the GATA-Exempt Grant Application in its entirety. If a question is not applicable, please enter NA. *A template is provided on the ICCB Grant Opportunities webpage.*

1. **Project Overview Template**Applicants must complete the Project Overview template. This template provides a snapshot of the proposed project and is inclusive of program offerings and accountability metrics.Applicants are to propose quantifiable outcomes for the performance of their grant projects. Specific metrics for both objectives are described below.

**Objective A: Capacity-Building**

**A1**. Anticipated number of students to be engaged in this grant project. *This refers to students participating in career exploration activities; students enrolled in priority and eligible programs, students participating in eligible adult education bridge programs.* *For capacity-building grants, grantees will most likely not have students enrolled or may not intend to engage students in the planning phase. However, it is a best practice to engage students and elevate student voice when conducting a needs assessment and/or developing pathways.*

**A2.** Number of programs that will undergo development, review, or revision. *For capacity-building grantees, it is not expected that programs will be developed or offered; however, as a part of the planning phase, colleges should be able to identify the programs that they anticipate reviewing, revising, or beginning the development process. The number of programs identified should match that listed on the Program Offerings Chart.*

**A3.** Number of employers engaged. *Engagement means contributing to curriculum development and alignment activities, hosting work-based learning opportunities, donating equipment, hosting facility tours, participating in hiring events, hiring students.*

**A4**. Number of education partners (high schools, four-year institutions) engaged in pathway development and alignment.

**Objective B: Program Development and Expansion**

**B1.** Number of students to be engaged in this grant. *This refers to students participating in career exploration activities; students enrolled in priority and eligible programs, students participating in eligible adult education bridge programs.*

**B2.** Anticipated number of students to be enrolled in priority and related programs. *Enrollment is defined as the number of full-time (considered 12 hours or more in a term or 24 hours or more in an academic year) and part-time students enrolled in priority and eligible programs.*

**B2a.** Anticipated number of dual credit students. *This metric is a subset of B2. Dual credit is defined in Section 1501.313 of the ICCB Administrative Rules. This is the anticipated number of dual credit students to be enrolled in priority and related programs. (Enrollment is defined as number of full-time and part-time students enrolled in priority programs).*

**B3.** Anticipated number of completers. *Students are considered completers for the purposes of this grant if they complete an eligible program in the academic year for which the grant is active. Completion means a student has completed a program that culminates in an industry-recognized credential (e.g. certificate, certification, degree). The count may be duplicated meaning, for example, that if a student completes a 16-week program in the fall semester and then transitions into another eligible program in the spring semester and completes, the student would be counted for two completions. The count will include students completing both credit and non-credit programs, that are on the eligible program list. All programs must be identified in the Program Overview Chart for approval by the ICCB. Completers may include students who began a program prior to the academic year for which the grant is being implemented. The grant program supports districts to implement activities that improve student retention.)*

**B3a.** Anticipated percentage of completers who will be employed or be retained in postsecondary education two quarters after completion. *This is a subset of B3.*

**B4.** Number of programs to be developed.

**B5**. Number of programs to be revised or expanded.

**B6.** Number of employers engaged. *Engagement means contributing to curriculum development and alignment activities, hosting work-based learning opportunities, donating equipment, hosting facility tours, participating in hiring events, hiring students.*

**B7**. Number of education partners (high schools, four-year institutions) engaged in pathway development and alignment.

1. **Application Narrative**

The eligible applicant must submit a narrative of no more than twelve pages (charts and graphs are a part of the page limitation), double-spaced, 12-point font that must include the following information in the order listed below and utilizing a header for each Numbered Section. *No template is provided.*

**Narrative Sections:** your application should follow the cadence of the sections below. Narrative sections apply to both objectives unless otherwise noted.

1. **Project Need and Context:**
   1. *Program Justification:* Applicants should provide evidence for selection of the programs identified in the Project Overview, including but not limited to labor market information, listing of relevant employers, anticipated growth in accompanying occupations.
   2. *Financial Need:* Identify the financial need for these funds.
   3. *Regional Context:* Provide a description of the region and/or community to be impacted by the grant initiative. Describe anticipated impact on the region. Identify any projects happening in the region that this initiative could be aligned to and how you anticipate coordinating with these efforts (e.g. CEJA Workforce Hubs*,* federal or local EV initiatives, etc.).
   4. **For Objective B only**, identify target population of students to be served (e.g., ethnicity, gender, socio-economic status of community, high school district). Applicants should use data as evidence for their selection. This may include but is not limited to dual credit availability and offerings, local unemployment rate, income status of community, racial and ethnic representation of the community being served.
2. **Project Work Plan:** Clearly describe the project activities, associated timeline, and person(s) responsible for each activity to be carried out during the grant period. *A chart or table is encouraged*. Please refer to the list of required and allowable activities that these grant funds can be utilized for. Activities should align with the selected objective and should aim to move the needle on your indicators of accountability. Please note that your work plan may change during the grant as a result of technical assistance offered by ICCB and IGEN. Please utilize the following sections to guide the organization of your work plan.
   1. *Participation in EV Network:* Activities should detail who will participate from your institution; what data will be collected and examined as a part of your needs assessment; and how will grantees internalize and share learnings from the EV Network with applicable partners?
   2. *Employer and Community Engagement:* Activities should detail what partners will be engaged (and how) during the grant process; preliminary plan for conducting a needs assessment, inclusive of both labor market and community readiness; and any other activities that will contribute to grant goals regarding employer and educational partner engagement.
   3. *Pathway Mapping:* Activities should detail what partners will be engaged in the pathway mapping; process for which collaboration will occur; and any other activities that will contribute to grant goals regarding education partner engagement, number of students enrolled (including dual credit students), and number of students retained or employed.
   4. *Build Capacity and Infrastructure:* Activities may include updating existing programs/programs of study, purchasing or upgrading equipment to meet or exceed current industry standards, providing professional development and training to faculty and staff- including externship opportunities, creating partnerships and identifying efficiencies to maximize capacity.
   5. ***For Objective B only-*** *Develop, Revise, or Expand Programs*: Activities should detail processes for which programs may be developed, revised, or expanded; what staff will be responsible for each step in the process; what partners will be engaged (and how); and any other activities that will contribute to grant goals regarding employer and educational partner engagement and number of programs to be developed or revised.
   6. ***For Objective B only-*** *Support Students Enrolled in Eligible Programs:* Activities should detail the plan for providing support to students, including eligibility, intake, services offered; who is responsible for each activity; what partners are engaged (and how); and any other activities that will contribute to grant goals regarding number of students engaged, enrolled, retained, or employed.
   7. *Program Accountability:* Activities should detail who is responsible for tracking progress against grant metrics; process for how the grantee will collect all data elements.
   8. All other activities carried out under the grant to support the project goals.
3. **Partnerships:** Description of all partnerships and a brief description of the role each partner will play in the grant project. Partnerships must include employers, high school districts/area career centers, labor organizations, and local workforce boards. Other partners could include other institutions of higher education, community-based organizations, adult education providers, industry associations, etc. **Letters of Commitment/Support must be included for all external partners for Objective B: Development and Expansion.**
4. **Contingency Plan:** Brief description of plan and budget in the event that the program plan must change, and funds are not able to be spent as defined in the original narrative and budget (e.g. unsuccessful in hiring Navigator A). *No more than one page.*
5. **Letters of Commitment from External Partners**
6. **Uniform Budget**

All applicants must submit a proposed budget on the State of Illinois Uniform Grant Budget Template ([*template provided*](https://www.iccb.org/grant-opportunities/)). Applicants should submit budgets based upon the total estimated costs for the project. Costs should be in line with allowable costs under the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act. Grantees should ensure that they have the institutional capacity to fully execute this grant and all funding provided with it. Grants funds must be expended within the allowable timeframes of the grant period.

# Application/Submission Information

Each grant application package must be submitted no later than 11:59 p.m. on **December 1, 2023**, to ICCB.cte@illinois.gov. Grant application and materials may be found on the ICCB website at [www.iccb.org/grant-opportunities/.](http://www.iccb.org/grant-opportunities/.%20)

One bidder’s conference webinar will be held. Bidder’s conference attendance is not mandatory. A recording of the webinar will be made available on the [ICCB Grant Opportunities webpage](https://www.iccb.org/grant-opportunities/).

**November 2, 2023 @ 1:00 p.m.- Webinar**

**Webinar Information:**

ICCB Electric Vehicle Technology Grant Program Bidder's Conference

Time: Nov 2, 2023, 01:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85713621071?pwd=RDRMcEx1RldjdlR5NzRsWWYwU2RVdz09>

Meeting ID: 857 1362 1071

Passcode: 8WKXLA

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One tap mobile

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All questions must be submitted electronically to [ICCB.cte@illinois.gov](mailto:ICCB.cte@illinois.gov). Phone calls will not be accepted. Include in the subject line: [**Organization’s Name**] SFY2024 EV Grant. All questions will be posted in an FAQ on the ICCB website.

**Paper copies of the applications are not permitted.** Applicants will receive confirmation of receipt of the e-mail containing the attachments. It is up to the applicant to ensure that all items in the package are attached and sent in the e-mail.

All applicants, funded or not funded, will be notified by December 20, 2023.

# Grant Pre-Qualification

Interested institutions may apply for a grant but will not be eligible for a grant award until the institution has pre-qualified through the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA) Grantee Portal located at [www.grants.illinois.gov](http://www.grants.illinois.gov).

During pre-qualification, the Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) verifications are performed including a check of Debarred and Suspended status and good standing with the Secretary of State. The prequalification process also includes a financial and administrative risk assessment utilizing an Internal Controls Questionnaire.

If applicable, the entity will be notified that it is ineligible for award as a result of the UEI verification. The entity will be informed of corrective action needed to become eligible for a grant award.

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:

* Be registered in SAM before submitting its application. If you are not registered in SAM, this link provides a connection for SAM registration:

<https://governmentcontractregistration.com/sam-registration.asp>.

* Provide a valid UEI number in its application.
* Continue to maintain an active SAM registration with current information at all times during which it has an active award.

ICCB will not make an award to an applicant until the applicant has fully complied with all applicable UEI and SAM requirements.

Grant recipients must comply with all applicable provisions of state and federal laws and regulations pertaining to nondiscrimination, sexual harassment, and equal employment.

# Funding Information

* *Grant Period:* The grant period for Objective A is January 15, 2024 - December 31, 2024; Objective B is January 15, 2024-June 30, 2025.
* *Funding Availability:* A total of $10,000,000 is appropriated from the General Revenue Fund to the ICCB. $9,400,000 is for grants to eligible entities for educational purposes as outlined under this NOFO. Only one application per college will be accepted.
* *Funding Deadlines.* ***Please note that extensions are not intended to be given for expending funds****.*
  + *Cost Sharing or Matching:* No cost sharing or matching is required.
  + *Indirect Cost Rate:* There are no restrictions on Indirect Cost.
  + *Allowable and Unallowable Costs:* All costs must be reasonable and necessary to achieve the goals and outcomes of the program.

# Review Criteria and Selection Process

The ICCB staff will use the criteria listed in this NOFO to review the applications and will award points accordingly. Decisions to award grants and the funding levels will be determined per application based upon compliance with the requirements of this NOFO and the grant proposal.

Applicants must demonstrate that they meet all requirements under this NOFO as described throughout.

# State Awarding Agency Contact

# Whitney Thompson, Deputy Director for Workforce Education

# Email: [whitney.thompson@illinois.gov](mailto:whitney.thompson@illinois.gov)

# Phone: (217) 558- 0318

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1. <https://www.illinois.gov/news/press-release.23893.html> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. <https://www.iea.org/energy-system/transport/electric-vehicles> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. <https://www.iea.org/reports/global-ev-outlook-2023/trends-in-electric-light-duty-vehicles> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)