



# opportunityreturns

*Creating more jobs for today and tomorrow*

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Rod R. Blagojevich – Governor

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**news**

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## **GOVERNOR BLAGOJEVICH ANNOUNCES MORE THAN \$400,000 IN OPPORTUNITY RETURNS FUNDING TO SUPPORT RECYCLING EFFORTS AND JOB CREATION IN SOUTHERN REGION**

SPRINGFIELD – Governor Rod Blagojevich today announced more than **\$400,000** in *Opportunity Returns* funding has been awarded to eight Southern region organizations to support recycling initiatives that will help create 10 new jobs and advance recycling collection and processing efforts throughout the area. Each organization will receive grants to expand recycling collection by adding and servicing additional drop-off sites, purchasing new equipment or servicing new customers. These grants are part of *Opportunity Returns*, Governor Blagojevich’s regional, pro-active economic development program to create jobs and promote economic growth for the Southern region.

“Throughout the Southern region, *Opportunity Returns* is designed to give business and industry the resources they need to be more competitive and more productive. Through the Illinois Recycling Grants Program, we are expanding markets for a very important industry in our state, strengthening its capacity to create more jobs and continuing to make a positive impact on the Southern Illinois economy,” Governor Blagojevich said.

The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) administers the recycling grants. DCEO finances the program through monies received from the tipping fee surcharge levied at Illinois landfills.

The grant recipients for the Southern region:

Organization	Location	Amount
Choate Mental Health & Dev. Center	Anna – Union County	\$45,234
Southern Recycling Center	Carbondale – Jackson County	\$100,000
Burris Disposal Service, LLC	Carbondale – Jackson County	\$50,000
Southern Illinois University	Carbondale – Jackson County	\$37,813
City of DuQuoin	DuQuoin – Perry County	\$27,054

(more)

Wayne County Board	Fairfield – Wayne County	\$50,000
In a Pinch	Herrin – Williamson County	\$50,000
Ripped to Shreds, Inc.	Mt. Vernon – Jefferson County	\$48,352

**Total: \$408,453**

“Governor Blagojevich continues to utilize innovative programs from a wide variety of fields to spur regional economic growth and create more jobs. While these recycling grants will help minimize the negative impact we as consumers have on the environment, they will also play an instrumental role in strengthening an industry that has proven to be a great source of job creation and economic productivity in our state,” DCEO Director Jack Lavin said.

Grant awards are determined on a competitive basis, and the grantee is required to provide an applicant investment of at least 50% of the funding required for the project.

Governor Blagojevich’s *Opportunity Returns* regional economic development plan is the most aggressive, comprehensive approach to creating jobs in Illinois’ history. Since a one-size-fits-all approach to economic development just doesn’t work, the Governor has divided the state into 10 regions – finding areas with common economic strengths and needs, and developing a plan with specific actions for each region. This grassroots effort for the Southern region is a product of significant outreach over several months with business, civic and labor leaders, and elected officials. The more than 40 specific projects that the Governor announced last November for Southern Illinois are designed to be flexible and effective. This plan is tailored to deliver real results that local businesses will see, feel, and, hopefully, profit from.

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