



Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity

Rod R. Blagojevich, Governor / Jack Lavin, Director

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Blagojevich Announces Nearly \$1 Million In Opportunity Returns Training Grants *Funds Part Of Governor's Economic Development Strategy*



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
ROD R. BLAGOJEVICH - GOVERNOR

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 28, 2003

Blagojevich announces nearly \$1 million in Opportunity Returns training grants *Funds part of Governor's economic development strategy*

CHICAGO – Gov. Rod R. Blagojevich today announced the awarding of 19 workforce training grants totaling \$900,000 to companies and organizations across the state as part of *Opportunity Returns*, the Blagojevich Administration's regional comprehensive approach to economic development and job creation in Illinois. The grants are being awarded through the Employer Training Investment Program's (ETIP) Small/Mid-sized Company component and will be used to upgrade the skills of more than 8,800 workers statewide.

"One of the first things my administration did was craft the *21st Century Jobs Training* initiative to create a new generation of employer-focused, customized training programs to address the needs of large, medium and small-sized manufacturers in the state," Blagojevich said. "Keeping workers up to speed with new technologies and business practices is vital to increasing

business productivity, reducing costs, improving quality and boosting the competitiveness of not only the state's workforce but of Illinois' companies as well."

Eleven companies are receiving the grants through the program's single company option, with eight organizations receiving the grants through the plan's multi-company option. Nearly 500 companies can access the training funds through the multi-company option. The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) administers the ETIP grants, which reimburse companies and organizations for up to 50 percent of the costs of training their employees.

"This is the first time these funds have been set aside for companies with under 250 employees," said DCEO Director Jack Lavin. "This initiative, particularly the newly-created Small to Mid-sized Company component, will offer assistance to address the training needs necessary to retain and expand manufacturing companies in the state, especially those businesses that act as suppliers to larger companies."

The following single and multi-company option ETIP grants have been released:

ETIP Grantees

Organization Name/Location	# Workers Trained	Amount
Single Company Option:		
A.J.R. Industries Elk Grove Village/Cook County	29	\$ 12,632
Atlas Material Testing Technology, LLC Chicago/Cook County	144	\$ 37,825
Cudner & O'Connor Chicago/Cook County	12	\$ 11,650
DeCardy Diecasting, Inc. Chicago/Cook County	20	\$ 11,211

Disco Machine & Manufacturing	25	\$ 10,500
Norridge/Cook County		
G.A.I.M. Engineering, Inc.	8	\$ 10,138
Bensenville/DuPage County		
Lion Tool & Die Company	18	\$ 4,450
Algonquin/McHenry County		
Springfield Electric	223	\$ 14,896
Springfield/Sangamon County		
Summit Industries	77	\$ 43,875
Chicago/Cook County		
Gateway Food Products Co.	15	\$ 29,875
Dupo/St. Clair County		
Excel Foundry & Machine, Inc.	96	\$ 7,030
Pekin/Tazewell County		
Multi-Company Option		
Assoc. of IL Electric Cooperatives (AIEC)	2,801	\$ 83,653
Springfield/Sangamon County		
Eastern Illinois University – Business & Technology Institute	286	\$ 50,000
Charleston/Coles County		

Elgin Community College	485	\$ 51,938
Elgin/Kane County		
Employers Association of Illinois	1,160	\$184,550
Peoria/Peoria County		
Jane Addams Resource Corp. (JARC)	164	\$ 40,250
Chicago/Cook County		
Lewis & Clark Community College	150	\$ 30,000
Godfrey/Madison County		
Northern Illinois Regional Consortium (NIRC)	2,522	\$210,574
Des Plaines, Palatine, Glen Ellyn, Grayslake Cook, DuPage, Lake Counties		
Waubonsee Community College	610	\$55,000
Aurora/Kane County		
TOTAL:	8,845	\$900,047

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