



## 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

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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
<b>Single Company Option:</b>		
<b>A.J.R. Industries</b>	29	\$ 12,632
Elk Grove Village/Cook County		
<b>Atlas Material Testing Technology, LLC</b>	144	\$ 37,825
Chicago/Cook County		
<b>Cudner &amp; O'Connor</b>	12	\$ 11,650
Chicago/Cook County		
<b>DeCardy Diecasting, Inc.</b>	20	\$ 11,211
Chicago/Cook County		

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

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

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