



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 | <u># Workers Trained</u> | 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 Norridge/Cook County | 25 | \$ 10,500 |
| G.A.I.M. Engineering, Inc. Bensenville/DuPage County | 8 | \$ 10,138 |
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|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|-----------|
| 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 |

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|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|------------------|
| 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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