



Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity

JB Pritzker, Governor

December 21, 2023

Governor JB Pritzker
Members of the Illinois General Assembly
State Capitol Building
401 S. 2nd Street
Springfield, IL 62701

Dear Governor Pritzker and Members of the General Assembly:

The following report fulfills the statutory directive that the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) provide the Governor and the Members of the General Assembly with an annual report on the Task Force on Opportunities for At-Risk Women. The Opportunities for At-Risk Women Act (20 ILCS 5075/Article 5) requires that a Task Force is created within DCEO. The duties of the Task Force on Opportunities for At-Risk Women as stated in statute (20 ILCS 5075/Article 10) are to strategize and design a plan for DCEO to partner with State and local governmental agencies, companies, and organizations that aid in helping at-risk women and their families become successful productive citizens.

Program Model

DCEO, through its Office of Minority Economic Empowerment (OMEE), is providing administrative support and technical assistance to the Task Force on Opportunities for At-Risk Women. The Task Force gathers governmental agencies and organizations that assist at-risk women and their families to seek policy improvements that will increase social and economic security for these women and their families. By working together, the Task Force examines how housing assistance, educational advancement, potential career pathways and job training, financial literacy, and mental health resources can be better accessed and directly serve the needs of this community.

As outlined in statute, "at-risk women" means women who are at increased risk of incarceration because of poverty, abuse, addiction, financial challenges, illiteracy, or other causes. The term "at-risk women" may include, but shall not be limited to, women who have previously been incarcerated.

Program Status

The Task Force has not met in calendar year 2023 but will reconvene in 2024 and work with the General Assembly members appointed to resume work.

Please feel free to contact DCEO with any questions regarding this report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kristin Richards".

Kristin Richards, Director