



Illinois
Department of Commerce
& Economic Opportunity

OFFICE OF TOURISM

JB Pritzker, Governor

April 13, 2022

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

Dear Members of the General Assembly:

The following report fulfills the statutory directive that the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) provide the Members of the General Assembly with a report on the Municipal Convention Center and Sports Facility Attraction Grant program. The Illinois Promotion Act (20 ILCS 665/8b) authorizes the Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity (Department) to administer a grant program designed for the purpose of attracting conventions, meetings and trade shows to municipal convention centers and attracting sports events to municipal amateur sports facilities.

Program Overview

Until July 1, 2022, the Department is authorized to make grants, subject to appropriation by the General Assembly, from the Tourism Promotion Fund to a unit of local government or convention center authority that provides incentives, as defined in subsection (i) of Section 3 of this Act, for the purpose of attracting conventions, meetings, and trade shows to municipal convention centers or attracting sporting events to municipal amateur sports facilities. Grants awarded shall be based on the net proceeds received under the Hotel Operators' Occupation Tax Act for the renting, leasing, or letting of hotel rooms in the municipality in which the municipal convention center or municipal amateur sports facility is located for the month in which the convention, meeting, trade show, or sporting event occurs. Grants shall not exceed 80% of the incentive amount provided by the unit of local government or convention center authority. Further, in no event may the aggregate amount of grants awarded with respect to a single municipal convention center or municipal amateur sports facility exceed \$200,000 in any calendar year.

Program Status

The Municipal Convention Center and Sports Facility Attraction Grant Program was not able to be implemented due statutory language issues and then limited funds due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Since 2015, the Village of Schaumburg has been the only municipality offering incentives to attract new events and received a direct appropriation of \$146,000 in FY 2022 and FY 2023.

Please feel free to contact the Department with any questions about this report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sylvia I. Garcia".

Sylvia I. Garcia
Director