**Section 650.40 Special Attention to Certain Applicants**

*Special attention shall be given to public and private entities with operating budgets of less than $1,000,000 that are located in a depressed area, as defined* in *Section 3 of the Illinois Enterprise Zone Act, and preferences for recommending grants to the State Treasurer may be given to these entities by the Committee*.[30 ILCS 790/5(a)] For purposes of this Part, an applicant is located in a depressed area if the applicant meets one or more of the following conditions:

a) The unemployment rate in the census tract where the applicant is located had an annual average unemployment rate of at least 120% of the State's annual average unemployment rate for the most recent calendar year or the most recent fiscal year, as reported by the Department of Employment Security;

b) All or part of the census tract where the applicant is located has a poverty rate of at least 20%, according to the latest data from the U.S. Census Bureau;

c) The percent of households in the census tract where the applicant is located who receive SNAP Benefits is 20% or higher, according to the latest data from the U.S. Census Bureau; or

d) 50% or more of the children in the census tract where the applicant is located are eligible to participate in the federal free or reduced-price meals program, according to reported statistics from the State Board of Education.

(Source: Amended at 43 Ill. Reg. 437, effective December 21, 2018)