

1 AN ACT concerning State government.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Department of Commerce and Economic
5 Opportunity Law of the Civil Administrative Code of Illinois
6 is amended by adding Section 605-1032 as follows:

7 (20 ILCS 605/605-1032 new)

8 Sec. 605-1032. Office of Economic Equity and Empowerment.

9 (a) As used in this Section:

10 "Eligible not-for-profit corporation" means a
11 not-for-profit corporation, as defined in Section 101.80 of
12 the General Not For Profit Corporation Act of 1986, that
13 primarily serves minorities, women, veterans, or persons with
14 a disability.

15 "Office" means the Office of Economic Equity and
16 Empowerment.

17 (b) The Office of Economic Equity and Empowerment is
18 hereby created within the Department. The Office shall assist
19 minority-owned businesses, women-owned businesses,
20 veteran-owned businesses, businesses owned by persons with
21 disabilities, eligible not-for-profit corporations, and other
22 underserved communities and constituencies through targeted
23 programs, resources, and outreach and promotional activities.

1 The Office may engage in or conduct the following activities:

2 (1) promoting and conducting outreach efforts to
3 ensure access to State and federal funding opportunities,
4 and assisting minority-owned businesses, women-owned
5 businesses, veteran-owned businesses, businesses owned by
6 persons with disabilities, eligible not-for-profit
7 corporations, and other underserved communities and
8 constituencies in applying for and receiving loan funds in
9 the State;

10 (2) providing and hosting workshops and public forums
11 and engaging in outreach efforts for minority-owned
12 businesses, women-owned businesses, veteran-owned
13 businesses, businesses owned by persons with disabilities,
14 and other underserved communities and constituencies to
15 encourage participation in programs under the Business
16 Enterprise for Minorities, Women, and Persons with
17 Disabilities Act, and assisting those businesses in
18 becoming designated under that Act and under similar
19 certification programs;

20 (3) providing and hosting workshops and public forums
21 and engaging in outreach efforts that assist and educate
22 minority-owned businesses, women-owned businesses,
23 veteran-owned businesses, businesses owned by persons with
24 disabilities, eligible not-for-profit corporations, and
25 other underserved communities and constituencies on the
26 process of applying for and becoming certified to apply

1 for State grant funds under the Grant Accountability and
2 Transparency Act;

3 (4) providing and hosting workshops and public forums
4 and engaging in outreach efforts that assist and educate
5 aspiring and existing minority-owned businesses,
6 women-owned businesses, veteran-owned businesses,
7 businesses owned by persons with disabilities, eligible
8 not-for-profit corporations, and other underserved
9 communities and constituencies with understanding concepts
10 including, but not limited to, business formation and
11 not-for-profit incorporation, business planning, capital
12 access, and marketing a business or not-for-profit
13 corporation;

14 (5) administering programs established by the
15 Department or the General Assembly to provide grants to
16 minority-owned businesses, woman-owned businesses,
17 veteran-owned businesses, businesses owned by persons with
18 disabilities, eligible not-for-profit corporations, and
19 other underserved communities and constituencies;

20 (6) coordinating assistance for minority-owned
21 businesses, woman-owned businesses, veteran-owned
22 businesses, businesses owned by persons with disabilities,
23 eligible not-for-profit corporations, and other
24 underserved communities and constituencies with other
25 State agencies;

26 (7) providing staff, administration, and related

1 support required to administer this Section; and
2 (8) establishing applications, notifications,
3 contracts, and other forms and procedures, and adopting
4 rules deemed necessary and appropriate.

5 (c) The Office may use vendors or enter into contracts to
6 carry out the purposes of this Section.