**Section 44.125 Program Standards for Determination of Priority Needs**

a) At least 20% of funds awarded for the Capital Program shall be awarded to Projects involving one or more Safety Net Hospitals as defined by 305 ILCS 5/5-5e.1.

b) Priority consideration shall be given to Critical Access Hospitals, which are Illinois hospitals designated as a critical care hospital by the Department of Public Health in accordance with 42 CFR 485, Subpart F; communities that experience significant health disparities aggravated by social determinants of health and insufficient health resources determined by the social vulnerability index published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and applicants involved in the Services Program pursuant to Section 14-12(d-5) of the Illinois Public Aid Code.