

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 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the 21st  
5 Century Workforce Development Fund Act.

6 Section 5. The 21st Century Workforce Development Fund. The  
7 21st Century Workforce Development Fund is created as a special  
8 fund in the State Treasury. The Fund shall be administered by  
9 the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity ("the  
10 Department"), in consultation with other appropriate State  
11 agencies, and overseen by the 21st Century Workforce  
12 Development Fund Advisory Committee ("the Advisory  
13 Committee"). There shall be credited to the Fund any moneys  
14 specifically designated for deposit into the Fund, including  
15 State appropriations, set asides from public expenditures on  
16 capital projects, federal funds, gifts, grants, and private  
17 contributions. Earnings attributable to moneys in the fund  
18 shall be deposited into the fund.

19 Section 10. Purpose. The purpose of the 21st Century  
20 Workforce Development Fund is to promote the State's interest  
21 in the creation and maintenance of a diverse and skilled  
22 workforce for the economic development of the State. The Fund

1 is intended to support integrated, innovative, and emergency  
2 workforce development strategies that promote local economic  
3 development and a continuum of workforce and education  
4 strategies, including workforce development activities to  
5 prepare individuals for occupations in the energy efficiency  
6 and renewable energy industries, as well as other occupations  
7 that are created or transformed by the implementation of policy  
8 to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, to prevent and remediate  
9 pollution, and to promote energy-efficient, healthy, and  
10 lead-safe homes in Illinois.

11 Section 15. Use of Fund.

12 (a) Role of Fund. Resources from the Fund are intended to  
13 be used flexibly to support innovative and locally-driven  
14 strategies, to leverage other funding sources, and to fill gaps  
15 in existing workforce development resources in Illinois. They  
16 are not intended to supplant existing workforce development  
17 resources.

18 (b) Distribution of funds. Funds shall be distributed  
19 through competitive grantmaking processes administered by the  
20 Department and overseen by the Advisory Committee. No more than  
21 6% of funds used for grants may be retained by the Department  
22 for administrative costs or for program evaluation or technical  
23 assistance activities.

24 (c) Grantmaking. The Department must administer funds  
25 through competitive grantmaking in accordance with the

1 priorities described in this Act. Grantmaking must be used to  
2 support workforce development strategies consistent with the  
3 priorities outlined in this Act. Strategies may include, but  
4 are not limited to the following:

5 (i) Expanded grantmaking for existing State workforce  
6 development strategies, including the Job Training and  
7 Economic Development Program and programs designed to  
8 increase the number of persons traditionally  
9 underrepresented in the building trades, specifically  
10 minorities and women.

11 (ii) Workforce development initiatives that help the  
12 least skilled adults access employment and education  
13 opportunities, including transitional jobs programs and  
14 educational bridge programming that integrate basic  
15 education and occupational skills training.

16 (iii) Sectoral strategies that develop  
17 industry-specific workforce education and training  
18 services that lead to existing or expected jobs with  
19 identified employers and that include services to ensure  
20 that low-income, low-skilled adults can be served.

21 (iv) Support for the development and implementation of  
22 workforce education and training programs in the energy  
23 efficiency, renewable energy, and pollution control  
24 cleanup and prevention industries.

25 (v) Support for planning activities that: ensure that  
26 workforce development and education needs of low-skilled

1 adults are integrated into industry-specific career  
2 pathways; analyze labor market data to track workforce  
3 trends in the State's energy-related initiatives; or  
4 increase the capacity of communities to provide workforce  
5 services to low-income, low-skilled adults.

6 (d) Allowable expenditures. Grant funds are limited to  
7 expenditures for the following:

8 (i) Basic skills training, adult education,  
9 occupational training, job readiness training, and  
10 soft-skills training for which financial aid is otherwise  
11 not available.

12 (ii) Workforce development-related services including  
13 mentoring, job development, support services,  
14 transportation assistance, and wage subsidies, that are  
15 tied to participation in training and employment.

16 (iii) Capacity building, program development, and  
17 technical assistance activities necessary for the  
18 development and implementation of new workforce education  
19 and training strategies.

20 No more than 5% of any grant may be used for administrative  
21 costs.

22 (e) Eligible applicants. For grants under this Section,  
23 eligible applicants include the following:

24 (i) Any private, public, and non-profit entities that  
25 provide education, training, and workforce development  
26 services to low-income individuals.

1 (ii) Educational institutions.

2 (iii) Labor and business associations.

3 Section 20. Priorities. The Department shall implement  
4 grantmaking using the following priorities, and the Advisory  
5 Committee shall monitor the application of these priorities to  
6 grantmaking:

7 (a) Priority populations. Priority shall be given to  
8 workforce education and training strategies that target  
9 individuals with barriers to employment including, but not  
10 limited to, criminal backgrounds, low incomes, residents of  
11 public or subsidized housing, and individuals with limited  
12 literacy, math skills, or English proficiency. Priority may  
13 also be given to workers with jobs that are affected by the  
14 implementation of State energy and environmental policy.

15 (b) Priority industries. Priority shall be given to  
16 workforce education and training strategies for the following:

17 (i) Industries that will reduce carbon emissions,  
18 promote recycling/reuse, prevent and remediate pollution,  
19 and support local food production, including but not  
20 limited to the following:

21 (A) Energy efficient building construction,  
22 retrofit, and assessment industries.

23 (B) Renewable electric power generation and  
24 transmission industries.

25 (C) Deconstruction and materials use industries.

1 (D) Manufacturers that produce sustainable  
2 products using environmentally sustainable processes  
3 and materials.

4 (E) Local food systems.

5 (ii) Industries identified by the Department to be  
6 facing a critical shortage of skilled workers.

7 (c) Other priority factors. The Department must implement  
8 grantmaking by giving priority to grant applications that  
9 demonstrate collaboration amongst local workforce, education,  
10 and economic development stakeholders in their community;  
11 demonstrate collaboration with outreach programs designed to  
12 connect community residents with training opportunities;  
13 integrate lead-safe work practices into their training; or  
14 serve communities with high rates of unemployment,  
15 underemployment, and poverty.

16 Section 25. 21st Century Workforce Development Fund  
17 Advisory Committee. The 21st Century Workforce Development  
18 Fund Advisory Committee shall review, advise, and recommend for  
19 approval or denial all grant requests from the Fund. The  
20 Department is responsible for the administration and staffing  
21 of the Advisory Committee.

22 (a) Membership. The Committee shall consist of 21 persons.  
23 Co-chairs shall be appointed by the Governor with the  
24 requirement that one come from the public and one from the  
25 private sector.

1 (b) Eleven members shall be appointed by the Governor, and  
2 any of the 11 members appointed by the Governor may fill more  
3 than one of the following required categories:

4 (i) Four must be from communities outside of the City  
5 of Chicago.

6 (ii) At least one must be a member of a local workforce  
7 investment board (LWIB) in his or her community.

8 (iii) At least one must represent organized labor.

9 (iv) At least one must represent business or industry.

10 (v) At least one must represent a non-profit  
11 organization that provides workforce development or job  
12 training services.

13 (vi) At least one must represent a non-profit  
14 organization involved in workforce development policy,  
15 analysis, or research.

16 (vii) At least one must represent a non-profit  
17 organization involved in environmental policy, advocacy,  
18 or research.

19 (viii) At least one must represent a group that  
20 advocates for individuals with barriers to employment,  
21 including at-risk youth, formerly incarcerated  
22 individuals, and individuals living in poverty.

23 (c) The other 10 members shall be the following:

24 (i) The Director of Commerce and Economic Opportunity,  
25 or his or her designee who oversees workforce development  
26 services.

1           (ii) The Secretary of Human Services, or his or her  
2           designee who oversees human capital services.

3           (iii) The Director of Corrections, or his or her  
4           designee who oversees prisoner re-entry services.

5           (iv) The Director of the Environmental Protection  
6           Agency, or his or her designee who oversees contractor  
7           compliance.

8           (v) The Chairman of the Illinois Community College  
9           Board, or his or her designee who oversees technical and  
10          career education.

11          (vi) A representative of the Illinois Community  
12          College Board involved in energy education and sustainable  
13          practices, designated by the Board.

14          (vii) Four State legislators, one designated by the  
15          President of the Senate, one designated by the Speaker of  
16          the House, one designated by the Senate Minority Leader,  
17          and one designated by the House Minority Leader.

18          (d) Appointees under subsection (b) shall serve a 2-year  
19          term and are eligible to be re-appointed one time. Members  
20          under subsection (c) shall serve ex officio or at the pleasure  
21          of the designating official, as applicable.

22          Section 95. The State Finance Act is amended by adding  
23          Section 5.719 as follows:

24               (30 ILCS 105/5.719 new)



1       Sec. 5.719. The 21st Century Workforce Development Fund.

2       Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect July 1,  
3       2009.