



Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity

JB Pritzker, Governor

January 5, 2022

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

Dear Governor Pritzker and Members of the General Assembly:

The following report fulfills the statutory directive that the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) provide the Governor and the Members of the General Assembly with an annual report on the Task Force on Opportunities for At-Risk Women. The Opportunities for At-Risk Women Act (20 ILCS 5075/Article 5) requires that a Task Force is created within the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity. The duties of the Task Force on Opportunities for At-Risk Women as stated in statute (20 ILCS 5075/Article 10) are to strategize and design a plan for DCEO to partner with State and local governmental agencies, companies, and organizations that aid in helping at-risk women and their families become successful productive citizens.

Program Model

The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) through its Office of Minority Economic Empowerment (OMEE) is providing administrative support and technical assistance to the Task Force on Opportunities for At-Risk Women. The Task Force gathers governmental agencies and organizations that aid at-risk women and their families to seek policy improvements that will increase social and economic security for this population. By working together, the Task Force examines how housing assistance, educational advancement, job training, financial literacy, and mental health resources can be better accessed and directly serve the needs of this population.

As outlined in statute, "at-risk women" means women who are at increased risk of incarceration because of poverty, abuse, addiction, financial challenges, illiteracy, or other causes. The term "at-risk women" may include, but shall not be limited to, women who have previously been incarcerated.

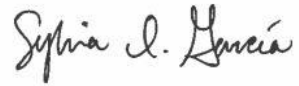
Program Status

The Task Force on Opportunities for At-Risk Women has not met since December 15, 2020 due to various factors, including membership turnover and reduced bandwidth at the Department due to a focus on COVID-19 emergency response activities.

New committee appointments and DCEO-OMEE staff members are now in place to reconvene the Task Force, and will be working with the General Assembly members appointed to the Task Force on Opportunities for At-Risk Women to resume the Task Force's work in Fiscal Year 2022.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sylvia I. Garcia". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'S'.

Sylvia I. Garcia
Acting Director