

## Do You Know How & Where to Get Federal Funding?

Illinois ResourceNet: A Funding Access Initiative (IRN) is a university-based resource providing Illinois nonprofits and local governments with the competitive assets and skill sets to access federal funding.

### IRN's Key Accomplishments include:

- Since the inception of the project, IRN has helped increase the amount of federal funding secured by participating organizations and municipalities by \$75.3 million and state funding by \$28.9 million.

#### *Highlights of these awards include:*

- \$61.9 million in federal and \$26.9 million in state funding to the Illinois Broadband Opportunity Partnership - East Central Region to expand and improve a high-speed fiber, middle mile network across a 55-county region of northeastern, central, and eastern Illinois. This project will connect 400 community anchor institutions, including 135 K-12 public schools, 30 public safety entities, 20 libraries, 30 community colleges and 20 other institutes of higher learning, 33 healthcare facilities, and 120 government buildings and centers. It will also create more than 160 jobs and facilitate more affordable and accessible broadband service for up to 3.9 million households and 285,000 businesses.
- \$4.7 million in federal and \$1.2 million in state funding to MyWay Village, Inc. to engage thousands of senior citizens and people with disabilities in 23 communities by installing and upgrading computer learning centers, and teaching participants the basics of e-mail, Web access and other practical computer skills. In addition, MyWay Village has partnered with local Workforce Investment Act organizations to help seniors who develop their digital literacy skills find part time work. This project will create over 100 jobs.
- \$1.49 million to City of Robinson. This grant will help to fund roadway, sewer and water infrastructure improvements to the Ridgway Industrial Park located in Crawford County. As a result of these infrastructure improvements this project is expected to create 700 jobs and generate \$70 million in private investment.
- IRN has also provided technical assistance on over 115 federal proposals across the state for over \$240 million many of which are still pending.
- IRN has also conducted over 70 trainings, webinars and conferences across the state with approximately 2,627 participants.

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### **Illinois ResourceNet Technical Assistance:**

IRN's team of Technical Assistance Providers (TAs) are located throughout the state and have expertise in the technical aspects of federal grant development as well as knowledge of federal policies and programs. In addition, our TAs are qualified in a range of policy areas including workforce development, community development, housing, environmental sustainability, information technology, health, and hazard mitigation. The assistance provided by IRN's TAs is based on three main models of service-delivery, including the continuous place-based proposal development model; the hazard mitigation model; and the individual TA model.

### **The TA model:**

This model works one-on-one with individual organizations and collaboratives on single proposal opportunities.

*TA services provided may include the following:*

- Assistance registering for grants.gov or obtaining a DUNS number
- Creation of a proposal development workplan or outline
- Assistance organizing or assembling partners or collaborators
- Assistance in developing Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) or other partnership agreements
- Research on key demographic information
- Review of the proposal and attachments for their adherence to the requirements outlined in the request for proposal (RFP) with particular attention to point criteria as well as for clarity and completeness
- Final review of the full proposal and all attachments
- Facilitation of the proposal submission process
- Referral (s) to additional capacity building opportunities

### **IRN's Signature Continuous Place-Based Proposal Development Model:**

Federal proposal development is a cumulative process. IRN's continuous proposal building strategy builds on previously submitted proposal documents for new proposal submissions. High functioning collaborations and community plans provide place-based initiatives with the opportunity to engage in long-term resource development. Continuous proposal building uses the plans created by communities, including background information on the organizations' accomplishments, cost estimates and budgets, program designs, and research on community demographic data, to develop federal grants matrices that layer federal funding streams across policy areas to further place-based development. These grants matrices provide collaboratives with funding maps that demonstrate how communities can use federal funding over time to drive comprehensive community and economic development. Groups that participate in the process of continuous proposal development strengthen relationships between partners and, through these relationships, have access to additional resources.

### **Hazard Mitigation Model:**

IRN's hazard mitigation model works with cities and counties to help them apply for funding to safe guard against natural and environmental disasters by providing training and technical assistance around hazard mitigation planning and long term recovery. In addition, our technical assistance providers also identify and map additional federal funding opportunities based on approved hazard mitigation plans throughout the state.