



# CEJA: Illinois Renewable Energy Conference

October 1, 2024

Presenters:

- Nate Keener (DCEO)
- Tamika Thomas (Richland Community College)
- Missy Batman (Heart of Illinois Community Foundation)



**Illinois**  
**Department of Commerce**  
**& Economic Opportunity**

JB Pritzker, Governor

# Agenda

**CEJA Workforce Ecosystem Overview**

**Renewable Energy Workforce Needs**

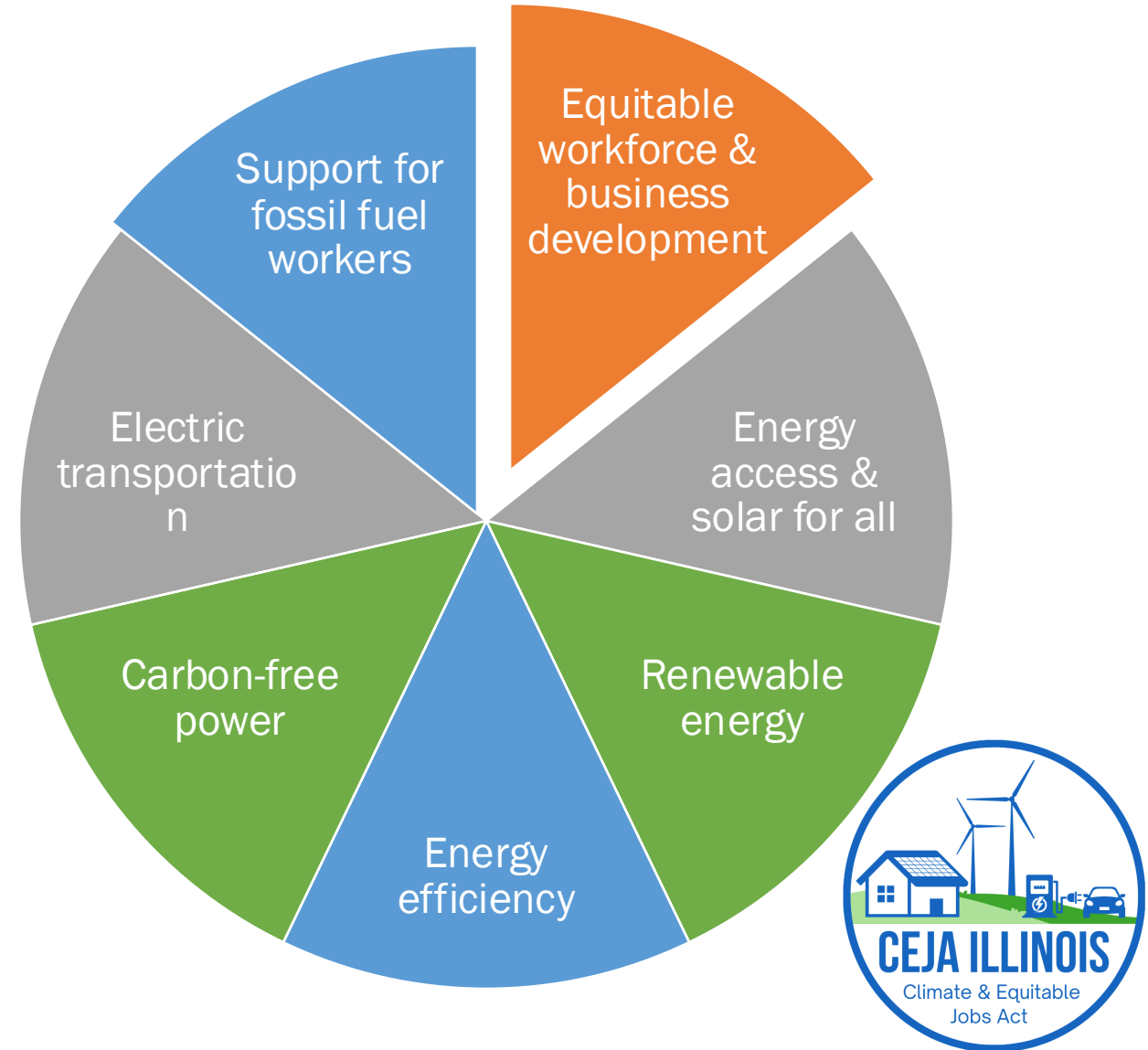
**CEJA Workforce Program Details**

**CEJA Grantees Case Studies**



# What is the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act, or CEJA?

Comprehensive energy legislation that **centers equity** and puts Illinois on track to achieve 100 percent renewable energy by 2050.



# CEJA Workforce Ecosystem

Workforce training programs focused on training equity investment eligible individuals



Clean Jobs  
Workforce  
Network  
Program



Climate Works  
Pre-  
apprenticeship  
Program

Barrier Reduction Program



Returning  
Resident  
Clean Jobs  
Training Program



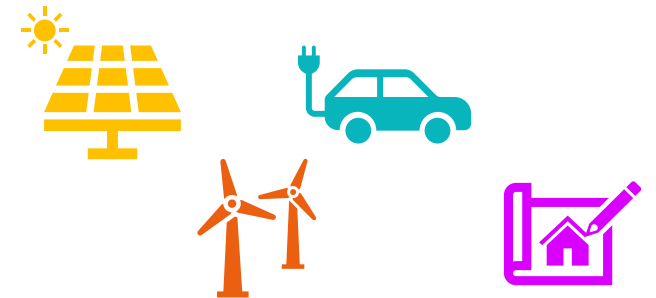
Energy  
Transition  
Navigator  
Program

Job or  
apprenticeship  
placement

Clean energy employers select or hire  
apprentices or entry-level workers

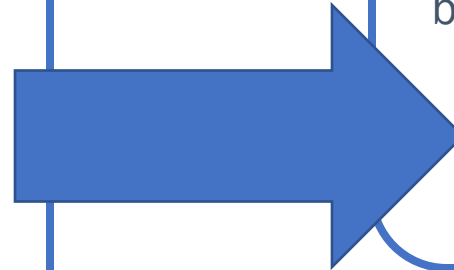


They work on clean energy projects  
funded by CEJA and more



# CEJA Workforce Ecosystem

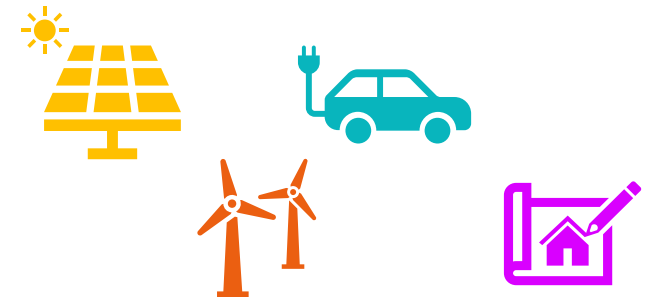
Equity-focused contractor development programs



Clean energy contractors receive resources and support to grow their businesses.



They have increased capacity to bid on clean energy projects funded by CEJA and more



# CEJA Ecosystem

## Workforce training programs



Clean Jobs  
Workforce  
Network  
Program



Climate Works  
Pre-  
apprenticeship  
Program



Energy  
Transition  
Navigator  
Program



Returning  
Resident  
Clean Jobs  
Training Program



FEJA  
workforce  
programs

## Contractor support programs



Contractor  
Incubator  
Program



Primes  
Contractor  
Accelerator

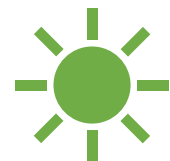
## Economic development, jobs & environmental justice



Energy Transition  
Community  
Grant



Equitable  
Energy Future  
Grant



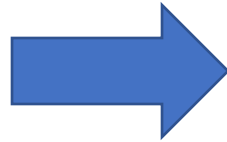
Coal to  
solar



Community  
Solar Energy  
Sovereignty

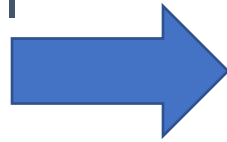
# CEJA equitable workforce development

Illinois is investing in clean energy sources, electric vehicles, and energy efficiency.



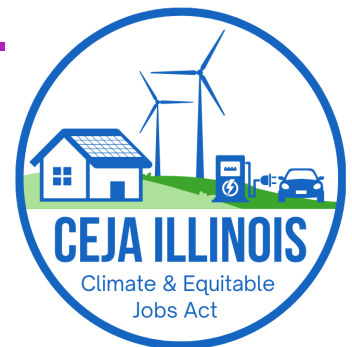
We need to expand the clean energy workforce to do the work.

Some groups/communities suffer more from environmental impacts and economic disinvestment.

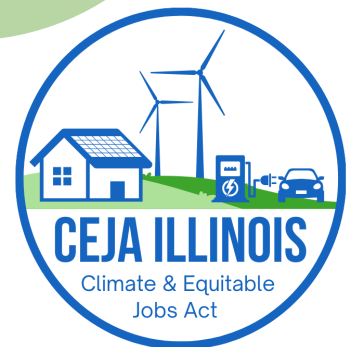


The benefits of clean energy investments and good-paying clean energy jobs should be distributed equitably.

Some groups benefit more from clean energy investments.



# Equity focused program culture: More than numeric participant targets

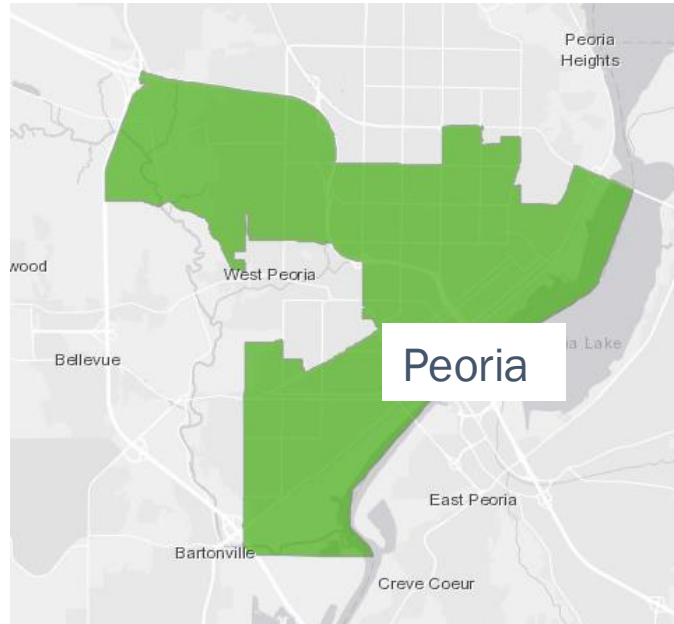
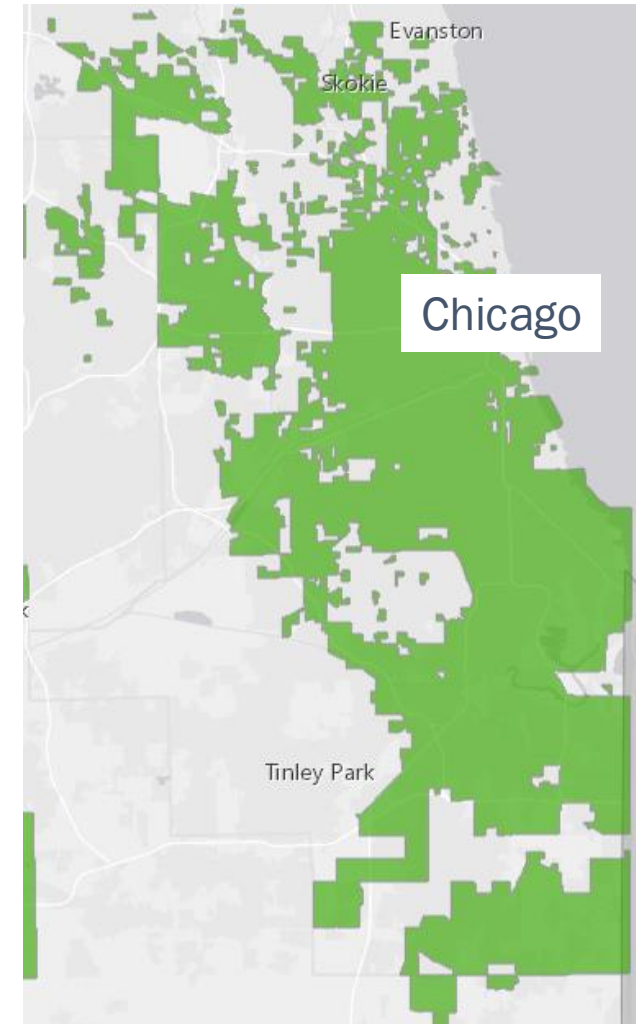




# Who will programs serve?

## Target populations:

- People living in equity investment eligible communities (environmental justice or R3 communities)
- Former members of foster care
- Displaced energy workers  
People with barriers to employment (such as incarceration)



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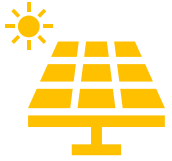
**Illinois Renewable Energy Workforce**

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# What clean energy jobs will the programs prepare people for?



- Solar energy
- Solar thermal



- Wind energy



- Electric vehicle
- Green hydrogen



- Energy efficiency
- Healthy building materials



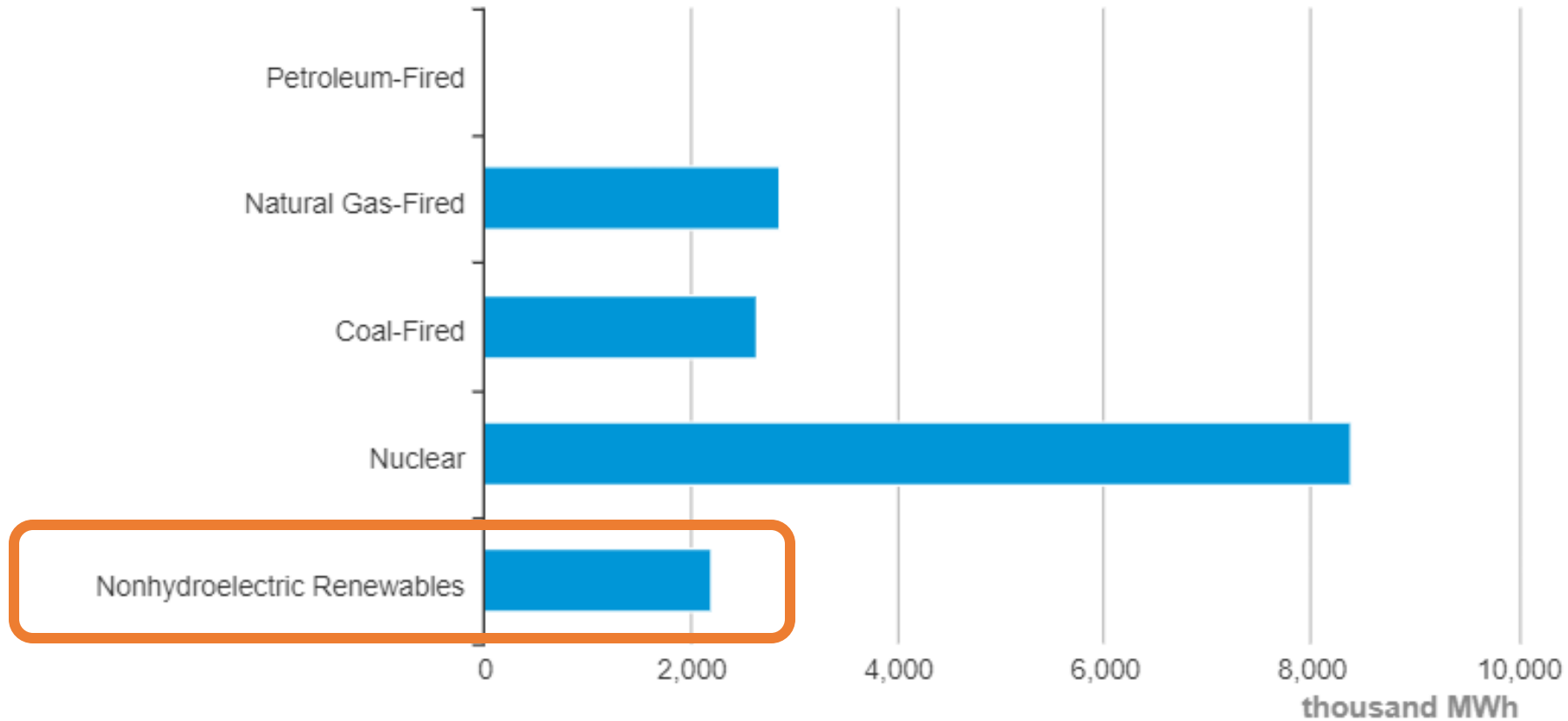
- Energy storage
- Industries achieving emission reductions

Clean energy jobs manufacture, develop, build, install, maintain, or provide ancillary **services** in these industries. They provide administrative, sales, and other support functions in these industries.

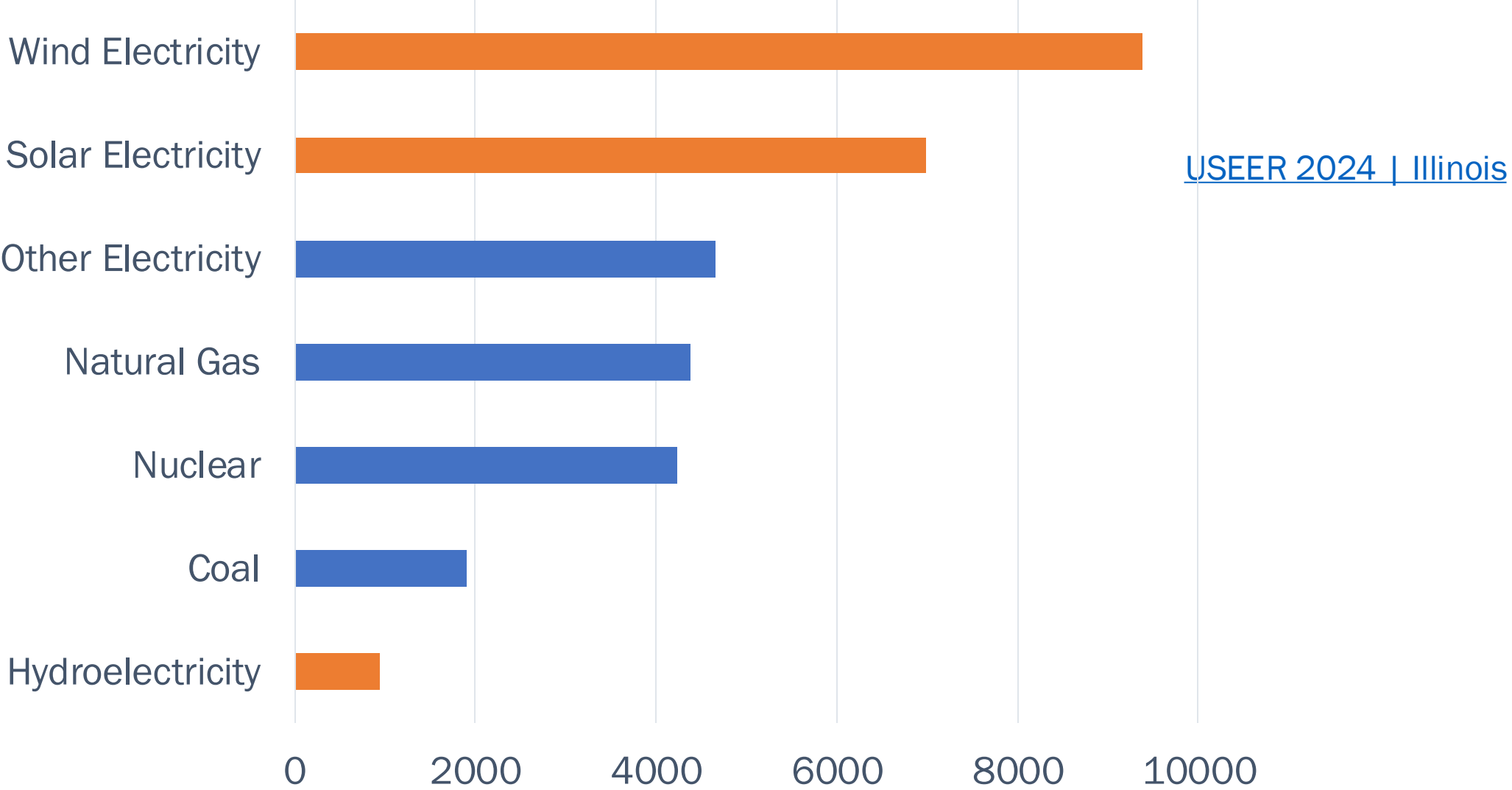


# Renewables represent a small but growing portion of Illinois electricity generation

Illinois Net Electricity Generation by Source, Jun. 2024




# But renewables represent the largest portion of the electricity generation jobs in Illinois.



# Renewable energy job numbers

	Total jobs in 2020	Annual openings 2020	% growth 2020-30	Average salary 2021
Wind turbine service technicians	1,643	164	47.7%	\$66,823
Solar PV installers	1,582	158	22.9%	\$52,344
Solar sales reps & assessors	487	49	22.9%	\$107,005

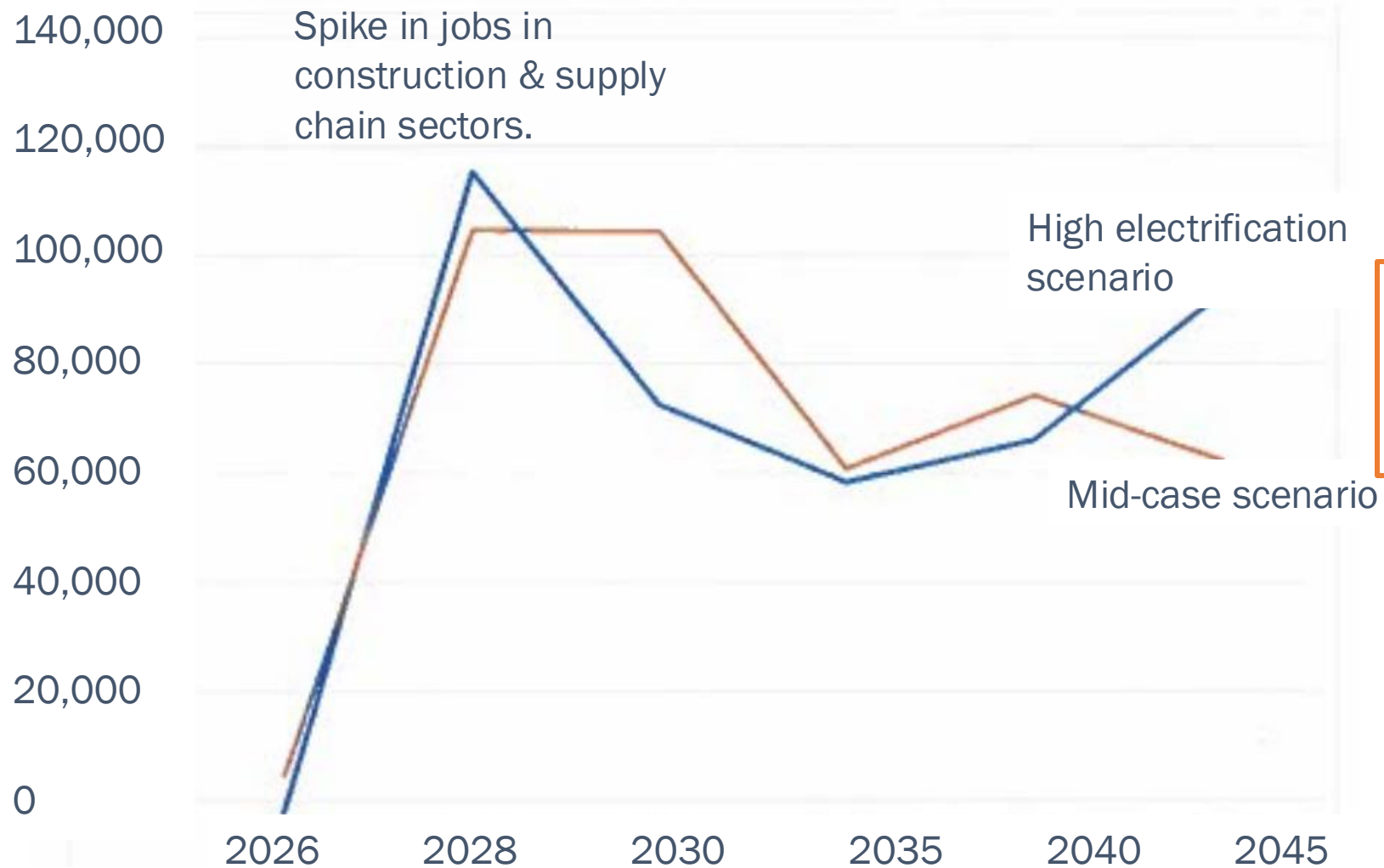
 Union/Non-union labor?

  
Modest openings?

  
Tremendous growth

See the [Illinois Clean Energy Jobs and Training Program Inventory Report](#)

# Projected change in total employment relative to 2024, IL 2026-2045



Some construction jobs will taper off as construction phase ends.



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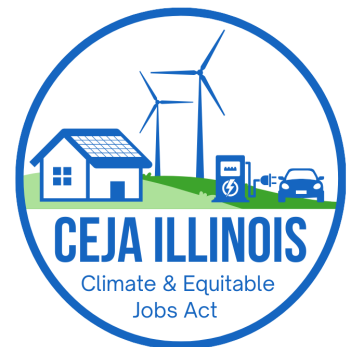






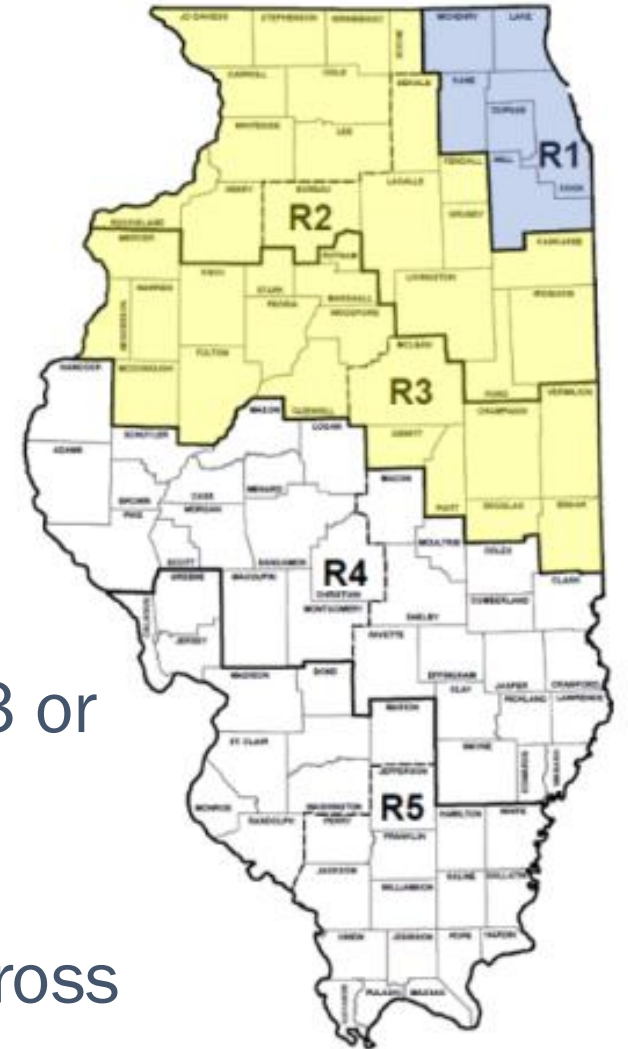
# Climate Works Pre-apprenticeship Program

- **Goal:** Prepare people for apprenticeship programs in construction & building trades
- **What:** Construction training, with a clean energy focus. Provide connection to apprenticeship programs. Robust barrier reduction funding to support retention
- **Where:** 3 centers throughout the state
- **Funding:** \$10 million/year + \$6 million barrier reduction funds/year
- **Delivered by:** Community-based organizations\* and partners



# Climate Works Pre-apprenticeship Centers to serve 3 regions

- Northern Illinois Grantee – 548 Foundation
  - Central Illinois Grantee – HIRE360
  - Southern Illinois Grantee – HIRE360
- 
- Providing pre-apprenticeship training utilizing MC3 or NCCER to teach basic construction skills
  - Access to barrier reduction funds
  - 14 subgrantees providing a network of training across the state



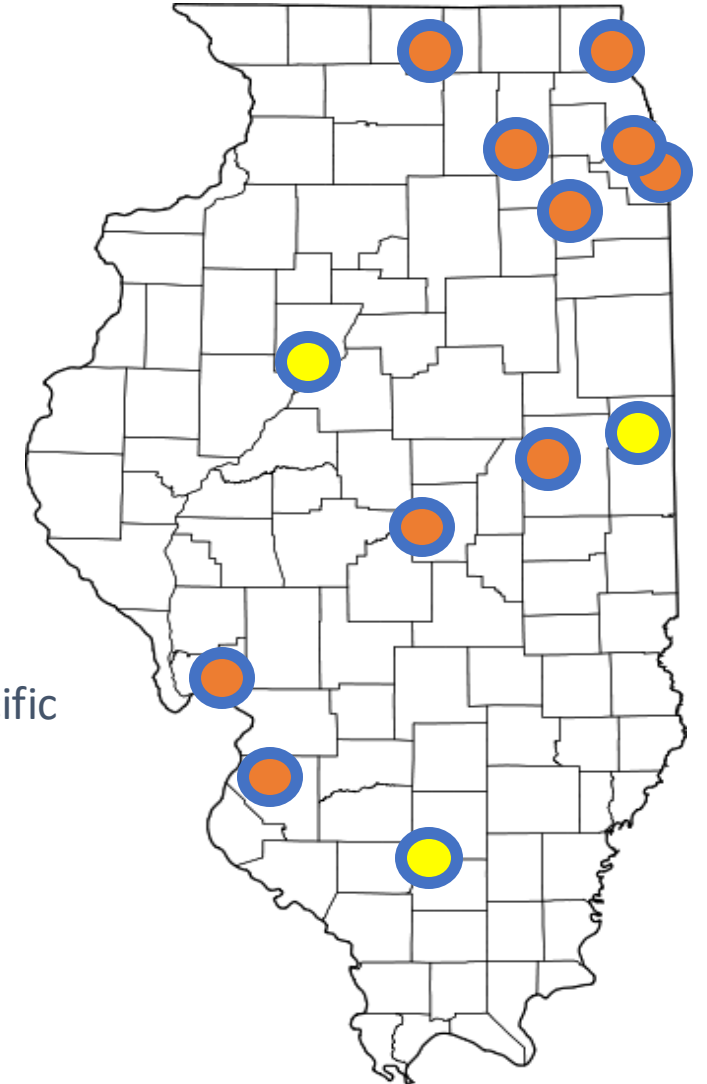


# Clean Jobs Workforce Network Program, "Workforce Hubs"

- **Goal:** Prepare people for good-paying, entry-level clean energy jobs.
- **What:** Clean jobs training, utilizing a standard clean energy curriculum framework + job specific training. Robust barrier reduction funding to support retention
- **Where:** At least one hub in 13 designated regions (14 regions starting 7/1/2025)
- **Funding:** \$24 million/year + \$15 million barrier reduction services/year
- **Delivered by:** Community-based organizations and partners

# Workforce Hubs Program Rollout

- 11 grantees (10 locations)
    - Chicago Cook Workforce Partnership
    - Joliet Junior College
    - College of Lake County
    - Chicago Cook Workforce Partnership
    - Safer Foundation
  - The Workforce Connection
  - Parkland College
  - Community College District 536 (Lewis and Clark)
  - 548 Foundation
  - College of DuPage
  - **Richland Community College**
- Providing clean energy basics training, essential employability skills, & job specific training
  - Access to barrier reduction funds
  - 8 Solar programs
  - 9 Energy Auditing/Weatherization, Efficiency, Building Inspection programs
  - 5 EV Tech/Maintenance Programs, 2 EV Charger Installation programs
  - 5 HVAC programs





# Energy Transition Navigator Program

- **Goal:** Increase awareness of and participation in CEJA programs
- **What:** Provide recruitment, enrollment and engagement for CEJA workforce programs
- **Where:** 13 hubs and surrounding areas throughout the state
- **Funding:** \$6 million/year
- **Delivered by:** Community-based providers and partners

Outreach to raise awareness

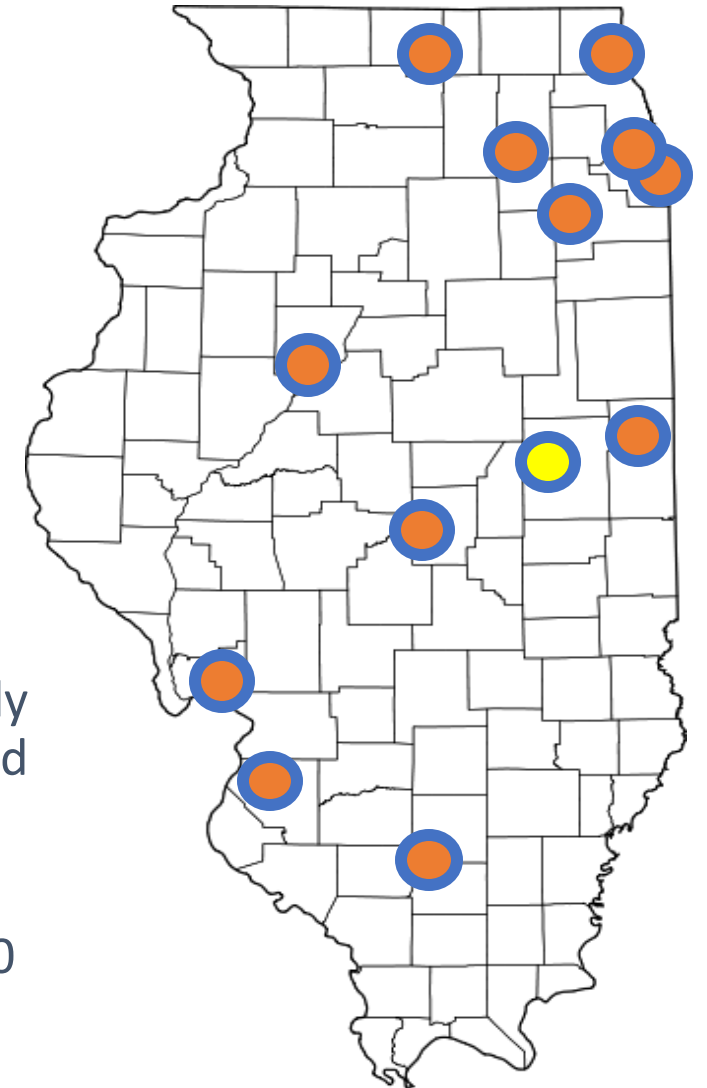
Recruitment for workforce programs

Employer and stakeholder engagement

Enrollment support for workforce programs

# ET Navigator Rollout

- 13 grantees (11 locations)
  - Chicago Urban League
  - Community Assistance Program
  - Goodwill Industries of Northern IL
  - North Lawndale Employment Network
  - Central States SER
  - The Community Works Inc. NFP
  - Goodwill Industries of Metropolitan Chicago
  - Heaven's View Community Development Corporation
  - Lewis University
  - Vermilion Advantage, NFP
  - Carbondale Branch NAACP
  - **The Heart of Illinois Community Foundation**
  - Senior Services Plus
- Recruiting Arm of the CEJA Workforce Programs, will be recruiting primarily for Climate Works and Workforce Hubs, but will also be directing interested participants to whatever CEJA (Incubator) or non-CEJA (WIOA, among others) program best meets their career interests and needs.
- CEJA Navigators are planning 400 outreach events, aiming for almost 5,000 attendees at these events over the next year, with hopes to enroll over 1,500 students in CEJA Programs





# Returning Resident Clean Jobs Training Program

- **Goal:** Prepare returning residents for good paying, entry-level clean energy jobs.
- **What:** Provide training, utilizing standard clean jobs curriculum framework.
- **Where:** Illinois Department of Corrections facilities
- **Funding:** \$6 million/year
- **Delivered by:** Community-based organizations and partners

Assistance with recruitment, enrollment

Training program delivery

Transition and job placement support

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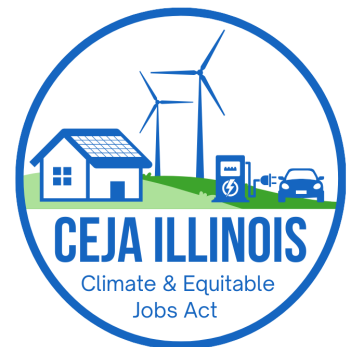
**CEJA Grantees Case Studies**





# Clean Jobs Workforce Network Program (Workforce Hubs)

- Grantee: Richland Community College
- Project Title: Decatur CEJA Workforce Hub
- Program Director: Tamika Thomas
  - In this capacity, she spearheads initiatives that advance sustainable practices and create equitable job opportunities, particularly in emerging green industries.



# Energy Transition Navigator Program



- Grantee: Heart of Illinois Community Foundation (Community Foundation of Macon County)
- Project Title: Macon County CEJA
- Program Lead: Missy Batman
  - She has two decades of experience in leadership roles with HICF, overseeing operations, finance, grantmaking, and human resources functions.

