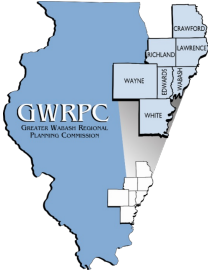


# March 2022 Newsletter



## Greater Wabash Regional Planning Commission

*Serving Crawford, Edwards, Lawrence, Richland, Wabash, Wayne, and White counties in Southeastern Illinois*

### Department of Transportation: RAISE Program

The United States Department of Transportation (U.S. DOT) has recently announced through the Federal Register they are soliciting project applications through the competitive transportation grant program known as the RAISE (Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity) Grant Program. This program was formerly known as BUILD Transportation Grants.

Fiscal Year 2022 RAISE grants are for capital investments in surface transportation infrastructure projects and will be awarded on a competitive basis to projects that will have a significant local or regional impact. The Department seeks to fund projects under the RAISE Program that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and are designed with specific elements to address climate change impacts.

Notice of Funding, and other information, may be reviewed at: [DOT: RAISE](#)

### IEPA Office of Energy – Energy Efficiency Upgrade at Public Wastewater Treatment Plants Funding Opportunity

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Energy has announced up to \$750,000 of grant funding available for energy efficiency upgrades at public wastewater treatment plants. Under the Wastewater Treatment Plant Energy Efficiency Program, grants ranging from \$20,000 to \$500,000 will be awarded to assist selected Illinois municipalities reduce energy usage at public wastewater treatment plants. This is the third such round of funding and follows awards made in May 2020.

As with the previous cycles, grant applications will be scored on multiple factors including the energy savings per dollar (granted/invested) and percentage of improvement for the project's anticipated energy cost savings to treat one million gallons of wastewater. Projects located in environmental justice areas will be prioritized along with projects located in municipally owned electric utility or electric cooperative service territory. Application materials are available at Illinois EPA's Office of Energy webpage. The application period closes at midnight on March 29, 2022.

**White House Guide to Programs Available under the  
Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.**

The White House released tools to help navigate programs authorized in the IIJA, passed on November 15, 2021. Many agencies will be designing and releasing new funding opportunities related to the authorized programs in the coming month. Updates will be provided on the Administration's [Build.gov](https://www.build.gov) website. See these links for useful program summaries, spending info and a searchable data file.

GWRPC will distribute information on new funding opportunities as they are released.

### **Expanding Access to Capital in Illinois:**

## **How Illinois Financial Institutions can drive profit and purpose through the Illinois Advantage Illinois Loan Program Webinar**

Please join the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity for a conversation around how local financial institutions can partner with the State of Illinois to drive small business growth and access to capital for minority owned businesses. Advantage Illinois provides low interest loans to small businesses in Illinois for start-up costs, working capital, equipment and inventory. Learn how your bank can participate in this program using your own underwriting standards and loan processes. Through the American Rescue Plan, the State Small Business Credit initiative (SSBCI), recently received an increase in funding to help bolster access to capital in Minority Communities, the only way we can be successful is through a robust banking network.

Date/Time: March 23, 2022 11:00 pm

Presented by: Mark Schultz and John Hill, Advantage Illinois Team

Hosted by: Sal Garza, DCEO West Central Region Manager

Register at: <https://illinois.webex.com/illinois/onstage/g.php?MTID=e22caae4ee902d01bfoe6acb31f07aa19>