

## **Additional Links for Small Business Assistance and Misc Resources:**

The **Business Enterprise Program (BEP)** for businesses owned by minorities, women, and persons with disabilities is committed to fostering an inclusive, equitable and competitive business environment that will support underrepresented businesses increase their capacity, grow revenue, and enhance credentials.

<https://cei.illinois.gov/business-enterprise-program.html>

The **Illinois Catalog of State Financial Assistance (CSFA)** is a single, authoritative, statewide, comprehensive source document of State financial assistance program information. *Disclaimer: CSFA data is based on State Agency entries. Contact information for the assigned state agency representative is provided at the program level and at the state agency level.*

<https://gata.illinois.gov/grants/csfa.html>

The **Illinois Grocery Initiative**, authorized by Public Act 103-0561, is intended to address inadequate access to fresh foods, especially in “food deserts”. Food deserts are defined as census tracts meeting specific criteria related to poverty and access to fresh foods. Food deserts may exist in both urban and rural areas.

Equipment Upgrades Grant Program  
New Stores in Food Deserts Grant Program

<https://dceo.illinois.gov/illinois-grocery-initiative.html>