



Illinois Commission on Equity and Inclusion

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New State Agencies added to the Illinois Commission on Equity and Inclusion's Business Enterprise Program

CTA, METRA, PACE, and IDOT Added to the Certification Process

CHICAGO, IL June 26, 2023 – The Illinois Commission on Equity and Inclusion (CEI) proudly welcomes the addition of CTA, METRA, PACE and IDOT to its Be Enrolled Business Enterprise Certification Program (BE BEP). BE BEP allows for seamless access and activation into the State of Illinois' Business Enterprise Program's (BEP) Certification Program to streamline the process and increase participation in State procurement.

As a result of the State of Illinois' commitment to enhancing equity and inclusion, as outlined in Section 5 of the Business Enterprise for Minorities, Women, and Persons with Disabilities Act (BEP Act), 30 ILCS 575(2)(h), BEP implemented the BE BEP Certification for firms listed in the City of Chicago and/or Cook County Minority and Women owned Business Enterprise (MWBE) vendor directories. Since 2022, BE BEP has successfully onboarded 2080 vendors currently certified by the City of Chicago and/or Cook County. CEI looks forward to the opportunity to increase this list of vendors as a result of this expansion.

BEP has existed since 1984 and remains committed to fostering an inclusive, equitable, and competitive business environment by supporting businesses owned by minorities, women, and persons with disabilities. BEP strives to assist underrepresented businesses with increasing their capacity, growing revenue, and enhancing their credentials.

CEI was created through the passage of the Commission on Equity and Inclusion Act, 30 ILCS 574/40-10, beginning operations in January 2022. CEI was established to increase access to state contracts for small businesses owned by minorities, women, persons with disabilities, veterans, and service-disabled veterans, and to enhance equity and inclusion throughout the State workforce.

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