



Illinois Commission on Equity and Inclusion

Nina Harris, Chairperson
Robin Streets, Interim Executive Director
115 S. LaSalle Street, Suite 4N
Chicago, IL 60603

APPROVED SEP 22 2026

NOTICE

Business Enterprise Council for Minorities, Females and Persons with Disabilities

OUTREACH SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, July 28, 2026

1:30 pm – 3:30 pm

**Location: Jesse White State Building, 115 S. LaSalle St., Chicago, IL 60603, 4th Fl., Lincoln
Conference Room**

Lincoln Tower 524 S. 2nd St, Springfield, IL 62701 Suite 502, CEI Executive Conference Room

Virtual: Webex Meeting

MINUTES

I. Call to Order

- The Outreach Subcommittee was called to order by Subcommittee Chair Bola Delano at 1:30 p.m.
- In accordance with the Illinois Open Meetings Act, 5 ILCS 120/1 et seq., the Commission provided telephonic and video access to the meeting so that members of the public can monitor the meeting and has updated its website to keep the public fully apprised of the Commission activities relating to virtual participation.

II. Roll Call of Subcommittee Members

- Roll call was conducted by Outreach Committee Chair Delano.
 - i. Attendance Roster: Council Members:
 1. Alan Brazil (In Person)
 2. Bola Delano (In Person)
 3. Cory Gold (Virtual approved)
 4. Megan Nakano (Virtual approved)
 5. Javier Haro (In Person)
 - ii. Member Brazil moved to approve virtual attendance for Member Gold and Member Nakano, seconded by Member Haro.

III. Approval of Minutes: June 30, 2026 (Action)

- Member Brazil moved to approve June 30, 2026, minutes, seconded by Member Haro. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

IV. Ongoing Business

- A. Outreach Report – Nikita Richards, Internal/External Communications & Legislative Affairs Officer.



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- B. The Outreach Unit continues to strengthen vendor engagement through enhanced post-event communications, expanded certification resources, business opportunities, and updated State of Illinois funding and agency information. To date there have been 3000 plus vendors certified and have exceeded the goal. Partnership between outreach and collaboration.
- C. Beginning in FY27, the Unit launched the Certification Kickstart Initiative, providing on-site assistance at outreach events to help vendors establish BEP or VBP certification accounts using tablets. Vendors then receive system-generated notifications, reminders, and progress updates throughout the certification process.
- D. The Unit is also expanding partnerships with legislators, chambers of commerce, and APEX Illinois to provide BEP and VBP workshops in legislative districts and Chamber communities, offering technical application assistance and improving access to certification.
- E. The Unit remains focused on strengthening the vendor pipeline through continuous communication, State partnerships, expanded resources, and initiatives that improve access to certification and State contracting opportunities.
- F. In June 2026, staff participated in the Contracting with Government event at Governors State University, the Chicago Minority Supplier Development Council's High Stakes, High Impact Casino Outreach event, and the Doing Business with UIC: Business Opportunity Forum, expanding CEI's visibility and strengthening vendor and partner relationships statewide.

V. Procurement Bid Clearinghouse Assignment update and Discussion – Chair Bola Delano

- A. Chair Delano provided research regarding the clearinghouse platform and its statutory purpose of providing information on State procurement opportunities.
 - i. The platform includes an active list of contracts available for bidding.
 - 1. Chair Delano noted that contractors have experienced challenges navigating the website and bidding process. To identify and resolve the issue, a designated representative will provide training on the platform. Upon completion, Member Delano will receive a summary of the efforts to share with the Committee and may provide recommendations for improving the website.
 - ii. Chair Delano reiterated the Committee's assignments and responsibilities.



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- iii. No questions were raised regarding the certification process, aside from a question concerning citizenship requirements.
- iv. The fast-track alternative process was not previously known to some participants.
- v. The Committee identified six separate online sites for the State of Illinois, which shows the need for a centralized portal to streamline the bidding process and allow vendors to complete certification online rather than in person.
- vi. The following assignments are as follows to be presented at the next meeting on September 22, 2026
 - 1. Statutory Requirements: Members Brazil and Gold
 - 2. Benchmark Scan (background in terms of the specific Legislation): Members Nakano and Delano
 - 3. Member Haro will review assignments and determine which assignment he will assist.
- vii. The assigned work products are due by September 22, 2026.

VI. Public Comment

- None.

VII. Adjournment (Action)

- Motion to adjourn moved by Member Brazil, seconded by Member Haro. Motion approved by unanimous vote. Meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

