



Illinois Commission on Equity and Inclusion

Nina Harris, Chairperson
Alexandria Wilson, Executive Director
115 S. LaSalle Street, Suite 4N
Chicago, IL 60603

APPROVED JUN 17 2026

State of Illinois Commission on Equity and Inclusion CEI MONTHLY MEETING OF THE COMMISSION

Wednesday, May 20, 2026

1:30 PM

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

Location: Lincoln Tower Plaza, 524 S. Second St., Ste. 502, Springfield, IL 62701
WebEx

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

- Chair Harris called the meeting to order 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.
- Chair Harris conducted roll call of the Commissioners.
 - i. Commissioners attending in person at a State facility:
 - 1. Chair Nina Harris
 - 2. Commissioner Richard Costes
 - 3. Commissioner Ennedy Rivera
 - 4. Commissioner Ovelia Smith-Barton
 - 5. Commissioner Van Austin
 - 6. Commissioner Bruce Montgomery
 - ii. Commissioner attending virtually:
 - 1. Commissioner Benjamin Salentine
 - iii. Commissioner Smith-Barton moved to approve the remote participation of Commissioners attending remotely. Seconded by Commissioner Austin. Motion carried by vote.
 - iv. A quorum of the public body was present.

2. Minutes: April 15, 2026 (Action)

- Commissioner Montgomery moved to approve the minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Rivera. Motion carried by vote.



APPROVED JUN 13 2008

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE
TAXPAYER'S NOTICE
OF A CHANGING OF STATUS
TO A PARTIAL EXEMPTED
STATUS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE TAXPAYER HAS BEEN DETERMINED TO BE A PARTIAL EXEMPTED STATUS TAXPAYER FOR THE YEAR 2008. THE TAXPAYER IS NOT ELIGIBLE FOR A FULL EXEMPTION FROM THE PAYROLL TAX. THE TAXPAYER IS NOT ELIGIBLE FOR A FULL EXEMPTION FROM THE PAYROLL TAX. THE TAXPAYER IS NOT ELIGIBLE FOR A FULL EXEMPTION FROM THE PAYROLL TAX.

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3. Stakeholder Spotlight: Markayle Tolliver – Business Development Manager, Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity (DCEO), Office of Economic & Empowerment (OE3)

- A. DCEO supports statewide economic development by offering resources and services to business, individuals and communities.
- B. OE3 advocates for equitable economic opportunities across the state of Illinois for minorities-, women-, veteran-owned businesses, businesses owned by persons with disabilities, eligible not-for-profit corporations, and other underserved communities.
- C. Apply for DCEO Grant Opportunities:
 - <https://dceo.illinois.gov/aboutdceo/grantopportunities/grants.html>
- D. DCEO Grant information and trainings:
 - <https://dceo.illinois.gov/dceo-grants.html>

4. Operations Reports

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

- Officer Richards shared past and upcoming Outreach events. More info can be found on CEI's website.
- The Certify and Thrive Campaign continues to drive measurable outreach activity and support CEI's broader mission of advancing equitable access to State contracting opportunities.

B. Administrative Report – Robin Streets, Chief of Staff

- CEI welcomed a new Front Office Associate who will also assist the Certification unit with intake and applicant follow-up.
- CEI also welcomed an Administrative Coordinator who will be responsible for the coordination and administrative oversight of all public meetings managed by CEI.
- CEI received the Annual Supplier Diversity Report from telecom providers in accordance with Section 8h of the BEP Act (30 ILCS 575/8h).

C. Financial and Human Capital Report – Tracey Kenney, Chief of Finance and Human Capital Officer

- Current staffing and recruitment efforts remain focused on advancing previously identified hiring priorities and maintaining operational continuity.

D. Business Enterprise Program (BEP) Compliance Unit and Veterans Business Program (VBP) Reports – Jacob Perez, CEI Deputy Director



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- The Compliance Unit is evaluating a new reporting format for the FY26 cycle that would distinguish payments made on existing contracts from those tied to new contracts within that year's reporting period.
 - This enhancement would apply to the Annual Expenditure and Service Category Report, including the BEP Summary, BEP Non-Construction Entry, BEP Construction Entry, and Narrative sections.
- The Compliance Subcommittee met on May 19, 2026. The next meeting is scheduled for July 31, 2026.
- Veterans Business Program Metrics:
 - 221 certified vendors
 - a. 40 African American owned
 - b. 1 American Indian owned
 - c. 8 Asian American owned
 - d. 133 Caucasian American owned
 - e. 39 Hispanic owned

E. Business Enterprise Program (BEP) Certification Unit and Mentor Protégé Program (MPP) Reports – LaTasha Binder, CEI Deputy Director

- Certification Unit
 - The Certification unit continues outreach efforts.
 - Prioritized expedited reviews for vendors responding to active bids, RFPs, or cure periods.
 - Certification Analysts will participate in refresher training.
 - Current BEP certified vendor pool:
 - a. 2,733 active certified vendors
- Mentor Protégé Program:
 - Communication has gone out to business that have expressed interest in becoming a mentor.
 - Program in on track to be launched July 1st.
 - MPP Metrics
 - a. Interest in the MPP program is as follows: As of 5/04/26
 - i. 140 interested entities:
 - 1. 23 Self-Identified as mentors
 - 2. 112 self-identified as proteges
 - 3. 5 who are unsure which category they fall into

5. Ongoing Business

- A. Illinois Hiring Practices (30 ILCS 574/40-10(4)) – Commissioner Ennedy Rivera



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- Commissioner Rivera served as a panelist for the Alumni Association's Cafecito event titled "*From Advocacy to Impact: Latinas in Law, Policy, and Power*" as well as for the DePaul Latino Law Student Association Forum.
- CEI participated in the Directors' Roundtable hosted by the Illinois Association of Hispanic State Employees

B. Stakeholder Engagement Updates

- Commissioner Smith-Barton will contact last month's Stakeholder Spotlight presenter to collect information to share with constituents.
- Commissioner Montgomery attended the Chicago Urban League's Policy Institute.

C. Procurement Scorecard 2026 Report – Commissioner Richard Costes

- Commissioners have completed their review and grading of the qualitative data submitted by both agencies and public institutions of higher education.
- The next step is reviewing and compiling all the qualitative and quantitative data collected – into individual Scorecards for each agency and compiling them into a single document.

6. Public Comment

- None.

7. Adjournment (Action)

- Commissioner Montgomery moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Rivera. Motion carried by vote.
- Chair Harris adjourned the meeting at 2:22 p.m.

