



STATE OF ILLINOIS COMMISSION ON EQUITY AND INCLUSION

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THE ILLINOIS COMMISSION ON EQUITY AND INCLUSION CELEBRATES PARTNERSHIPS WITH HISPANIC VENDORS AND THE WORK OF REPRESENTATIVE EVA-DINA DELGADO

Representative Eva-Dina Delgado was the primary sponsor of House Bill 132

CHICAGO –The Commission on Equity and Inclusion (CEI) is closing out Hispanic Heritage Month, by spotlighting how it’s strengthening its Business Enterprise Program (BEP). BEP is committed to fostering an inclusive, equitable and competitive business environment that will support underrepresented businesses’ efforts to increase their capacity, grow revenue, and enhance credentials. According to the U.S. Small Business Administration, Office of Advocacy, “Latino Business Ownership, roughly 600,000 of the 12.2 million business owners in the United States are U.S.-born Latino, with U.S.-born Latino entrepreneurs making important contributions to the economy, by generating \$26 billion in business income.”

With Illinois’ commitment to enhancing equity and outlined in [Public Act 102-0585](#), originally HB 132, BEP has implemented the new BE BEP Certification for firms listed in the City of Chicago and/or Cook County MWBE vendor directories.

“I am proud of our partnerships with Hispanic vendors and the work of Representative Eva-Dina Delgado,” said Kellye A. Keyes, Acting Chairperson and Executive Director of CEI. “I am deeply committed to creating and expanding opportunities for all minority business owners across Illinois, and with 30% of the staff at CEI identifying as Hispanic, we understand the unique barriers that the Hispanic community face when they are trying to expand and grow their business. I want to thank Representative Eva-Dina Delgado for all of her work championing HB 132, which would make it more equitable for minority-owned and women-owned businesses to compete in Illinois’ business environment by removing duplicative red tape.”

Public Act 102-0585, formerly HB 132, sponsored by Representative Eva-Dina Delgado, provides that all state agencies shall recognize and accept the certifications of businesses that have been certified as minority owned businesses or women owned businesses for purposes of participation in the BEP when certification has been provided by an entity have certifications requirements

more restrictive than that required by the BEP, including but not limited to income level requirement.

“It has been an honor working diligently with my colleagues to get HB 132 passed,” said Representative Eva-Dina Delgado. “As Hispanic Heritage Month draws to a close, we must keep the spirit of the month alive throughout the year as we work together to acknowledge the contributions of Latino business owners. I look forward to continuing a partnership with the Commission on Equity and Inclusion to continue the fight and level the playing field for all minority-owned businesses in Illinois.”

About the Commission on Equity and Inclusion

The Commission on Equity and Inclusion (CEI) was created through the passage of 30 ILCS 574/40-10 as Pillar 3: Economic Access, Equity and Opportunity of the 9 pillars of the Illinois Black Caucus to end Systemic Racism. CEI was created to expand access to state contracts for minorities, women, persons with disabilities, veterans, and service-disabled veterans and assist the state in enhancing equity and inclusion throughout its workforce. CEI’s reach into state contracting and hiring is expansive and encompasses the involvement of several state agencies and commissions. To learn more about CEI, go to <https://cei.illinois.gov>.

About Hispanic Heritage Month

Hispanic Heritage Month was created to honor the cultures and contributions of U.S. residents of Mexican, Caribbean, Spanish and Central and South American descent. September also marks the independence anniversaries for Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence days on September 16 and September 18, respectively.

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