

HB3334



104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

HB3334

Introduced 2/18/2025, by Rep. Thaddeus Jones

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

New Act

Creates the HUBZone Center of Excellence Act. Provides that the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity shall create the HUBZone Center of Excellence. Provides that the HUBZone Center of Excellence shall serve as a center for HUBZone business development and provide sustainable opportunities for underserved communities. Provides that the HUBZone Center of Excellence shall prioritize creating wealth and sustainability in HUBZones through economic development, education, and strategic RFP development processes. Sets forth provisions concerning the duties of the Center and the creation of an operational plan. Effective immediately.

LRB104 09454 SPS 19514 b

A BILL FOR

1 AN ACT concerning State government.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the
5 HUBZone Center of Excellence Act.

6 Section 5. Definition. As used in this Act, "HUBZone
7 business" means a business that operates and employs people in
8 Historically Underutilized Business Zones (HUBZone) as
9 designated by the federal HUBZone Empowerment Act.

10 Section 10. HUBZone Center of Excellence.

11 (a) The Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity
12 shall create the HUBZone Center of Excellence. The HUBZone
13 Center of Excellence shall serve as a center for HUBZone
14 business development and provide sustainable opportunities for
15 underserved communities. The HUBZone Center of Excellence
16 shall prioritize creating wealth and sustainability in
17 HUBZones through economic development, education, and
18 strategic RFP development processes.

19 (b) The Department shall purchase or renovate a building
20 located in a HUBZone in this State to serve as the location of
21 the Center. The building shall be at least 3,000 square feet,
22 have office space for at least 10 employees, sufficient room

1 to host public workshops, and the sufficient room to hold
2 secure servers and technology for RFP development.

3 (c) The Department shall hire staff for the Center,
4 including:

5 (1) a Director of Operations to oversees strategy and
6 compliance;

7 (2) RFP specialists to manage proposal creation and
8 compliance reviews;

9 (3) educators and trainers to conduct workshops on
10 proposal and business development; and

11 (4) IT specialists to maintain technology
12 infrastructure and ensure data security.

13 (d) The Center shall use artificial intelligence systems
14 to facilitate proposals, increase transparency, and improve
15 outcomes.

16 Section 15. Duties of the Center. The Department of
17 Commerce and Economic Opportunity shall assist the Center in
18 the following duties:

19 (1) encouraging economic development, including:

20 (A) creating jobs in HUBZones, benefiting
21 communities across the political spectrum and
22 promoting bipartisan support; and

23 (B) empowering minority-owned businesses with
24 tools and training for success;

25 (2) providing education and skills training,

1 including:

2 (A) offering workshops and certifications in
3 proposal writing and business strategy; and

4 (B) providing residents with pathways to
5 sustainable careers; and

6 (3) promoting community wealth building, including:

7 (A) strengthening local economies through targeted
8 business development initiatives; and

9 (B) recirculating resources within underserved
10 communities to promote long-term economic stability.

11 Section 20. Operational plan.

12 (a) The Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity
13 shall establish an operational plan for the Center as follows:

14 (1) for the 4 years following the establishment of the
15 Center:

16 (A) establish operations, build capacity, and
17 provide education and training;

18 (B) achieve an annual target of 182 proposals
19 submitted, securing a 20% win rate; and

20 (C) recirculate public and private resources
21 within the community; and

22 (2) after 4 following the establishment of the Center:

23 (A) transition to partial self-sustainability by
24 implementing a fee-for-service model;

25 (B) offer services, including RFP development

1 support that targets small-sized businesses and
2 mid-sized businesses;

3 (C) offer workshops to training external clients
4 in RFP strategies; and

5 (D) generate approximately \$500,000 to offset
6 operational costs, demonstrating fiscal responsibility
7 and reducing dependency on external funding.

8 (b) The Department shall also establish a formula that
9 will determine the number of proposals the Center needs to
10 generate for the Center to award a specified amount of awards
11 and achieve a 20% win rate.

12 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
13 becoming law.