



**Capital Building/Funding Programs**



**AI, Advantage Illinois (SSBCI)**

Loan programs which help Illinois small businesses get access to capital and term loan financing at lower rates by partnering with approved lenders on loan participations and guarantees.



**INVENT, Illinois Innovation Venture Fund (SSBCI)**

Venture capital program providing direct equity investments for early and late-stage companies in Illinois, with a focus on founders and communities that have faced barriers to accessing capital and key sectors aligned with the Illinois economic development plan.



**Angel Investment Tax Credit Program**

Tax incentive program encouraging investments in innovative, early-stage companies by providing investors in registered businesses with a state tax credit equal to 25% of their investment.



**SBIR/STTR State Matching Program**

Grant program providing a state match of up to \$50K to companies that have received a Phase I award through a federal Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) or Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) program.



**NOT SURE WHERE TO START...START HERE.**

**First Stop Business Information Center (BIC)**

Statewide resource hub designed to assist aspiring business owners in identifying and navigating regulatory prerequisites for their ventures. Online self-serve portal and helpline assistance to connect entrepreneurs with local and state resources.



**Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs)**

Centers located throughout the State which provide information, confidential business guidance, training and other resources for startups and existing small businesses.



**APEX Accelerator: Providing guidance for Government Contracting success**

Centers located throughout the State which provide one-on-one counseling, technical information, marketing assistance and training to existing businesses interested in selling their goods and services to local, state, and/or federal government agencies.



**International Trade Centers (ITCs)**

Centers located throughout the State which provide counseling and training to existing and new-to-export companies interested in pursuing international trade opportunities.



**Regulatory Flexibility Program**

Program which works with business organizations, trade groups, and governmental agencies to determine ways to make rules more flexible, cost effective or less restrictive for small businesses by providing small business analyses for new rules that impact small businesses.



**Small Business Environmental Assistance Program**

Program located in the non-regulatory agency - which helps small businesses to understand their environmental requirements by providing confidential assistance through the helpline, environmental training, easy-to-understand regulatory publications, and record keeping tools.