



INFORMER

Official Newsletter for the Innovation DuPage Community

Opportunities

Clean Energy Incubator Grant Opportunity

Members participating in Innovation DuPage's Clean Energy Incubator (CEI) Program can now apply for the Equitable Energy Future Grant Program through the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO). This program provides substantial funding for pre-development activities that advance renewable energy and energy-efficient initiatives.

Grant Details:

- Award Range: \$250,000 – \$1,000,000
- Application Deadline: **December 31st, 2025**

[Learn More and Apply Here](#)

Amex Shop Small Grants Program

To help small businesses grow, innovate, and support their local communities, American Express is teaming up with Main Street America this Small Business Saturday® to launch the Amex Shop Small Grants Program. The Program will provide an initial \$5 million to fund 250 grants of \$20,000 each to eligible small business owners across the US.

To be eligible for this program, applicants must:

- Own a for-profit, independently owned small business
- Operate out of a physical “brick-and-mortar” storefront
- Be located in one of the 50 U.S. states or Washington, DC (Businesses located in U.S. territories are not eligible)
- Currently employ 20 or less FTE (Full Time Equivalent) employees

They are seeking proposals for projects to help your small business grow, innovate, and support your local community.

[Learn More and Apply Here](#)

Contact **Bill Payne**, Director of the Clean Energy Incubator Program, for support through the application process.

Construction Owner-2-CEO Applications Now Open



Are you or someone you know in the construction industry looking to take your business to the next level? Innovation DuPage and HACIA's Construction Owner-2-CEO is a free 10-week virtual business accelerator for construction professionals. Gain expertise in project management, contract bidding, leadership, marketing strategy, and human resources through expert-led training and networking.

[Apply here by January 6th](#)

Seeking Clean Tech Companies!



Innovation DuPage is actively looking for startups and small businesses working in the clean energy or clean technology industry - or referrals to companies that could benefit from our targeted support.

[To Learn More](#)

Coming Up

ID December Workshop: Early Stage Formation and Funding

Early Stage Formation and Funding – The Legal Side



Leslee Cohen

Wednesday, December 3rd, 2025

In-Person: 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm

- Which type of legal entity should I choose for my business venture?
- Post-formation decisions
- Equity incentives for advisors and employees
- Getting ready for your fundraise and fundraising options

ALLRISE
LEGAL COUNSEL

Whether you're launching a new venture or preparing your existing business for fundraising, understanding the legal foundations is critical. Join us at Innovation DuPage on December 3rd as Leslee Cohen, Top 100 Attorney in Illinois and founder of AllRise Legal Counsel, covers entity selection, equity structures, organizational documents, and fundraising essentials.

[Register Here](#)



Join biweekly Member Meetups at Innovation DuPage! Network, enjoy bagels & coffee, and learn from spotlight members & resource experts.

The next Member Meetup will be on December 10th from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

If you can't make it in person, attend virtually through our [Zoom Link](#)

[Sign up](#) to present at a future Member Meetup

You're Invited to...



Innovation DuPage Holiday Party

December 11th at 5:00 p.m.

Join us for an evening of festive cheer! Enjoy beverages, hors d'oeuvres, and great company. Significant others are welcome. We hope to see you there!

[RSVP Here](#)

Let us help you share your success with the ID community!

Share a recent win – big or small. It could be featured in our next letter! Email your accomplishment to [Hannah Macey](#).

Resources

[Clean Energy Incubator Program](#)

[Member Portal Login Page](#)

[Member Meetup Signup Sheet](#)



Reminder: Innovation DuPage is open for members as a coworking space 24 hours a day, 7 days a week!

Keep up with Innovation DuPage on social media!



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