

## MISSION & PROGRAM AREAS

*The Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation invests in clean energy development and land preservation efforts, working with communities and residents to improve environmental quality in Illinois.*

*The Foundation funds projects in three core program areas: improving **energy efficiency**, developing **renewable energy** resources, and preserving and enhancing **natural areas** and wildlife habitat throughout Illinois.*

As one part of its energy efficiency programs, the Foundation has awarded over one hundred grants to support installation of energy efficient lighting in more than 150 child care center buildings. Since launching this grant program in 2003, over \$1 million have reached child care centers through grants in 34 Illinois counties.

The Foundation's web site – [www.IllinoisCleanEnergy.org](http://www.IllinoisCleanEnergy.org) – has other useful information for organizations seeking funding, including lists of past grants awarded, more information on the grant application process and announcements about new program initiatives that may be launched during 2008. It also has information on other grants for which child care centers may apply, such as funding for energy efficient design of new or substantially renovated facilities or for installation of solar or wind power generation systems.



**Illinois Clean Energy**

*community foundation*  
2 N LaSalle St • Chicago IL 60602  
312.372.5191 • fax 312.372.5190  
[www.IllinoisCleanEnergy.org](http://www.IllinoisCleanEnergy.org)

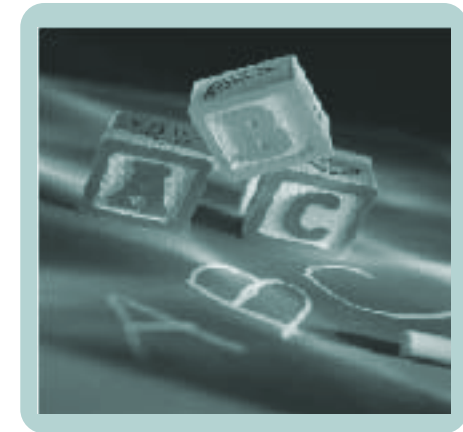


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## 2008 Energy Efficient Lighting Upgrade Grant Program for Child Care Centers



**Child Care Centers**

# 2008 ENERGY EFFICIENT LIGHTING UPGRADE GRANT PROGRAM FOR CHILD CARE CENTERS

## ABOUT THE PROGRAM

### What are the benefits of upgrading to efficient lighting systems?

- Improve lighting quality in the building for children and caretakers;
- Reduce operating and maintenance expenses; and
- Save energy, leading to less pollution in Illinois communities.

### Who is eligible to apply for a grant through this program?

Eligible applicants are charitable (501c3) organizations and public agencies that operate licensed or license-exempt child care centers in Illinois serving a minimum of 16 children.

### Can a child care center re-apply?

**Yes.** Child care centers that applied for a lighting upgrade grant in previous years but did not receive one are encouraged to re-apply in 2008 if they have not yet upgraded their lighting. Child care centers that have previously received a lighting upgrade grant may apply again in 2008 for additional lighting upgrades, but should be aware that preference may be given to child care facilities that have not yet received a lighting upgrade grant from the Foundation.

### What is the timing for grant decisions and project installations?

Grant decisions will be made in **May 2008** and installation of lighting upgrades may take place anytime after you are notified of receipt of grant.

### Will all grant requests be approved?

**No.** This is a competitive process and a limited amount of funds are available for this program. The Foundation anticipates receiving more child care lighting upgrade grant requests than it can accommodate. If that occurs, the Foundation will give preference to cost-effective projects that achieve high levels of permanent electricity demand reduction per dollar granted.

### Is this program ending in 2008?

**No.** This program for child care centers will continue at least for another year. You may have heard that the Foundation ended some of its other lighting upgrade grant programs in 2007, such as the program serving K-12 schools. How long this program continues is dependent, in part, on the demand for it in the light of other pressing needs for funding to demonstrate the benefits of energy efficiency and renewable energy in facilities serving Illinois Citizens.

### What work can be paid for with these grants?

These grants may pay for energy-saving upgrades to the lamps, ballasts, fixtures and/or controls in existing **indoor** lighting systems.

- **Types of equipment:** Common eligible upgrades include replacement of T12 fluorescent lamps and magnetic ballasts with T8 or T5 lamps and electronic ballasts, and replacement of exit light fixtures with LED units. Replacement of incandescent bulbs with screw-in compact fluorescent lamps is **not** an eligible upgrade. *Contact the Foundation with questions about eligibility.*
- **New upgrade projects only:** Lighting upgrade projects may be no further along than the lighting evaluation and design stage. Projects where installation is underway or complete do **not** qualify for this program.

### How is the size of the grant award determined?

The amount of each grant award will be based on the amount of electricity demand reduction in **kilowatts** that the project, **as installed**, yields. Grants are **up to \$600 per kilowatt** (kW) or 60¢ per Watt of reduction in electricity demand that the lighting upgrade, **as installed**, yields.

### When are grants paid, and what is the exact amount?

After a child care center's grant request has been approved by the Foundation and it signs the formal agreement accepting the grant, it may proceed with installation of the lighting upgrade. The grant will be paid by the Foundation to the child care center **after the installation is completed** and the work has been accepted as satisfactory through submission of a brief final report on the project. **The exact amount of the grant payment is based on the actual electricity demand reduction achieved through the completed lighting upgrade.**

### Are grant recipients required to use specific vendors?

**No.** Grant recipients exercise complete control over the process of selecting any vendors, contractors or consultants involved in the lighting upgrade project.

## GRANT APPLICATION PROCESS

### What is the deadline to apply?

**February 15, 2008.** To be considered in 2008, complete applications for child care centers must be received by the Foundation **no later than close of business on Friday, February 15.**

### Where can one get an application form or ask questions?

Application forms may be downloaded and printed from the Foundation's web site: **www.IllinoisCleanEnergy.org**. You may also request an application form or ask questions by calling the Foundation at (312) 372-5191.

### What is required for a complete application?

Supporting documentation required for a complete application follows:

- A copy of the first page of your **deed as proof of ownership** or your **lease as proof** of long-term future use of the facility to be upgraded; and
- A **cover letter on organization letterhead** that is signed by an authorized representative of the organization and includes the following information:
  1. an **explanation of the need** for the lighting upgrade;
  2. the **estimated timeline** for completing the lighting upgrade;
  3. an explanation of how your organization would pay for the portion of the lighting upgrade project **costs not covered** by the requested grant, if any;
  4. a description of **planned educational efforts** to inform facility users and/or the general community about the lighting upgrade and the benefits of energy efficiency;
  5. a description of **how the cost savings will be used** that result from the upgrade;
  6. the **number of children** currently served and the maximum potentially served;
  7. a **list of the classrooms** and other building spaces used for child care functions to be upgraded (i.e., restrooms, hallways, gyms, kitchens); and
  8. the approximate **total square footage** of all space to be upgraded;
- A copy of your **IRS 501c3 determination letter** or other documentation of your **federal tax-exempt number status**. The name on the IRS 501c3 determination letter should match your organization's legal name. If the name on the grant application differs from the name on the IRS 501c3 determination letter, please provide an explanation of the relationship between your organization and the entity named on the IRS letter. The Foundation will not be able to consider your grant proposal until your organization's eligibility to receive a grant from us is verified.



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