DuPage County is committed to creating a pro-business atmosphere. Our well-educated workforce, modern transportation infrastructure and low taxes provide for an ideal location for business expansion and relocation. We have a diverse business community based on manufacturing, distribution, finance, and health care services.

DuPage County is located approximately 20 miles west of downtown Chicago in northeastern Illinois. Due to our proximity to downtown Chicago and O’Hare International Airport, DuPage County’s municipalities have established themselves as premier retail, entertainment, and cultural destinations. The County is home to nearly 1 million residents and more than 600,000 jobs.

Chose DuPage is dedicated to establishing DuPage County as a premier global business location by working to expand and diversity with our economy through stimulating business investment in our communities and generate desirable job opportunities for our residents.

We are proud to offer this Business Resource Guide that will provide you with information on financing and technical assistance programs.

We invite you to be a part of our dynamic community and look forward to working with you.

Thank you.

Greg Bedalov
President & CEO
Choose DuPage

Dan Cronin
Chairman
DuPage County
# Table of Contents:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Choose DuPage Overview</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taxes</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business Licensing</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opening a Restaurant</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vendor Information</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recycling</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home Based Businesses</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Storm water Management</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal &amp; State Business Licensing</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employer Information</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State of Illinois Programs</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financing Programs</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workforce Development Resources</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College of DuPage Resources</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technology Resources</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Export Assistance</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utilities</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Choose DuPage Overview:

Choose DuPage is the first point of contact for economic development in DuPage County.

Staff communicates regularly with local economic development professionals including municipal and state economic development directors, utility companies, workforce development professionals, and educational institutions throughout the County. This coordination ensures that business development resources are readily available.

Choose DuPage provides services designed to help businesses expand in or relocate their operations to DuPage County and support local municipal economic efforts.

**Services include:**
- Customized demographic and labor market data
- Site selection assistance
- Business Resource Guide
- DuPage County Regional Profile

For additional information contact:
Choose DuPage
2525 Cabot Drive, Suite 303
Lisle, Illinois 60532
Phone: 630-955-2090
www.choosedupage.com
State of Illinois Tax Information:

**Income Taxes**
- Corporate Income Tax Rate: 9.50%
- Corporate Income Tax Rate Structure (Flat or Top Progressive): Flat
- Corporate Income Tax Rate Apportionment (Sales-Property-Payroll): 100-0-0
- Personal Income Tax Rate: 5.00%
- Personal Income Tax Rate Structure: Flat

**Sales, Use, and Gross Receipts Taxes**
- Sales Tax Rate
  - General Sales Tax Rate (Statewide): 6.25%
  - Additional Local Sales Taxes Authorized: Yes
  - Rate on Electricity: 5%
  - Rate on Natural Gas: 5%
  - Sales Tax Exemptions
    - % of Services Exempt: 97%
    - Manufacturing Machinery: Exempt
    - Custom Software: Exempt

**Property Taxes**
- Effective Tax Rate for Representative Urban Industrial Property: 1.26%
- Property Tax Exemptions
  - Personalty: Exempt
  - Machinery: Exempt
  - Inventory: Exempt

**Payroll Taxes**
- Unemployment Insurance
  - Taxable Base: $12,740
  - New Employer UI Rate: 3.40%
  - Minimum UI Rate: 0.70%
  - Maximum UI Rate: 8.40%
  - Estimated Average UI Costs (% total wages): 0.96%
  - Workers' Compensation Average Rate: 3.05%

**Motor Fuels Taxes**
- Gasoline (cents/gallon): 19
- Diesel (cents/gallon): 21.5

Source: State of Illinois, 2012
DuPage County Business Registration:

**Important Note**
For information on local ordinances and local licensing/registration requirements please check with the municipality you are planning to operate in.

Sole proprietorships and general partnerships located in DuPage County must register with the DuPage County Clerk’s Office if the name of the business is any name other than that of the owner(s). There is a $10.00 fee.

**In-Person:**
DuPage County Clerk’s Office, 421 N. County Farm Road, Wheaton, IL 60187, Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM.

**By Mail:**
Fill out the application (available online at www.dupageco.org/countyclerk/) and mail it with a check or money order made payable to the DuPage County Clerk.

Business also need to register with the Department of Public Works. Please contact 630-407-6800 or http://www.dupageco.org/publicworks/.
Opening a Restaurant:

Environmental Health Services protects public health in DuPage County through the food program, which promotes healthy environmental conditions and reduces the risks associated with foodborne illnesses.

Our food service design and construction requirements are aimed at creating a safe and sanitary environment for food service operations. These standards apply to all types of food service including retail food stores, restaurants, bars, schools, childcare and other facilities serving food and beverages to the public.

Your food service will be assigned a risk category based on your menu and the complexity of food or beverage handling that is being done. Food service operational permit fees are based on this risk category.

The following is a list of steps that will aid you and your organization in opening your doors for business in DuPage County.

**Step One: The Initial Inquiry**
Contact the DuPage County Health Department for a copy of the Food Service Design and Construction Manual and Food Service Establishment Plan Review Application.

**Step Two: Submit Plans**
One set of food service plans along with the completed plan review form, a copy of the proposed menu and the plan review fee are to be submitted at the DuPage County Health Department's Plan Review Office located at 111 North County Farm Road in Wheaton. Please make checks payable to the DuPage County Health Department. Mastercard and Visa are accepted when paying in person.

**Step Three: The Review Process**
The plans are reviewed by the Plan review office, please allow 15 business days for review and processing. Expedited reviews may be available for an additional fee, please speak to the plan review supervisor for availability.

**Step Four: The Approval Process**
Plans may need additional information or changes prior to approval. Correspondence indicating the status of a proposal plan will be sent to the applicant.

**Step Five: On-site Construction**
Upon receipt of all necessary information and approval of plans, notification is sent to the applicant. The approval letter details a series of inspections that are required prior to your opening day.
Opening a Restaurant continued:

**Step Six: Inspections**
Listed below are inspections that will need to be scheduled with the plan review office.

- Plumbing Rough-In.
- Pre-Final/Pre-Open (Stocking).
- Construction Final.
- Operations Opening.

For online forms, certification procedures, and information on temporary food and food vendor regulations contact the DuPage County Health Department.

**For additional information contact:**
DuPage County Environmental Department
111 N. County Farm Road
Wheaton, Illinois 60187
Phone: 630-682-7400
www.dupagehealth.org
Vendor Information:

DuPage County Procurement Services Division assists all County departments in purchasing required goods and services in conformance with Illinois Compiled Statutes, DuPage County Purchasing Ordinance, related resolutions of the County Board and administrative policies.

Requirements of less than $25,000 are made in accordance with established procedures for small-dollar purchases and informal quotations. Requirements in excess of $25,000 are publicly advertised and are subject to formal-bidding procedures.

For additional information contact:
DuPage County Procurement Services Division
421 N. County Farm Road
Wheaton, Illinois 60187
Phone: 630-407-6200
www.dupageco.org/purchasing/

Recycling:

For a copy of the new Recycling Guide please contact the Economic Development & Planning Department or visit their website.

For additional information contact:
DuPage County Economic Development & Planning Department
421 N. County Farm Rd.
Wheaton, Illinois 60187
Phone: 630-407-6700
www.dupageco.org/recycling/
Home Based Businesses:

The County Zoning Ordinance allows one home occupation in a dwelling unit. There are a number of rules that must be followed. Individual municipalities may have their own rules and regulation on home occupations. Please also contact the Zoning Department of the municipality the home occupation is located in as well as the Zoning Division for DuPage County before you start a home based businesses.

For additional information contact:
Zoning Division
421 North County Farm Road
Wheaton, Illinois 60187
Phone: 630-682-7130
www.dupageco.org/zoning/
Storm Water Management:

The County’s Stormwater Division monitors the countywide ordinance regulating the use and protection of the floodplain in the County; develops watershed basin plans for all county watersheds; develops, engineers and implements specific projects in these basins to relieve flooding conditions; develops and maintains floodplain maps; coordinates the operational control of stormwater management projects within the county; establishes priorities for the solution of local drainage problems; and maintains drainage systems in the unincorporated county areas.

All developments applying for a DuPage County Stormwater Management Permit will be reviewed by the DuPage County Department of Economic Development and Planning, Division of Environmental Concerns.

For additional information please contact:
Stormwater Management Division
421 N County Farm Road
Wheaton, IL 60187
Phone: 630-407-6700
www.dupageco.org/swm/
Federal & State Business Registration & Licenses:

Internal Revenue Service
Partnerships, corporations, and S corporations must have a FEIN number. A sole proprietorship may need a FEIN Number. To obtain an FEIN, complete Form SS4 found on the IRS website and submit the form to the IRS. Please see here: http://www.irs.gov/businesses/small/article/0,,id=99336,00.html for more information on starting a business.

For additional information contact:
Internal Revenue Service
www.irs.gov

Professional Regulation
The process of becoming licensed in Illinois is designed to ensure that all professionals meet at least the minimum requirements for licensure set forth by law. Professionals seeking to work in Illinois must first receive, and properly complete, an application for licensure. Applications differ depending upon profession, and the method of applying, including examination, endorsement from another state, and acceptance of examination given by another jurisdiction or professional association.

For additional information contact:
Illinois Department of Professional Regulation
James R. Thompson Center
100 West Randolph, Suite 9-300
Chicago, IL 60601
Phone: 312-814-4500
www.idfpr.com/
Illinois Secretary of State
Corporations, limited liability companies and partnerships located in other states but operating in Illinois may need to register with the Illinois Secretary of State.

For additional information contact:
Office of the Secretary of State
Department of Business Services
69 W. Washington St., Ste. 1240
Chicago, Illinois 60602
www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/business_services/home.html

Illinois Department of Revenue
You must register with the Illinois Department of Revenue if you conduct business in Illinois, or with Illinois customers. This includes sole proprietors (individual or husband/wife), exempt organizations, or government agencies withholding for Illinois employees.

For additional information contact:
Illinois Department of Revenue
Central Registration Division
Phone: 217-785-3707
www.revenue.state.il.us/businesses/register.htm

Buying a Business
The State of Illinois requires the filing of form NUC-542-A Notice of Sale/Purchase of Business Assets.

For additional information contact:
Illinois Department of Revenue
100 West Randolph
Chicago, Illinois 60601
Phone: 800-732-8866
www.revenue.state.il.us
Information for Employers:

Workers’ Compensation Insurance
Businesses employing one or more full or part time employees are required to provide insurance for accidental death, injuries and occupational diseases of employees arising in the course of service.

For additional information contact:
Illinois Worker’s Compensation Commission
Phone: 866-352-3033
www.iwcc.il.gov/

Unemployment Insurance
Employers may be required to make unemployment insurance contributions to the Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES).

For additional information contact:
Illinois Department of Employment Security
Phone: 800-247-4984
www.ides.state.il.us

New Hire Reporting
The New Hire Reporting Program is a part of the new federal welfare to work reform law. All employers are required to report new employees to the State’s New Hire Directory within 20 days of the employee’s first day on the payroll.

For additional information contact:
Illinois Department of Employment Security
Phone: 800-327-HIRE (4473)
24-hour fax line: (217) 557-1947
www.ides.state.il.us
Work Eligibility
Employers must keep records certifying employee identity and work eligibility. Both the business owner and employee must complete the Immigration and Naturalization Service Form I-9, Employment Eligibility Certification.

For additional information contact:
U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service
Phone: 312-353-7334 or 800-375-5283
www.uscis.gov/i-9

Income Tax Withholding
As an employer you are required to collect and remit income tax to the State of Illinois and Federal Medicare, Social Security and income taxes to the Internal Revenue Service on behalf of your employees.

For additional information contact:
Internal Revenue Service
230 South Dearborn 17th Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60604
Phone: 800-829-1040
State of Illinois Programs:

Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO)

DCEO is the lead state agency responsible for improving the competitiveness of Illinois businesses. DCEO provides information, assistance, and advocacy to facilitate business expansion in and relocation to Illinois. DCEO has a number of resources available to assist small and large businesses succeed in Illinois. Programs include:

Advantage Illinois:
Small businesses who have been negatively impacted by the credit crunch should look to the Advantage Illinois, which consists of multiple programs to encourage institutional lending to small businesses, as well as the Invest Illinois Venture Fund to leverage private capital in start-ups and high-growth sectors. Some small businesses may also receive Advantage Illinois financing as part of a business assistance package. Advantage Illinois is funded by $78 million in federal funds from the State Small Business Credit Initiative (SSBCI) which is reserved in a State Treasurer’s account solely for this purpose. The program should generate a minimum of at least $10 in new private lending for every $1 of federal funding, meaning at least $800 million in private dollars pumped into the Illinois economy to grow the small business sector.
www.ildceo.net/dceo/Bureaus/Advantage+Illinois/

Economic Development For A Growing Economy (EDGE):
The EDGE program is designed to offer a special tax incentive to encourage companies to locate or expand operations in Illinois when there is active consideration of a competing location in another State. The program can provide tax credits to qualifying companies, equal to the amount of state income taxes withheld from the salaries of employees in the newly created jobs. The non-refundable credits can be used against corporate income taxes to be paid over a period not to exceed 10 years. To qualify a company must provide documentation that attests to the fact of competition among a competing state, and agree to make an investment of at least $5 million in capital improvements and create a minimum of 25 new full time jobs in Illinois. For a company with 100 or fewer employees, the company must agree to make a capital investment of $1 million and create at least 5 new full time jobs in Illinois.
www.ildceo.net/dceo/Bureaus/Business_Development/Tax+Assistance/EDGE.htm

Employer Training Investment Program (ETIP):
The Employer Training Investment Program (ETIP) is a competitive application program for Illinois based manufactures and service companies to facilitate upgrading the skills of their workers in order to remain current in new technologies and business practices. Participation in the program will enable companies to remain competitive, expand into new markets and introduce more efficient technologies into their operations. ETIP grants may reimburse Illinois companies for up to 50 percent of the eligible cost of training their employees. Grants may be awarded to individual businesses, intermediary organizations operating multi-company training projects and original equipment manufacturers sponsoring multi-company training projects for employees of their Illinois supplier companies.
www.ildceo.net/dceo/Bureaus/Business_Development/Grants/ETIP.htm
Large Business Development Program
The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity's Large Business Development Program (LBDP) provides incentive financing to encourage large out-of-state companies to locate in Illinois. It also provides incentives for existing large companies to undertake substantial job expansion or retention projects. Funds available through the program can be used by large businesses (500 or more employees) for typical business activities, including financing the purchase of land and buildings, construction or renovation of fixed assets, and site preparation. LBDP funds are targeted to extraordinary economic development opportunities, that is, projects that will result in substantial private investment and the creation and/or retention of 300 or more jobs.

For additional information contact:
Choose DuPage
2525 Cabot Drive, Suite 303
Lisle, Illinois 60532
Phone: 630-955-2090
www.choosedupage.com

Business Invest:
The State Treasurer’s Business Invest linked deposit program stimulates job creation and economic development by enabling financial institutions to offer below-market interest rates on loans to Illinois businesses, non-profit organizations, child care providers and health care providers, and units of local government. The program can also be used to finance renewable energy and energy efficiency related projects. For each approved Business Invest project, the Treasurer’s Office deposits state funds (up to $10 million per project) at a below-market rate with the financial institution providing the loan. This below-market cost of funds enables the financial institution to offer a reduced interest rate on the business’s loan. The reduced interest rate is available for up to the first 5 years of the loan. The borrower’s savings on the loan can be applied to hiring new employees and funding operating costs and other expenses.
www.state.il.us/treas/

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA)
The Office of Brownfields Assistance manages the Brownfields grant and loan programs and offers technical support to communities through the services of its Brownfields representatives. Brownfields representatives work directly with communities to explain cleanup options, regulatory programs and requirements and guide municipalities through the Brownfields cleanup and redevelopment process. The Municipal Brownfields Redevelopment Grant Program provides funding to local municipalities to investigate and clean up brownfields properties. The Illinois Brownfields Redevelopment Loan Program is a revolving low-interest loan program that provides funds to municipalities and the private sector for the environmental cleanup of Brownfields sites.
www.epa.state.il.us/land/index.html
Illinois Department of Transportation

IDOT has several programs that provide state assistance in improving highway and rail access improvements to new or expanding industrial, distribution or tourism developments. The focus of these programs is the retention and creation of Illinois jobs. Funding may be available for transportation improvement projects related to facilities that provide direct access to economic development projects. Projects providing access to retail establishments, office parks, government facilities or school/universities are not eligible.


Veteran’s Tax Credit

Illinois employers might be able to earn an income tax credit of up to $1,200 annually for hiring and Veterans of Operation Desert Storm, Operation Enduring Freedom, or Operation Iraqi Freedom. These Veterans must be employed for a minimum for 185 days.

For the tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2010 the Veterans Tax Credit has been increased to the lesser of 10 percent or $1200 per qualifying employee.

http://tax.illinois.gov/TaxForms/IncmCurrentYear/Business/Miscellaneous/Schedule-1299-D.pdf
Financing Programs:

The Illinois Finance Authority (IFA)
The Illinois Finance Authority (IFA) is a body politic and corporate of the State of Illinois. It is authorized by the Illinois Finance Authority Act to issue tax-exempt and taxable bonds and make and guarantee loans to help meet the financial needs of local government, business, healthcare, educational, cultural and social, agricultural and other entities. IFA offers a variety of products that assist Illinois businesses, schools, municipalities and non-profits. These include, but are not limited to: Industrial Revenue Bonds, Solid Waste Disposable Revenue Bonds, Participation Loans, 501 (c)(3) Bond Program, Rural Development Loans, 501 (c)(3) Lease Program, Motion Picture Financing Initiative, and Technology Development Bridge.

For additional information contact:
Illinois Finance Authority
Phone: 312-651-1300
www.il-fa.com/

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA)
The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) was created in 1953 as an independent agency of the federal government to aid, counsel, assist and protect the interests of small businesses. Through an extensive network of field offices and partnerships with public and private organizations, SBA delivers its services to people throughout the United States. The SBA has a variety of products and services to assist small business succeed. They include:

The 7(a) Loan Guaranty Program:
The 7(a) Loan Program includes financial help for businesses with special requirements. For example, funds are available for loans to businesses that handle exports to foreign countries, businesses that operate in rural areas, and for other very specific purposes.

Microloan Program
The Microloan Program provides small, short-term loans to small business concerns and certain types of not-for-profit child-care centers. The SBA makes funds available to specially designated intermediary lenders, which are nonprofit community-based organizations with experience in lending as well as management and technical assistance. These intermediaries make loans to eligible borrowers. The maximum loan amount is $50,000, but the average microloan is about $13,000.

For additional information on all SBA programs contact:
SBA Illinois District Office
500 West Madison Suite 1150
Chicago, Illinois 60661
Phone: 312-353-4528
www.sba.gov/il/
**SomerCor 504 Inc.**
The 504 program helps healthy, for profit businesses with financing for projects involving the purchase, construction, or improvement of fixed assets. Banks and other lenders participate for 50% of the total project cost, while SomerCor finances 40% (up to $1.5 Million and even up to $4 Million in some cases) of the balance. This leaves only a 10% down payment for the business, helping it to preserve valuable working capital. The 504 program is a win-win arrangement. The business maximizes the amount of money it receives and the bank gets a first lien on all the assets with only a 50% loan to value.

**For more information contact:**
**SomerCor 504 Inc.**
601 S. LaSalle Street, Suite 510
Chicago, Illinois 60605
Phone: 312-360-3300
www.somercor.com/

**Illinois Business Financial Services (IBFS)**
IBFS is a Certified Development Company (CDC) that works in partnership with the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). Since 1981, Illinois Business Financial Services has been developing diversified loan programs for small businesses, utilizing the SBA 504 and other loan programs to create jobs and millions of dollars in project funding.

**For additional information contact:**
**Illinois Business Financial Services (IBFS)**
Phone: 312.288.8605
www.ibfs.org

**Accion Chicago**
Accion Chicago is an alternative lending organization dedicated to providing credit and other business services to small business owners who do not have access to traditional sources of financing. By encouraging the economic self-reliance of microentrepreneurs throughout the Chicagoland area, Accion Chicago strives to help businesses and communities grow.

**For additional information contact:**
**Accion Chicago**
1436 W. Randolph Street, Suite 300
Chicago, Illinois 60608
Phone: 773-275-3000
www.accionchicago.org/
Illinois Ventures for Community Action (IVCA)

Illinois Ventures for Community Action (IVCA) is an organization whose membership is comprised of Community Action Agencies throughout the state. IVCA is a not-for-profit corporation whose purpose is to undertake job creation and economic development activities, and to distribute any profit therefrom to its member agencies to finance activities designed to eliminate poverty in Illinois. The majority of loans provided by IVCA are through the Community Service Block Grant (CSBG) Loan Program. The CSBG Loan Program is administered jointly by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO), statewide Community Action Agencies (CAAs) and IVCA. The Program provides long-term, fixed-rate financing to new or expanding companies in exchange for job creation and employment for low income individuals.

For additional information contact:
Illinois Ventures for Community Action
3435 Liberty Drive, Suite C
Springfield, IL 62707
Phone: 217-522-4553
www.ilventures.org/
Workforce Development Resources:

workNet DuPage
DuPage County Workforce Development Division, located at the workNet DuPage Career Center, provides free recruiting and training assistance to employers throughout DuPage County. The pool of job seekers that companies can access through workNet DuPage include high level professional and technical employees, particularly in the areas of Information Technology, Project Management, Supply Chain, etc. Employers that are hiring new staff or who are providing training to prevent layoffs of existing staff can access training grants to help offset various types of expenses.

For additional information contact:
workNet DuPage Career Center
2525 Cabot Drive, Suite 302
Lisle, IL 60532
Tel: 630.955.2030
TTY: 630.955.2098
www.worknetdupage.org

College of DuPage
College of DuPage (COD) Business Solutions is your one-stop shop for employee training and development needs. With our expertise and experience, COD Business Solutions can customize curriculum to enable your business to succeed in this competitive business environment. Whether your employees need courses as diverse as Microsoft training, marketing, English as a Second Language (ESL), or cardiopulmonary resuscitation, we can provide your business with affordable, targeted, and on time solutions. COD Business Solutions is your trusted partner in the training, development, and ongoing education of your workforce.

For additional information contact:
COD Business Solutions
425 Fawell Blvd.
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137
(866) 317-0655
home.cod.edu/academics/conted/business/
Northern Illinois University

The Business and Industry Services unit of Northern Illinois University based in Naperville, Illinois has several employee training programs. They include:

- Basic Employee Skills
- Team Work Building
- Supervisory Development
- Executive Leadership Training
- IT Computer Training
- On Site Technical Skills Training
- Construction Certification Management Training Program
- Dislocated Workers Program

For additional information contact:
Northern Illinois University, Business and Industry Services
1120 East Diehl Road, Suite 110
Naperville, IL 60563-1486
Phone: 630-505-4100
www.niubis.com/

Illinois Manufacturing Extension Center

IMEC was established in 1996 to improve the productivity and competitiveness of Illinois' small and mid-sized manufacturing firms. A non-profit economic development organization, IMEC is funded in part by the National Institute of Standards and Technology - Manufacturing Extension Partnership, the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, and by fees for services paid by Illinois manufacturers. Experienced staff based at eleven office locations throughout Illinois provide hands-on technical assistance and consulting services to help manufacturers innovate, contain manufacturing costs, streamline processes, and increase profits. They roll up their sleeves and get to know all facets of the business, providing solutions in areas ranging from process optimization to product innovation, quality improvement to technology integration.

For additional information contact:
Illinois Manufacturing Extension Center
Phone: 888-806-4632
http://www.imec.org
College of DuPage Resources:

Illinois Small Business Development Center
The College of DuPage Small Business Development Center (SBDC) is a part of a nationwide support network for the small business community. The SBDC offers counseling services on: Business Planning, Financial Planning, Marketing, Loan Packaging, Feasibility studies, Organization planning, Professional Referral Program, and The Entrepreneurs Resource Room.
Phone: 630-942-2771 or 942-3775
www.cod.edu/Academic/Bus_Tech/center_entrepreneur/sm_business.htm

Illinois Procurement Technical Assistance Center
If you are interested in doing business with the government, or want to improve your current level of government contracting, the Procurement Technical Assistance Center can help.
www.cod.edu/Academic/Bus_Tech/center_entrepreneur/procurement.htm

Collar County Angels
The Collar County Angels was originally conceived by the SBDC for the Center of Entrepreneurship almost 10 years ago. The idea was to create a centralized business location with all the tactical resources are readily available including a financial arm for potentially rapid growth organizations. In 2011, the chance to launch the Collar County Angels became a reality when the Center of Entrepreneurship created the TIES Program (Technology, Innovation and Entrepreneurship Services) that focuses on the four principal rapid growth industries (Manufacturing, Health Sciences, Alternative Energies and Communications). We are committed to cultivating equitable partnerships with Illinois innovators and become the next economic force for the region. Our commercialization process is in itself innovative which ensures more efficient deal flow and greater chance for financial success.
www.collarcountyangels.com/

Illinois Technology Innovation and Entrepreneurship Services (TIES)
The COD Center of Entrepreneurship created the TIES Program (Technology, Innovation and Entrepreneurship Services) that focuses on the four principal rapid growth industries: Manufacturing, Health Sciences, Alternative Energies and Communications. TIES serves small business in the areas of technology commercialization and innovation.
www.cod.edu/business_resources/entrepreneurship/index.aspx

Illinois International Trade Center
Funded in part by the U.S. Small Business Administration and the Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs, the International Trade Center (ITC) was established in 1989 to assist Illinois companies with their export efforts. The ITC provides assistance to foreign companies interested in sourcing manufactured products from the United States. Free market research and consulting assistance is offered to Illinois companies that are interested in exporting their products or services.
www.cod.edu/Academic/Bus_Tech/center_entrepreneur/international_trade.htm
Technology Resources:

**Argonne National Laboratory**
A primary objective of the Department of Energy (DOE) laboratories is to promote the economic interests of the United States by facilitating development, transfer, and use of federally owned or originated technology to industry for public benefit and to leverage DOE resources through partnering with industry. These objectives are accomplished at DOE labs in several ways:
- Cost-shared R&D with an industrial partner
- Reimbursable R&D with industry sponsorship
- Industry use of DOE lab research and user facilities
- Assistance to companies with short-term technical problems in unique areas not served commercially
- Licensing of laboratory patents, copyrights, and trademarks

For additional information contact:
Argonne National Laboratory
9700 S. Cass Avenue, Building 201
Argonne, IL 60439.
Phone: 800-627-2596
http://web.anl.gov/techtransfer/index.html

**Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory**
Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory advances the understanding of the fundamental nature of matter and energy by providing leadership and resources for qualified researchers to conduct basic research at the frontiers of high energy physics and related disciplines. Fermilab builds and operates the accelerators, detectors and other facilities that physicists need to carry out forefront research in high-energy physics. Fermilab is the largest high-energy physics laboratory in the United States, and is second in the world only to CERN, the European Laboratory for Particle Physics.

For additional information contact:
Fermilab
P.O. Box 500
Batavia, IL 60510
Phone: 630-840 3000
www.fnal.gov/
United States Department of Defense
The Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program is a United States Government program, co-ordinated by the Small Business Administration, in which 2.5 percent of the total extramural research budgets of all federal agencies with extramural research budgets in excess of $100 million are reserved for contracts or grants to small businesses. Annually, the SBIR budget represents more than $1 billion in research funds. Congress established the Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) Program in 1992. It is similar in structure to SBIR and funds cooperative research and development projects with small businesses in partnership with not-for profit research institutions (such as universities) to move research to the marketplace.

For additional information contact:
Department of Defense
Small Business Innovation Research
Small Business Technology Transfer
www.dodsbir.net
Phone: 1-800-724-7457
Export Assistance:

**U.S. Department of Commerce**
The U.S. Commercial Service is the trade promotion agency of the US Department of Commerce and provides export assistance to U.S. exporters. Our Trade Specialists work with your company to help you increase your sales to new global markets.

*For additional information contact:*
**U.S. Department of Commerce**
www.export.gov/
Phone: 312-353-8040

**College of DuPage International Trade Center**
Funded in part by the U.S. Small Business Administration and the Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs, the International Trade Center (ITC) was established in 1989 to assist Illinois companies with their export efforts. The ITC provides assistance to foreign companies interested in sourcing manufactured products from the United States. Free market research and consulting assistance is offered to Illinois companies that are interested in exporting their products or services.

*For additional information contact:*
**College of DuPage**
International Trade Center
Phone: 630-942-3041
www.cod.edu/Academic/Bus_Tech/center_entrepreneur/international_trade.htm

**DCEO Office of Trade and Investment**
Illinois intends to grow its economy by doubling our exports by the end of 2014. To meet this goal, the State is offering increased export services, programs and training to our small and medium sized businesses, enabling them to grow into markets outside of the U.S. through DCEO’s Office of Trade and Investment website, our Illinois Small Business Development Centers designated as International Trade Centers, and other partners. The new federally-funded STEP program offered by DCEO provides reimbursement of trade mission costs to eligible companies undertaking group or individual sales missions.

*For additional information contact:*
**DCEO Office of Trade and Investment**
http://exports.illinois.gov

**U.S. Small Business Administration**
Sponsored by the SBA, Trade Mission Online is a database of American small businesses that seek to export their products. It is also a search engine for foreign companies that seek U.S. business alliances through direct product sales, licensing or franchising agreements.

*For additional information contact:*
**U.S. Small Business Administration**
www.sba.gov/about-offices-content/1/2889/resources/13179
Utilities:

Nicor Gas
Nicor Gas, an AGL Resources Company, is the primary distributor of natural gas to the region. Nicor Gas representatives can help current and prospective businesses determine their energy needs. Programs Include: Custom rate analysis, Infrastructure verification and coordination, Technical assistance with energy-related issues, and Site visit support and participation.

For additional information contact:
Nicor Gas
1844 Ferry Road
Naperville, IL 60563-9600
Phone: 630-388-2689
http://nicorgas.aglr.com/

ComEd Electricity
ComEd is the primary electric delivery service company for Northern Illinois delivering electricity to nearly 300,000 commercial and industrial customers. ComEd’s ability to provide safe and reliable energy contributes to the quality of life in northern Illinois and is a key component of the State’s overall economic development potential. Without a robust electrical system in place, Chicago and northern Illinois would be unable to effectively compete for new business expansion in the global economy and existing businesses would be less competitive. Since 2001, ComEd has invested more than $9 billion to expand, upgrade, and maintain our system. This is part of an ongoing commitment to maintain system-wide reliability and expand capacity by strengthening and modernizing infrastructure. The benefits of the reliability investments are evident. In fact, ComEd’s reliability performance in 2009 represented the best on record. Overall since 1998, customers have experienced a 20% reduction in the frequency of interruptions. In addition, the recent passage of SB1652, the Energy Infrastructure Modernization Act by the Illinois legislature mandates an improvement in reliability by requiring a 20% reduction in the frequency of outages and 15% reduction in the length of outages when they do occur. This $2.6 billion ten year investment will transform ComEd’s distribution system into a smart grid with advanced metering infrastructure and digital distribution automation equipment installed on our lines and in our substations.

ComEd’s Economic Development Department provides information and analysis to businesses that are considering moving to the DuPage County. Programs Include: Site Location Assistance, Financial Assistance, Electricity Cost Calculations, Community Profiles, Brownfield Redevelopment Grants, and Business Retention Visitation Program.

For additional information contact:
ComEd Economic Development Department
3 Lincoln Centre
Oakbrook Terrace, Il 60181
www.comed.com/econdev