

# **Alton, Edwardsville, Collinsville, Carrollton, Receive Funds: Pritzker Awards \$106 Million Statewide To Rebuild Illinois Downtowns**

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**ALTON** — Governor JB Pritzker and the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) today announced \$106 million in capital grants

awarded to revitalize 50 commercial corridors and main streets throughout Illinois. Alton, Edwardsville, Collinsville, and Carrollton were among the cities that are designated to receive funds.

In addition to the \$106 million in state funding, projects offered an additional \$109 million in matching grant funds, for a total investment of \$215 million.

The historic Rebuild Illinois (RBI) Downtowns and Main Streets Capital program represent the largest-ever RBI investment focused on community revitalization.

AltonWorks, Alton, will receive a \$3 million grant for the restoration of historic buildings for the Wedge Innovation Center incubator. The City of Collinsville will receive \$1,828,350 for the St. Louis Road and Collinsville Road corridor initiative. The City of Edwardsville was awarded \$2,869,031 for water/sewer and streetscape improvements on Main Street. The City of Carrollton also will receive \$1,900,000 for Courthouse Square improvements.

Launched through Rebuild Illinois State capital funds and further expanded by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), the grants support projects that will revitalize commercial hubs, beautify and modernize downtowns, address critical infrastructure needs, boost jobs and improve the quality of life for residents.

“I am thrilled to announce that we are doubling last year’s investment in our Downtowns and Main Streets Capital Grant program to include over 50 communities throughout Illinois to modernize downtowns, address long-awaited infrastructure needs, and boost local economies — in turn, bettering the quality of life for our state’s residents,” said Governor JB Pritzker. “With that upgraded infrastructure comes economic opportunity: more jobs, more business growth, and more money pouring into the communities that need it most — and that’s what Rebuild Illinois is all about.”

"Our administration knows that the road to recovery must include economic opportunities for our most vulnerable so we may all move forward together," said Lt. Governor Juliana Stratton. "The Rebuild Illinois Downtowns and Main Streets grants invest in communities that have for too long been disinvested, creating a pathway to make needed improvements that uplift residents and revitalize regions across the state."

The state originally allocated \$50 million in funding for this project in 2021. However, due to the high quality of applications and ongoing need, as well as the number of projects eligible for federal COVID relief funds, funding for the program increased by \$56 million for a total of \$106 million in investments benefiting 50 total communities. The increase in funding allowed the state to support an additional 29 community revitalization projects.

The RBI Downtowns and Main Streets Capital Program is designed to support local commercial corridors, with concentrations of businesses that experienced difficulties during the pandemic due to declining foot traffic, tourism, and business from downtown offices. The program drives investment in infrastructure and public amenities that continue to fuel economic activity as more Illinoisans patron their local town centers.

Grants awarded through the program are located in a commercial center or downtown area and include a variety of projects, such as the restoration of historic buildings, parking and street improvements, construction or improvement of outdoor venues or plazas for public use, sustainability upgrades, structural repairs and other projects benefitting the larger community. Grants range from \$398,552 to \$3 million in funding.

“Today’s announcement illustrates why the General Assembly continues to prioritize Rebuild Illinois every year,” said Speaker of the House Emanuel “Chris” Welch (D-Hillside). “We have proven that we can be fiscally responsible and make groundbreaking investments in our communities.”

"Edwardsville and Collinsville both have amazing opportunities ahead of them, and this Rebuild Illinois grant sets them up for success," said State Rep. Katie Stuart (D-Edwardsville). "I couldn't think of a better use of grant dollars than investing them in high traffic areas used by all."

“The Southland has long been neglected and suffered from disinvestment, but today’s announcement shows us that the tide is turning,” said State Rep. Debbie Meyers-Martin (D-Olympia Fields). “With Richton Park’s revitalized Town Center anchored by our Metra stop, we are showing the region what it means to create a community people want to work, shop, and raise their family.”

“Residents depend on reliable, safe transportation to prosper in their communities and spur economic development in the region,” said State Senator Christopher Belt (D-Swansea). “The \$1.2 million investment in the Village of Fairmont City will create jobs for residents to maintain roadways, design streetscape and improve drainage infrastructure.”

“Today is a great day for the Metro East region,” said State Rep Jay Hoffman. “This is needed funding that will create jobs, spark investment and enhance the quality of life for residents in our communities. I appreciate that our governor has made this area a priority for state investment and look forward to working together on projects that further enhance our region.”

“Broadway Avenue is at the heart of our Aurora community, and it is time for a makeover,” said State Rep. Barbara Hernandez (D-Aurora). “Thank you to Governor

Pritzker for investing in our downtowns, where people come from all over to work, live and play.”

“Because of Rebuild Downtowns and Main Streets, Rockford is expected to receive over \$5 million for our downtown area,” said State Rep. Maurice West (D-Rockford). “This means more opportunities for building trades on the projects and ultimately workers in the businesses. Thank you, Governor Pritzker, for putting Rockford to work.”

“The Times Theater has a special place in Rockford’s history, and thanks to a grant from Rebuild Illinois it will have a special place in our future as well,” said State Senator Steve Stadelman (D-Rockford). “Revitalizing our downtown and its historic buildings is not just for entertainment: projects like this tell visitors and residents alike that Downtown Rockford will remain a catalyst for economic growth throughout the region.

"This funding will provide a vital boost to commercial centers in St. Clair and Madison County, where so many businesses have been hurt by the recent inflationary spike," said State Rep. LaToya Greenwood (D-East St. Louis). "New infrastructure projects in our downtown area also improve the safety, reliability and efficiency of the local supply chain. These simultaneous benefits help build a stronger future for all Illinois families, and I thank the DCEO and Governor Pritzker for their good work."

“Fresh and affordable food is critical for every family, no matter where they call home,” said State Senator Suzy Glowiak Hilton (D-Western Springs). “Funded in part by Rebuild Illinois, I’m thrilled to welcome the first community-owned grocery to DuPage County—Prairie Food Co-Op in downtown Lombard. This investment will help ensure families have access to healthy, sustainable food options.”

“I couldn’t be prouder of AltonWorks and I look forward to seeing what they do with their Rebuild Illinois award,” said State Rep. Amy Elik (R-Alton). “It is easy to see why their work is gaining attention across the State and I am glad the Governor is here to see it.”

“Take a walk or drive down any Main Street in the Metro East, and you’ll be met with character, historic buildings and cultural history,” said State Senator Kris Tharp (D-Bethalto). “The combined \$7.6 million investments into Alton, Collinsville and Edwardsville will create jobs for residents, modernize infrastructure, and encourage patrons and visitors to explore their local downtown.”

“Main streets and downtowns across Illinois serve as hubs for businesses and economic activity but are also places where families and friends gather to create enduring memories,” said DCEO Director Sylvia I. Garcia. “Governor Pritzker doubled the

amount of funding for these grants in recognition of the critical role main streets play in creating jobs and improving quality of life across our great state. We're proud to be investing \$106 million in 50 projects that include development of business incubators, a co-op community grocery store, revitalization of historic buildings, and other essential infrastructure improvements that will play a vital role in economic development and revitalize commercial corridors for generations to come."

<b>Recipients &amp; Location</b>	<b>Project Description</b>	<b>Funding</b>
AltonWorks, Alton	Restoration of historic buildings for the Wedge Innovation Center incubator.	\$3,000,000
City of Aledo	Roadway & streetscape improvements, including public plazas.	\$3,000,000
City of Anna	Downtown streetscape & water/sewer improvements.	\$812,930
City of Arcola	Downtown infrastructure improvements, including sanitary & stormwater sewer.	\$1,040,000
City of Aurora	Broadway Ave. corridor street & streetscape improvements.	\$3,000,000
City of Calumet City	Burnham Ave. corridor improvements.	\$686,000
City of Carbondale	Downtown Arts & Entertainment District improvements.	\$2,055,040
City of Carrollton	Courthouse square improvements.	\$1,900,000

City of Collinsville	St. Louis Road & Collinsville Road corridor initiative.	\$1,828,350
City of Danville	Walnut Street corridor reconstruction.	\$3,000,000
City of Edwardsville	Water/sewer & streetscape improvements on Main Street.	\$2,869,031
City of Flora	City grants for businesses making repairs /enhancements in commercial corridors.	\$1,273,268
City of Galesburg	Simmons Street streetscape improvements /reconstruction	\$2,082,494
City of Greenville	New downtown public plaza, including pavilion & visitors center.	\$1,900,000
City of Jacksonville	South Main St. reconstruction (continuation of Downtown Turnaround Project).	\$2,975,161
City of Joliet	Construction of “City Square” on Chicago St. corridor.	\$3,000,000
City of Kewanee	Downtown streetscape improvements.	\$2,954,460
City of Litchfield	Rehab of historic downtown building.	\$398,552
City of Mattoon	Downtown lighting, parking and accessibility improvements.	\$525,000

City of Moline	7 <sup>th</sup> Ave. reconstruction & connector project.	\$3,000,000
City of Monmouth	Downtown Square revitalization.	\$3,000,000
City of Ottawa	Construction of an outdoor riverfront amphitheater	\$3,000,000
City of Peoria Public Works	Wisconsin Ave. corridor project.	\$3,000,000
City of Pittsfield	Monroe Street reconstruction/streetscaping.	\$2,842,129
City of Quincy	6th Street Corridor reconstruction/ streetscaping	\$2,400,000
City of Rochelle	Downtown parking construction & rehab.	\$1,151,794
City of Rock Falls	Acquisition and redevelopment of the abandoned Micro Industries property.	\$2,200,717
City of Rockford	Madison St. corridor reconstruction and utilities improvements.	\$2,087,966
City of Taylorville	Downtown square/business corridor streetscape and infrastructure improvements.	\$3,000,000
City of Wenona	Downtown streetscape improvements, including sidewalks, lighting and charging stations.	\$969,580
City of Woodstock	Woodstock Opera House renovations.	\$2,964,553

Deeply Rooted Productions, Chicago	Construction of South Side Center for Black Dance and Creative Communities in Chicago's Washington Park neighborhood.	\$2,999,414
E. G. Woode, L3C, Chicago	Renovating a property to create a food hub /incubator in Englewood.	\$1,164,683
GT Partners, LLC, Rockford	Historic theater Times Theatre renovation.	\$2,999,996
Historic Champaign Holdings, Champaign	Multi-use redevelopment of historical downtown buildings.	\$3,000,000
Long Family Management LLC, DeKalb	Acquisition/rehab of vacant commercial property.	\$566,500
Prairie Food Co-op, Lombard	Construction of community grocery store in downtown Lombard.	\$807,835
Quad Cities Chamber of Commerce, Rock Island	Downtown Rock Island Revitalization (multi-faceted)	\$3,000,000
Re: PurposeDevelopment LLC, Centralia	Winery Block Downtown renovation for mixed-used.	\$1,000,000
Village of Bourbonnais	Bourbonnais Community Campus and Village Green improvements.	\$3,000,000



Village of Bradley	Route 50 corridor improvements.	\$ 3,000,000
Village of Davis Junction	Commercial development and infrastructure improvements.	\$ 3,000,000
Village of Fairmont City	Cookson St. corridor roadway, streetscape & drainage improvements.	\$1,270,696
Village of Lansing	Business district sidewalk replacement.	\$875,000
Village of Maywood	5th Avenue and Lake Street Business Corridor enhancements.	\$2,252,000
Village of Niles	Improvements at civic center, including plaza development.	\$1,800,000
Village of North Utica	Redevelopment of vacant lot, including utilities & commercial space for small businesses.	\$ 1,249,969
Village of Peotone	Downtown Street reconstruction and streetscape.	\$2,458,071
Village of Rantoul	Downtown Master Plan implementation and overall Downtown revitalization including infrastructure improvements.	\$3,000,000
Village of Richton Park	Redevelopment of Town Center properties.	\$734,933

Sources of funding for the RBI Downtowns and Main Streets Capital program include Rebuild Illinois– an historic \$45 billion plan enacted by Governor Pritzker, and the

state's first comprehensive capital plan in more than a decade. DCEO has been charged with spearheading several Rebuild Illinois programs, including investments to modernize public infrastructure, boost tourism, and accelerate business development and jobs for communities statewide.