

To: Members of the Illinois Finance Authority  
From: Chris Meister, Executive Director  
Date: October 12, 2023  
Subject: Executive Director Message

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### **Receipt of Federal Funds: U.S. DOE GRID Resilience**

On September 28, 2023, U.S. DOE announced new recipients Grid Resilience Formula Grants. The Illinois Finance Authority was awarded more than \$16 million to focus on reliability and resiliency improvements in disadvantaged communities that are at risk from climate change events. These funds, mainly through competitive grants administered by the Authority, will support small municipal and co-op utilities in enhancing power grid reliability, ultimately benefiting rural and small-town Illinois residents and ensuring equitable access to dependable, sustainable, and affordable electric power. This award marks the Authority's first direct allocation of federal funding for clean energy projects. The direct receipt of grant funds is a significant milestone, signifying a new chapter in the Authority's role as the state's Climate Bank and expanding beyond our longstanding and efficient issuance of conduit bonds on behalf of borrowers.

### **Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF)**

The Authority is in its final days in the application process for GGRF Solar for All, National Clean Investment Fund, and Clean Communities Investment Accelerator. All applications are due on October 12, 2023. Updates on these efforts are further outlined in the Climate Bank Standing Report and Climate Bank Modification Plan.

### **Audit**

On September 26, 2023, the Illinois Finance Authority received the IIA report evaluating the CMS Internal Audit Department's self-assessment of the Illinois Finance Authority. IIA concurred that the Authority "**Generally Conforms**" to the *International Standards for the Professional Practices of Internal Auditing* and the IIA Code of Ethics. Generally Conforms is the highest level of conformance. The Authority also received an IIA Quality Services award in recognition of this achievement, confirming the validity of the Authority's practices and approach.

### **Ziegler Annual Conference**

From September 20-22, Vice President, Healthcare Conduit Sara Perugini attended the 2023 Ziegler Annual Senior Living Finance and Strategy Conference. Ziegler is a privately held firm that specializes in the healthcare, senior living and education sectors.

### **Online TEFRA Hearings for Conduit Bonds**

This month, the Authority received the go-ahead to proceed with developing an online-only TEFRA notice posting procedure consistent with current IRS regulations applicable to tax-exempt bonds. Previously, the State policy was that all TEFRA notices were required to appear in newspapers published where projects financed by tax-exempt bonds were located. This is an important procedural change for the Authority and will save future conduit borrowers thousands of dollars in publishing fees.

### **Closings**

On October 3, 2023, and October 4, 2023, the Authority closed two large conduit bond deals with The Carle Foundation and Waste Management, Inc., respectively.

### **Today's Agenda**

On the agenda for today is a C-PACE financing for *Silver Hill Funding, LLC* and an amendment for *Southern Illinois Healthcare Enterprises*. There is also a resolution to request additional volume cap for Calendar Year 2023. The high interest rate environment and the potential for economic development projects has increased demand for private activity volume cap. Accordingly, the IFA will require additional private activity volume cap to fulfill its commitments to for-profit borrowers.