

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

SFY25 R3 Notice of Funding Opportunity

ABOUT THE R3 NOFO

When was the R3 application open to applicants?

The R3 Notice of Funding Opportunity was open March 1, 2024.

When was the deadline for submission?

R3 grant applications was due on April 30, 2024.

How much funding was available to eligible agencies?

\$35 million in Round 3.

How many applications were submitted?

ICJIA received 574 completed applications, an increase from the 512 applications received in the SFY23 R3 Notice of Funding Opportunity.

How many applicants were awarded?

A total of 88 organizations were awarded funding.

What types of projects were funded?

Grant funding will be used to address economic development, violence prevention, re-entry, youth development, and civil legal aid. Applicants requested funds to provide services

Who was eligible for funding?

Organizations located within R3 zones and those serving communities in R3 zones were eligible.

Use [the interactive online map tool](#) to determine whether a specific address, neighborhood, or community falls within an R3 area. R3 areas appear in colored patches across the map.

Type the applicant organization's address into the Search Bar and hit Enter, or scroll to a proposed service area to determine whether it appears within a colored (grant-eligible) area.

Were current grantees eligible for R3 funds?

Yes. R3 grantees were eligible to apply for grant funding to serve communities outside of their current regions.

How did ICJIA ensure the \$35 million was distributed fairly across the state?

Funds are awarded regionally and based on population size to ensure grant equity across Illinois. [View the R3 eligibility map and regions.](#)

Grants were awarded to organizations in every region of the state via a tiered scoring system. Tiers include:

Tier 1: Organizations with less than two years of service provision in their communities.

Tier 2: Organizations with two to five years of service provision in their communities or whose annual agency budgets are less than \$2 million.

Tier 3: Organizations with less than 5 years of service provision in their communities, or whose annual agency budget is more than \$2 million.

- 66% of applicants recommended for funding are Tier 1 or Tier 2
- 75% or \$22.5 million in R3 grant awards were dedicated to Tier 1 and Tier 2 service delivery projects.

How were organizations made aware of R3?

The Lieutenant Governor's Office and ICJIA employed a communication plan that included announcements via subscriber lists, website postings, social media, legislator engagement, and media engagement, especially in areas determined to be of high need.

How was this grant opportunity announced?

This opportunity was announced via the [ICJIA email list](#), the [ICJIA website](#), ICJIA social media, and the [R3 website](#).

What were the priority program areas for this grant opportunity?

Applicants were invited to apply for grants to provide services related to the following funding areas:

- Economic Development
- Violence Prevention
- Reentry
- Youth Development

-Civil Legal Aid

NOFO Review Process

Who reviewed the applications?

Application reviewers include members of R3-eligible communities, individuals with work or lived experience in at least one of the five R3 program priorities (economic development, violence prevention, reentry, youth development, and civil legal aid), and a small number of ICJIA staff. All reviewers must participate in cultural bias and grant review training prior to receiving applications.

How were applications reviewed?

Applications were reviewed by panels of trained volunteers, ICJIA staff, and other stakeholders, and scored based on the R3 Notice of Funding Opportunity criteria. Panelist scores were averaged for each applicant, and the applicants' final scores were ranked within each funding region. ICJIA recommended funding applicants that achieve each region's highest scores to the R3 Board.

Equity scores were considered in cases where there was a tie. Equity points were applied based on local preference for staff or collaborative partners, whether they are located in high-need areas, levels of community involvement, and their restorative justice efforts.

Did applicants compete on stand-alone merit or with other applicants in their region?

Applicants competed with other applicants within their selected region and tier.

Who approves R3 grant decisions?

The bipartisan R3 Board makes final decisions on grant funding designations. The R3 Board is chaired by the Lieutenant Governor and consists of other elected officials, service providers, violence prevention experts, and people who have been directly impacted by incarceration.

Will funding be renewed annually for approved applicants, or will they need to reapply?

Grants awarded under this funding opportunity may be renewed without an application beyond the initial 12-month period of performance. R3 awards may support up to 36 months of program activity, contingent on funding availability, successful program performance, and compliance with the terms and conditions of GATA, ICJIA policies, and the grant agreement.

NOFO GRANT APPEALS/DEBRIEF

My application wasn't accepted. How do I appeal the decision?

Unsuccessful applicants may request a formal appeal of the evaluation process. Evaluation scores and funding determinations may not be contested and will not be considered by ICJIA's Appeals Review Officer. The appeal must be via AmpliFund and submitted within 14 calendar days after receipt of a Funding Opportunity Declination Letter from ICJIA. The appeal must include, at a minimum, the following:

- Statement indicating a request for a formal appeal
- A statement of reason for the appeal

Send the appeal to:

Appeals Review Officer

Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority CJA.ARO@Illinois.gov

Once an appeal is received, ICJIA will acknowledge receipt of an appeal. ICJIA will respond to the appeal, in writing, within 60 days or explain why more time is required. ICJIA will resolve the appeal by a written determination, which will include:

- Review of the appeal.
- Appeal determination.
- Rationale for the determination.
- Standard description of the appeal review process and criteria.

5. Debriefing Process

Unsuccessful applicants may request a debriefing for feedback to improve future applications. Debriefings include written advice on the strengths and weaknesses of applications using the evaluation and review criteria.

Requests for debriefings must be made via email and submitted within seven calendar days after receipt of notice. Debriefing requests will not be granted without an active appeal, administrative action, or court proceeding. The written debriefing requests shall include:

- The name and address of the requesting party.
- Identification of grant program.
- Reasons for the debrief request.

Please send debrief requests to: **Aisha Williams, ICJIA R3 Program Manager:**
CJA.R3Questions@Illinois.gov

R3 ELIGIBILITY MAP

What is the purpose of the R3 map?

The R3 map indicates areas around Illinois with the highest levels of gun injury, unemployment, child poverty, and commitments to and returns from the Illinois Department of Corrections. Only organizations that serve people in an eligible area may apply for R3 grant funds.

How do I use the map?

Use [the interactive online map tool](#) to determine whether a specific address, neighborhood, or community falls within an R3 area. R3 areas appear in colored patches across the map.

Type the applicant organization's address into the Search Bar and hit Enter, or scroll to a proposed service area to determine whether it appears within a colored (grant-eligible) area.

Why did the map change before this grant opportunity opened?

The statute requires a recalculation of eligible areas every four years. The 2023/2024 mapping process also incorporated new census tracts to reflect the 2020 Census. The original R3 Area map was based on 2010 Census boundaries.

Who developed the new map?

ICJIA researchers collaborated with an R3 working group to analyze the data used to identify eligible areas and create the new map.

How was the new map developed?

Updated mapping data were retrieved from the Illinois Department of Corrections, Illinois State Police, Illinois Department of Public Health, and the U.S. Census Bureau's Five-Year American Community Survey. ICJIA staff analyzed the data with input on the procedures from the Governor's Office, the Lieutenant Governor's Office, and an R3 working group. Data findings were applied to the map, [which is available here](#).

What data sources were used to map eligibility?

Updated mapping data were retrieved from the Illinois Department of Corrections, Illinois State Police, Illinois Department of Public Health, and the U.S. Census Bureau's Five-Year American Community Survey.

Did the updated map expand geographic eligibility?

Yes. The updated map shows 906 eligible R3 Areas, a 15% increase in area over the 2019 map, which showed 769 areas. These increases were seen in all 12 regions of Illinois.

Why doesn't the map cover more Hispanic communities?

Stakeholder feedback suggests some Hispanic/Latinx communities interact differently than other groups with the criteria outlined in the R3 legislation. For example, individuals who are undocumented may be deported, as opposed to being committed to the Illinois Department of Correction—a criterion stated in the R3 legislation. Others have suggested that a general distrust of government and other institutions may prevent individuals in Hispanic/Latinx communities from being counted in data on gun injury, unemployment, child poverty, and commitments to and returns from the Department of Corrections. This distrust may manifest in a refusal to seek treatment at a hospital for a gun injury or not responding to Census surveys.

Unfortunately, this limits researchers' ability to include these and other hard-to-count populations in data used for metrics relating to the legislatively outlined criteria on a statewide scale.

What is the difference between an R3 area and an R3 region?

R3 areas are determined by high rates of gun injury, unemployment, child poverty, and commitments to and returns from the Illinois Department of Corrections, as defined in the R3 legislation.

R3 regions refer to groups of counties created to ensure funding is distributed equitably across the state.

How were the eligible areas identified?

The R3 legislation defines eligible areas as those with the highest rates of gun injury, unemployment, child poverty, and commitments to and returns from the Department of Corrections.

Are communities that appear on the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity's Disproportionate Impacted Area map eligible for R3 funds?

Yes. [View the DCEO DIA map here.](#)

GENERAL INFORMATION

How much R3 funding has been awarded across Illinois?

So far, ICJIA has awarded more than \$244 million in R3 program grants.

How can I become notified of future grant opportunities?

[Join the ICJIA subscriber list to be notified](#) of future grant opportunities.