
PRESS RELEASE

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Illinois Communities Rising

Place-Based Pathways to Federal Resources

Chicago, IL., July 20th, 2010- “Rather than ignore consumer choice, cities and suburbs need to focus on basic tasks like creating jobs, improving schools, developing cultural amenities and promoting public safety. It is these more mundane steps—not utopian theory or regulatory diktats—that ultimately make successful communities,” wrote Joel Kotkin, editor of www.newgeography.com, columnist, author, and keynote speaker at Illinois ResourceNet’s 2nd Annual Statewide Conference.

Illinois ResourceNet: *A Funding Access Initiative (IRN)* will convene its second annual full-day conference “**Illinois Communities Rising: Place-Based Pathways to Federal Resources**”, on **Thursday, September 16, 2010 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The conference will be held at the UIC Forum located at 725 W. Roosevelt Rd., Chicago, IL 60608**, on the corner of Halsted Street and Roosevelt Road.

After a successful conference in 2009, with more than 400 attendees, this year’s theme reflects IRN’s signature, place-based approach to capacity building in the federal grants arena. That approach holds that Illinois can best improve the flow of federal resources to organizations through continuous, cross-sector planning and proposal building at the regional and community levels.

In Joel Kotkin’s most recent book, “The Next Hundred Million: America in 2050,” he surveys the nation’s evolution, and predicts that population growth will translate into economic vitality. At the conference, Mr. Kotkin will address the emerging importance of places, citing the nation’s “demographic vitality,” as cultural and demographic changes in the U.S. increase geographic diversity.

The IRN staff has worked diligently with nonprofit organizations and local governments throughout the State of Illinois to submit 105 proposals for funding since its inception in 2008, and has helped to get \$6.1 million into the State in the form of awards to these groups. Over \$165 million is still pending award decisions.

In the course of two years, IRN has worked closely with experts from federal, state, and regional organizations who will be present at the conference for attendees to connect with on topics, such as successes and challenges that they have encountered in bridging planning and federal grants in place-based strategies.

Conference attendees will have the opportunity to engage trainers skilled in specific areas of grant development during the six breakout sessions. Topics for the sessions include collaborative proposal development, case examples of successful grantees, data collection and interpretation for grant writing, elements of successful grant writing, layering federal funding proposals, and working with universities and community colleges to apply for federal funding.

The conference trade fair proved to be one of the most sought out portions of last year's event. In response to our attendees multiple requests, we have extended the trade fair, at which federal and state agencies, intermediary organizations, and other groups with significant programs in capacity building present at booths and interact with participants.

As part of the conference, Illinois ResourceNet will provide each participant with resource materials that includes the workshop presentations, handouts, biographies. Also, after the conference, attendees will have access to a recording of the entire event. The conference fee of \$50 will cover entrance to all events, the resource packet, lunch, and refreshments.

Illinois ResourceNet staff is able to provide more than 1,000 nonprofits and local government groups with timely information about IRN resources, services, free training sessions throughout the State of Illinois, and available grant opportunities through its eAccess Newsletter. Become a part of the network by subscribing to Illinois ResourceNet's eAccess Newsletter at www.illinoisresource.net.

The IRN technical assistance team from UIC and UIUC Extension works cohesively to provide high quality and up-to-date services relating to federal grants. Learn more about these services and register for the September 16th conference at www.illinoisresource.net.

Admission is \$50. [To register click here.](#)

Learn More about UIC

UIC ranks among the nation's top 50 universities in federal research funding and is Chicago's largest university with 25,000 students, 12,000 faculty and staff, 15 colleges and the state's major public medical center. A hallmark of the campus is the Great Cities Commitment, through which UIC faculty, students and staff engage with community, corporate, foundation and government partners in hundreds of programs to improve the quality of life in metropolitan areas around the world.

More about the UIC Forum

The UIC Forum is the newest event venue on campus. Located at the corner of Roosevelt Road and Halsted Street, the UIC Forum has a main hall, two floors of meeting space, a 150-seat theatre and a 25-seat training room.

The 22,000-square-foot main hall seats 3,000 and features a theatrical lighting system, state-of-the-art concert sound and telescopic seating.

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