



ILLINOIS UTILITIES BUSINESS
DIVERSITY COUNCIL

2024 IUBDC ECONOMIC IMPACT REPORT



ABOUT IUBDC

The **Illinois Utilities Business Diversity Council (IUBDC)**, established on June 11, 2015, fosters best practice sharing and collaboration among Illinois utilities to advance the growth and use of diverse businesses. Its members include Ameren Illinois, Aqua Illinois, Commonwealth Edison, Illinois American Water, Nicor, and Peoples Gas & North Shore Gas.

The IUBDC vision is to enhance business diversity initiatives, promote partnerships with utilities, and support economic growth. The Council encourages diverse businesses to engage in the utility supply chain and serves as a resource by offering education, information, and technical assistance to foster job creation and build stronger communities in Illinois.

IUBDC MEMBER UTILITIES



LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

The Illinois Utilities Business Diversity Council continues to create opportunities for all businesses, including those owned by minorities, women and veterans, to perform valuable services for the state's utility customers. In 2024, utilities purchased \$1.3 billion in goods and services from diverse businesses, including \$728.1 million from diverse businesses based in Illinois.

That spending had a significant impact on the Illinois economy, contributing \$2.7 billion to the state's GDP, supporting 14,792 jobs and \$1.3 billion in employee wages.

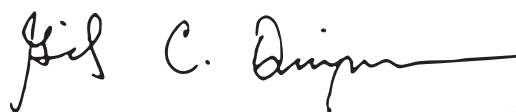
These qualified, responsive and cost-effective suppliers are mostly small or medium-sized, and they are overwhelmingly local. They know our customers. In many cases, when they work for Illinois utilities, they're working for their families, for their neighbors and for their communities.

Since the passage of the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act in 2021, utilities have been even more empowered to be a catalyst for economic development and job growth.

In addition, the Illinois Commission on Equity & Inclusion and the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity's Office of Economic Equity and Empowerment have assisted in staging outreach events and certifying thousands of vendors.

So the economic impact we achieve through IUBDC is a credit not just to utilities and our suppliers but also policymakers, regulators, and state agency staff. It is a broad coalition, achieving broad-based progress across the state.

In this, the 10th year of IUBDC, we are discovering new ways to identify and promote local suppliers in Illinois—just as those suppliers are finding ingenious new ways to help us deliver for our customers. We look forward to advancing ever-greater economic impact and helping Illinois communities continue to flourish over the next ten years—and beyond.



Gil Quiniones

President and CEO,
Commonwealth Edison
Chairman, IUBDC



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Nicor Gas



MARIA BOCANEGRA
President, Peoples Gas and
North Shore Gas

MEASURING ECONOMIC IMPACT



JOBS

Member utilities' purchases support jobs at suppliers.



INCOMES

Incomes through these jobs foster economic advancement.



SPEND

Employee spend leads to development in their communities.

ECONOMIC IMPACT CHANNELS

Member utilities' spend with diverse suppliers creates impact through multiple channels. It supports jobs and earnings at the suppliers. These suppliers purchase additional goods from other businesses, supporting additional jobs. Employees at these companies in the supply chain then support additional jobs in the community through their everyday purchases.



DIRECT DIVERSE SUPPLIERS

Jobs and revenue impact suppliers supporting Illinois utilities.



INDIRECT SUPPLY CHAIN

Purchases by Illinois utilities' suppliers lead to down-stream economic activity and jobs.



INDUCED COMMUNITY

Employees support jobs in their local economy through their spend.

2024 DIVERSE SUPPLIER SHOWCASE

On **October 30, 2024**, the Illinois Utilities Business Diversity Council held its first Supplier Showcase at Ameren Illinois headquarters in Collinsville, IL.

Suppliers who received grant funding from IUBDC were invited to deliver presentations to IUBDC member utilities for their products and services. They also participated in breakout sessions to speak directly with representatives from IUBDC member utilities.



2024 FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

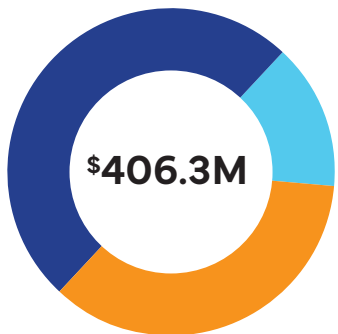
\$1.3B

Illinois Utilities purchased **\$1.3 BILLION** in goods and services from diverse businesses in 2024.

\$728.1M

Illinois Utilities purchased **\$728.1 MILLION** in goods and services from Illinois-based diverse businesses in 2024.

Total Taxes Generated



\$59.4M

Local Tax

\$83.4M

State Tax

\$263.5M

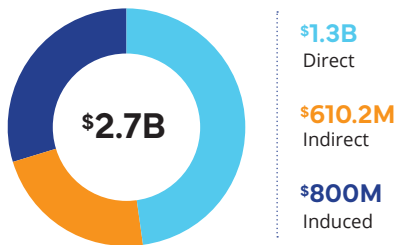
Federal Tax

The activities of IUBDC's diverse suppliers generated an estimated **\$406.3 million in taxes**.

These taxes include a combination of corporate taxes, personal taxes on incomes earned by employees, social security taxes, taxes on goods and services, and other taxes.

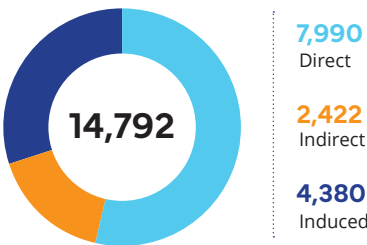
Supplier Diversity spend by IUBDC member utilities has a significant impact on the state's economy. This spend supports jobs at diverse businesses in Illinois. These businesses and their employees in turn employ other local companies, supporting additional jobs in the community.

Total GDP



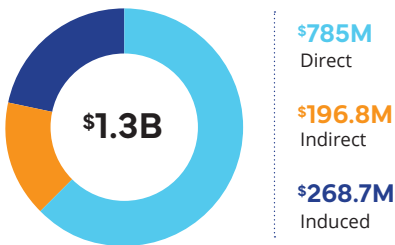
IUBDC purchased \$1.3B from diverse suppliers.

Total Jobs Supported



IUBDC's spending with diverse suppliers supported an estimated 14,792 jobs.

Total Wages Supported



IUBDC's purchases from diverse suppliers supported jobs throughout the supply chain which paid employees a total of \$1.3B in wages.

Report is based on Tier 1 prime contract spend with diverse suppliers.

2024 BUSINESS IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS



MINORITY-OWNED BUSINESSES

\$667.2 MILLION Total Purchases

4,413 JOBS Supported

\$388.4 MILLION Employee Earnings

WOMEN-OWNED BUSINESSES

\$526.3 MILLION Total Purchases

2,944 JOBS Supported

\$342.5 MILLION Employee Earnings



VETERAN-OWNED BUSINESSES

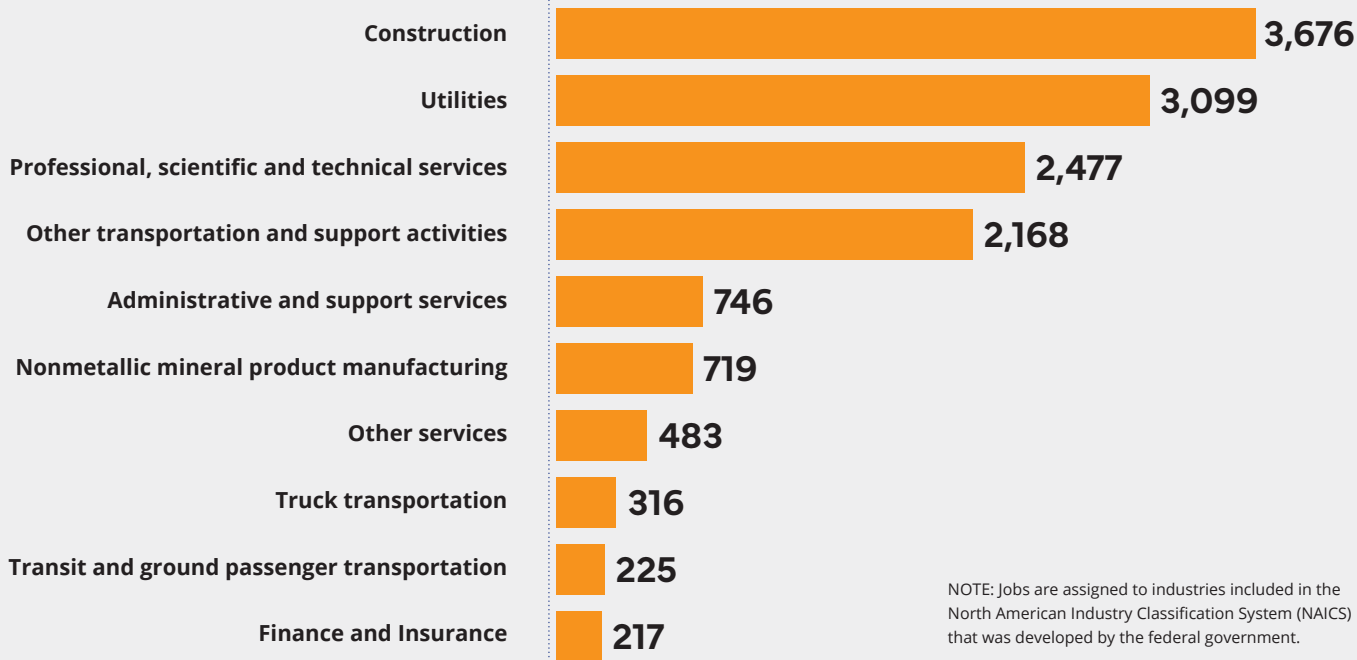
\$75 MILLION Total Purchases

367 JOBS Supported

\$33.8 MILLION Employee Earnings



TOP 10 DIVERSE SUPPLIER JOBS BY SECTOR SUPPORTED BY IUBDC MEMBER SPENDING



DIVERSE SUPPLIER SPOTLIGHTS

SDI PRESENCE

Peoples Gas and North Shore Gas work with SDI Presence as part of the innovative Xchange Chicago Program, an initiative designed to create IT career opportunities in Chicago's underserved South and West Side communities. The program creates IT apprenticeships that fast-track into family sustaining, full-time employment.



"WEC Energy Group and their subsidiaries Peoples Gas and North Shore Gas have relied on SDI Presence as their trusted partner for IT solutions services since 2018. This partnership extends out of the IT server room and into our shared community. WEC Energy Group was the first customer of SDI's Xchange Chicago program, which leverages corporate technology purchasing to drive IT job creation, diverse-owned business growth and neighborhood revitalization. As of early 2025, the company has leaned in to support six full-time apprentice jobs and provides critical feedback and support to grow the initiative that will be housed in Chicago's Grand Crossing neighborhood, further driving economic development on the South Side. We are proud to work with the WEC Energy Group teams to meaningfully contribute to the prosperity and well-being of our communities."

-Hardik Bhatt, CEO, SDI Presence LLC

MILLENNIA PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Millennia Professional Services is a multi-disciplined, small business fully staffed with engineering specialists, and have been honored to partner with Ameren over the past decade to deliver powerful results on meaningful projects that have everyday impacts on the

community. Their journey with Ameren has taken them everywhere from neighborhood substations to miles of remote transmission lines; across fields of solar arrays, to local laydown yards throughout both Illinois and Missouri.

They take pride in their ability to provide Ameren with a wide breadth of services including geotechnical engineering, civil engineering, materials testing, and surveying. Their successful partnership has led to Ameren becoming one of their largest clients, supporting the advancement of Millennia Professional Services' growth.

"Through continued partnership, our aligned vision of a safer and more dependable community for all of our neighbors can cease being our dream, and become our reality. Here at Millennia, we look forward to continuing to build professional and personal relationships with our Ameren colleagues throughout the next decade and beyond."

–**Thomas Ngo**, President, Millennia Professional Services of Illinois, Ltd.



NACIONAL GROUP

Illinois American Water works with Nacional Group for a variety of building-related projects, including the decommissioning of old facilities, interior renovations and site improvements. Their prior experience as a provider in the utility industry as well as their track record for success and reliability, make them a go-to partner. Additionally, Nacional's mentorship program helps create further opportunities for others, aligning with our shared goals.



"Success isn't just about building structures. It's about building relationships. We are a general contracting business, but what really sets us apart is our willingness to adapt to our clients' needs. We specifically want to help other companies by using our own experience to make those things a little bit easier and more manageable to handle. One of the things we like about working with Illinois American Water is their outreach programs that have allowed a lot of small businesses to get their first crack at doing this kind of work. We built this company by delivering great work, and now by helping other minority-owned businesses do the same."

-Brian Ortiz, Founder and CEO, Nacional Group

WHITT STURTEVANT

Whitt Sturtevant is a certified veteran-owned law firm dedicated to unsurpassed client service. Their mission is to provide quality legal services that are efficient, result-

oriented, and cost-effective. Collectively, their partners and senior counsel have nearly 150 years' experience representing energy and public utility companies before regulatory commissions and courts. Whitt Sturtevant's established team provides counsel to Aqua Illinois in connection with regulatory proceedings.



"As a veteran-owned business, Whitt Sturtevant takes pride in delivering quality professional services alongside partners like Aqua Illinois. Our long-standing relationship with Aqua is built on a shared commitment to serving local communities with excellence and helping to ensure Aqua customers receive the reliable services they deserve."

—Anne Mitchell, Partner, Whitt Sturtevant

DIVERSIFIED TECHNOLOGY INC.

Diversified Technology Inc. (DTI) began working with Exelon in 2008 and started supporting ComEd in 2021. DTI has established itself as a trusted partner in the public utilities market, leveraging their extensive experience and expertise to support nearly 20 utility companies across North America. DTI's deep understanding of the unique challenges and evolving

needs within the utility sector allows them to provide tailored solutions that enhance operational efficiency, regulatory compliance, and customer service.

"Our biggest challenge is trying to shift our primary focus from Tier 2 to a stronger emphasis on Tier 1. Through our existing partnerships with top-tier firms like Accenture and Deloitte, we've gained invaluable insights and support. They provide us with constructive feedback and collaborate with us as subcontractors on engagements," said Darryl Henry, President and CEO, DTI.

"DTI creates a meaningful impact on our customers and in the communities we serve by driving innovation, enhancing cultural competency, promoting economic growth and upholding social responsibility. We achieve this through the DTI Cohort Program, a strategic initiative designed to strengthen our clients' workforces. The program cultivates a robust talent pipeline and provides professionals with meaningful opportunities for career advancement—ultimately enhancing organizational performance and community impact."

—Darryl Henry, President and CEO, DTI



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT SUCCESS STORY

BURNS & MCDONNELL: LUIS DANIEL'S STORY

At Burns & McDonnell, investing in a better world means investing in people. The company believes that talent comes from all walks of life, and by providing meaningful entry points and mentorship opportunities, it helps individuals achieve their full potential. Through partnerships with local community colleges, Burns & McDonnell has created life-changing opportunities, one of which led Luis Daniel to discover his passion for engineering.

Growing up in a tough Chicago neighborhood, Luis faced many obstacles, but he held onto his goals with determination. He aspired to be the first in his family to attend college and pursue a career in engineering or architecture. With limited financial aid opportunities, he worked tirelessly to find ways to afford his education. Despite these challenges, he refused to let hardship define his future.

Luis chose to study architecture at City Colleges of Chicago, where he discovered an apprenticeship opportunity with Burns & McDonnell—an experience that would ultimately shape his career.

During his apprenticeship, he gained more than just technical skills. He learned how to communicate ideas clearly, step outside his comfort zone, and take on challenges that once seemed out of reach. Working

with CAD software introduced him to the world of design in a way that fascinated him, and with the support of experienced colleagues, he sharpened his technical abilities.

Beyond the workplace, his confidence and personal growth flourished. Engaging with his colleagues taught him the value of effective conversations, asking thoughtful questions, and listening attentively—skills that strengthened both his professional and personal relationships.

Today, Luis is taking his journey a step further by pursuing a degree in engineering while continuing to work. Balancing his education and career is challenging, but Burns & McDonnell has supported him every step of the way. With the flexibility of a reduced full-time schedule, he is able to gain industry experience without compromising his academic progress.

The apprenticeship at Burns & McDonnell not only provided him with the tools and confidence to pursue a future in engineering and design—it reinforced his belief that, with perseverance and hard work, any dream is within reach.

“My journey has been anything but conventional. It has been filled with challenges, but every challenge has shaped me into the person I am today.”

–Luis Daniel, Burns & McDonnell Apprentice



IUBDC'S NORTHWESTERN KELLOGG SCHOLARSHIP

IUBDC member companies are creating opportunities for certified, growth-focused, local businesses through the Northwestern Kellogg Scholarship, which equips participants with the skills needed to achieve and sustain accelerated growth.

In partnership with the National Minority Supplier Development Council (NMSDC), the IUBDC has awarded 15 Scholarships to the Kellogg Executive Program at Northwestern University. The scholarship was created in memory of the late Emmett Vaughn, a ComEd diversity leader and champion.

2024 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

JESSICA ASHLEY GARMON

Industrial Electrical Supply

ANTHONY JASON

Lloyd Trice Construction

KAITLYN ORTIZ

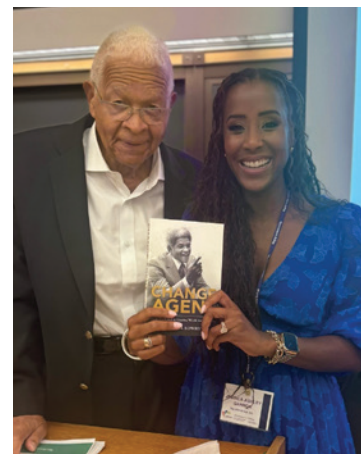
Nacional Group LLC.

MONICA ARBUCKLE

AFE Construction

BRINTON FLOWERS

Flowers Communication Group



IUBDC'S NORTHWESTERN KELLOGG SCHOLARSHIP

"The Northwestern Kellogg Program was a transformational experience that deepened my strategic thinking, sharpened my leadership capabilities, and expanded my ability to drive sustainable growth. Collaborating with driven business leaders from diverse industries challenged me to think beyond the day-to-day and reimagine what's possible for our organization. The lectures delivered by esteemed professors were phenomenal. This program not only broadened my network but also reinvigorated my vision for the future."

-Jessica Ashley Garmon

Chief Operating Officer, The Will Group and
President & CEO, Industrial Electric Supply



"The Kellogg AMEP program provided a truly unmatched experience. Not only was the coursework rich with valuable insights, practical strategies, and actionable takeaways, but the connections made it an invaluable learning experience. As one of the youngest participants, I had the unique opportunity to absorb an incredible amount of knowledge, advice, and perspective—equipping me to grow as a leader and contribute meaningfully to the continued advancement of our business."

-Kait Ortiz

Chief of Staff, Nacional Group, LLC

APPENDIX:

ECONOMIC IMPACT MODELING

Economic impact modeling is a standard tool used to quantify the economic contribution of an investment or company. This modeling uses an “Input-Output” economic model to estimate the number of times each dollar of “input,” or direct spend, cycles through the economy in terms of “indirect and induced output,” or additional spend, personal income, and employment.

There are several Input-Output models used by economists to estimate multiplier effects. [supplier.io](#) employed the IMPLAN input-output model in developing estimates of spend, income and employment impacts. This model, initially developed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, examines inter-industry relationships in local, regional, and national economies.

The Input-Output multipliers are derived from a comprehensive and complex set of inputs based on the collection of business and employment data. Indirect impacts of economic activity in a targeted geographic area are calculated by applying multiplier coefficients to the direct impact spending. Since most of the businesses in the study are considered as local businesses, each supplier was assumed to have operations primarily in one state. These multipliers consider an amount of “leakage” from the state economy because some incomes and expenditures will be spent outside of the state. The economic activity is calculated by state and these state-level results are aggregated to determine the national totals.

Analysis performed by 

ASSUMPTIONS

This analysis relies on the following assumptions:

For suppliers that have multiple locations, all impact is evaluated at the headquarters location. This may overestimate the impact in the headquarters state and underestimate the impact in other states. For suppliers that provide services in multiple NAICS code, unless otherwise indicated, all impact is calculated using the supplier's primary NAICS code.

A supplier impact is assumed to be localized within a state. The model predicts impact results based on industry averages and is an aggregate across all companies. The calculations cannot be applied to individual companies and may differ from actual jobs and incomes at specific companies.

REFERENCES

This report is based on an analysis of data provided by the customer and information from the following sources: United States GDP: <http://www.tradingeconomics.com/united-states/gdpInput-Output>, Models for Impact Analysis: Suggestions for Practitioners Using RIMS II Multipliers: <https://www.bea.gov/system/files/papers/WP2012-3.pdf>, What is NAICS: <https://www.naics.com/> IMPLAN (<https://implan.com>), Multipliers Changing Over Time – IMPLAN - SupportGeneration and Interpretation of IMPLAN's Tax Impact ReportTaxes: How the Pandemic Ruined My Tax Results – IMPLAN - SupportPandemic: Analyzing the Economic Impacts of the Coronavirus – IMPLAN - SupportEconomic Effects & Multipliers – IMPLAN - Support





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