Illinois Green Economy Network

April 2019
New Growth

Our clients are...

- Businesses
- Government Agencies
- Education and Training Providers
- Community Organizations
- Philanthropies

... in 21 states and growing

Services

- Workforce Strategy
- Grants and Resources
- Project Implementation
- Evaluation & Analytics

Project examples

- Needs Analysis for Manufacturing Works
- $135+ million and counting, procured Federal, State, and Philanthropic grants
- Generation Work project management
- Skills for Chicagoland’s Future – Impact Evaluation
Three Projects

- Reporting support – Illinois Secretary of State and U.S. Department of Energy grants

- Assess and contribute to enhancing the IGEN strategic funding model

- Capture and communicate the value of the network
**Situation**

IGEN is:
1. A network that builds capacity in sustainability-related disciplines by connecting educators and industry and sharing resources.
2. Consortium of all 39 Illinois community college districts, with 20 active members (and all eligible).
3. Focused on utilizing campus as “living labs”, career pathways and developing curricula, and encouraging resilient communities.

**Outputs**

**DOE Grant (3 years, $1.25M)**

- Objective: Comprehensive statewide strategy to prepare a solar workforce.
- Activities:
  - Enhanced recruitment
  - Deeper business engagement
  - Enhanced student retention strategies
  - Enhanced career services
  - Curriculum development or improvement

**Who We Reach**

- **Individuals:** People seeking technical employment in the solar energy field. Enhanced focus on veterans.

**Business Partner:**

- StraightUp Solar

**Community and Industry Partners:**

- Elevate Energy
- Midwest Renewable Energy Association

**Colleges:**

- 20 active/current members seeking funding/support for education and training related to renewable energy and energy efficiency technology.

**SOS Grant (1.5 years, $2M)**

- Objective: Education and training related to renewable energy and energy efficiency technology.
- Activities:
  - Provide base-level membership capacity
  - Sub-award process to fund activities/projects driven by IGEN and grant objectives

**Definition of membership:** 20 of 39 Illinois community college districts are active/current members. These colleges elected to participate and paid dues as either general or lead members in a two-tiered membership structure. All 39 Illinois community college districts are eligible to participate upon activating their membership.

**Outcomes**

**Short-Term**

- DOE grant implementation
  - Program development or improvement outcomes assigned to City Colleges of Chicago, College of Lake County, John A. Logan College, Kankakee CC, Lewis & Clark CC, and Lincoln Land CC.

**Intermediate**

- DOE grant progress measures
  - 180 students enrolled
  - Veterans’ enrollment increases 10%
  - 20 courses and/or programs created and/or expanded
  - 35 businesses engaged with network
  - 65% of completers employed in solar field.

**Long-Term**

- IGEN colleges/members experience a positive return on investment from participation or engagement
- Impacts on sustainability-related objectives are measurable
- IGEN funding is sustainable
What to Expect

• Minimal reporting requirement that enables compliance with U.S. Department of Energy grant
  • Possible (goal is minimal) augmentation of reporting to support documentation of activities under Illinois Secretary of State grant funding

• Engagement in one structured session to discuss guidelines about the proposal review and award process

• Deeper engagement (1:1 interviews, possibly surveys) to capture the value of the funding received and network resources
  • Elements on the next slide are influencing our thinking
  • Given the timeframe of the Illinois Secretary of State grant, mostly focused on capturing the shorter-term stories. But, also want to place emphasis on assessing the alignment between the award process, local project objectives, and bigger picture objectives.
Assessing the Value of a Network

Innovation Agenda and New Initiatives
- Influencing leaders and funders by leveraging IGEN evidence and opportunities
- Promoting IGEN models and other value-adding elements to external stakeholders

Evaluation and Best Practice Identification
- Identifying, documenting, and evaluating IGEN programs and practices
- Measurement of key metrics and outcomes that descriptively demonstrate impact
- Capturing and cataloguing materials from the IGEN initiative for sharing
- Supporting effective local implementation with targeted guidance, tools, and coaching
- Providing opportunities for individual IGEN members and others to learn about effective practices

Communications
- Promoting IGEN models and other value-adding elements to external stakeholders

Information Repository and Sharing
- Providing opportunities for individual IGEN members and others to learn about effective practices

Measurement

Technical Assistance

Professional Development

Systemic

Individual