



NEWS

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ILLINOIS TOLLWAY WINS STATE AWARD FOR LEADERSHIP IN HIRING AND ASSISTING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

DOWNERS GROVE, IL – The Illinois Tollway was named 2018 Agency of the Year by the Interagency Committee on Employees with Disabilities (ICED) at a ceremony today in Springfield. The ceremony coincides with National Disability Employment Awareness Month, which celebrates the contributions of workers with disabilities and educates about the value of a workforce inclusive of their skills and talents.

“Illinois’ diverse workforce makes us stronger as a state and we are proud to promote equal rights and discrimination-free environments for all Illinois residents,” said Illinois Department of Human Services Director and ICED Co-Chair Janice Glenn. “We are grateful for the efforts that the Illinois Tollway has made to set the example for ensuring access, opportunity and independence for employees with disabilities in their workforce.”

The ICED Agency of the Year Award recognizes Illinois government agencies for hiring and promoting people with disabilities, as well as developing innovative programs and providing accommodations to assist those employees. This is the fourth time since 2013 that the ICED has recognized the Illinois Tollway for its efforts to expand opportunities for people with disabilities.

“The Illinois Tollway appreciates ICED recognizing our efforts to empower people with disabilities in the workplace or when seeking business opportunities, along with our efforts to accommodate customers with disabilities,” said Illinois Tollway Executive Director Liz Gorman. “We are committed to serving as a model agency for providing opportunities to support people with disabilities as they lead independent, productive lives – especially when it comes to working at the Tollway or one of the firms we do business with.”

The Tollway was recognized as a leader among state agencies for representation of people with disabilities in its workforce. Over the past three years, more than 10 percent of the Tollway’s budgeted headcount of nearly 1,500 employees has been comprised of people with disabilities – more than double the current state average. The Agency of the Year Award also recognizes the Tollway’s efforts to provide detailed information to employees and managers about procedures to handle disability-related issues in a timely and appropriate manner.

In addition, the Tollway has continued working through the State Use Program to contract with organizations that help deliver a wide range of customer services related to I-PASS. Renewed contracts with The Chicago Lighthouse, Bridgeway, The Printers Mark and Ada S. McKinley Community Services continue to support long-term job opportunities for people working for these not-for-profit facilities, including people with disabilities and veterans.

The Tollway works closely with the ICED and disability advocates to stay current on issues affecting people with disabilities, share best practices and spread the word about opportunities to work with the Tollway. The ICED supports Illinois employees with disabilities and state agencies in regards to disability-related issues of concern. Administered by the Illinois Department of Human Rights, the ICED’s mission is to promote access, independence and opportunity for state employees with

disabilities.

About the Illinois Tollway

The Illinois Tollway is a user-fee system that receives no state or federal funds for maintenance and operations. The agency maintains and operates 294 miles of roadways in 12 counties in Northern Illinois, including the Reagan Memorial Tollway (I-88), the Veterans Memorial Tollway (I-355), the Jane Addams Memorial Tollway (I-90), the Tri-State Tollway (I-94/I-294/I-80) and the Illinois Route 390 Tollway.

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