



EARNED CREDIT PROGRAM

POWERED BY THE ILLINOIS TOLLWAY

Putting your Best Bid Forward



GAIN A BID ADVANTAGE WITH THE EARNED CREDIT PROGRAM

The Illinois Tollway's Earned Credit Program (ECP) is a bid credit incentive program that allows any construction contractor or subcontractor to earn bid credits that may be used toward future Tollway construction bids. Bid credits lower base bid amounts and increase the chances of winning the contract as the low bidder. In a highly competitive industry bid credits give contractors a bidding advantage on Tollway construction contracts.

Contractors earn bid credits when they hire from a pool of eligible job candidates, including underemployed African Americans, Hispanics, Asian Americans, women, eligible offenders and exonerated individuals, veterans and other economically disadvantaged individuals.*

CONTRACTORS PARTICIPATING IN ECP HAVE BEEN AWARDED NEARLY \$400 MILLION IN TOLLWAY CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS

** ECP is race- and gender-neutral program. Candidate eligibility is determined through Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act income guidelines.*



Bid credits are earned for each dollar paid to ECP workers on any Tollway construction project, as well as any construction project in Illinois. Participating contractors earn bid credits per every dollar paid at the following rates:

- Operating engineers and structural steel ironworkers: 50 cents
- All other skilled trades and fabricators: 40 cents
- Laborers: 30 cents

Contractors can hire a first-time ECP worker and receive an additional \$5,000 bonus bid credit once the ECP worker has accumulated 160 hours of work.

AS LITTLE AS \$2,300 IN BID CREDITS HAVE BEEN USED TO WIN TOLLWAY CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS**

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

1. Find an ECP worker with the Hiring Portal**

Contractors can use the Hiring Portal to search for eligible ECP candidates. This interactive online tool allows contractors to review, select and contact eligible ECP candidates. Designed to streamline the ECP hiring process, the portal contains the candidate's resume, certificates and completed safety training courses.

2. Retain ECP workers and continue to accumulate bid credits

Your ECP worker can continue to earn bid credits for up to five years from the date of initial hire. Laid off ECP workers may also be hired by another participating contractor and earn bid credits for the remainder of the worker's five-year limit. ECP bid credits do not expire.

3. Submit bid credits with your bid

Simply include your bid credit certificate with your bid submission to lower your base bid and increase your chances of being awarded a Tollway contract.

***Minimum requirements apply. Please see the Earned Credit Program Operational Guidelines and Hiring Portal for more information at illinoistollway.com under Diversity Programs.*

**** For subcontractor bid credits to be considered toward a bid, the submission must also include prime contractor bid credits. Bid credits submitted by subcontractors alone cannot be used and will not be considered.*

MARKETING EDGE FOR SUBCONTRACTORS

Prime contractors have an additional incentive for teaming with subcontractors that participate in ECP. Subcontractor-earned bid credits can be added to prime contractors' bids in order to increase the chances of the team winning a contract as the low bidder.***

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- 1. If I already have ECP eligible workers on my payroll, can they be used to earn bid credits?**
Yes, any ECP eligible construction worker already on your payroll may earn ECP credits for your firm. Additionally, you may earn retroactive bid credits for up to one year.
- 2. How long does it take for me to receive my bid credit certificate?**
Typically, bid credit certificates are issued within thirty (30) days.
- 3. Do I have to use all my bid credits at one time?**
No, simply indicate on the certificate how much bid credit you would like to use up to the total maximum bid cap.
- 4. As a subcontractor, can I split my bid credits among multiple primes?**
Yes, simply indicate on the certificate how much bid credit you would like to contribute per prime.
- 5. Do ECP hires have to be union members?**
Contractors hiring ECP workers should consult the agency's contract specifications on a case-by-case basis to see if union workers are required.
- 6. If I submit bid credits and do not win the bid, do I lose those bid credits? If I win the bid without needing my submitted bid credits, do I lose those bid credits?**
No, unused bid credits are not deducted and remain available for future use.

**NEARLY 40 CONSTRUCTION FIRMS ARE ALREADY
EARNING BID CREDITS THROUGH ECP**

Additional rules and regulations apply. For more information, please see the Illinois Tollway Special Provision for Bid Credit Incentive Programs and the Earned Credit Program Operational Guidelines available at illinoistollway.com.

You may also call 630-241-6800 ext. 2349 or email diversity@getipass.com with any questions you may have on the program.



The Tollway's Department of Diversity and Strategic Development is a driving force for increasing economic opportunities in the diverse communities they serve.

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