

**WORKFORCE**  
POLICY LAB

# **Introduction to the Climate & Equitable Jobs Act (CEJA)**

Wednesday, August 20, 2025

Southern Illinois Clean Energy Summit

John A Logan College, Carterville, Illinois



Northern Illinois  
University



# **Christine Flynn, MSW, MPA**

Public Sector Consultant

---

Workforce Policy Lab at  
Northern Illinois University





# WORKFORCE POLICY LAB



- Partner with state agencies and education, workforce, and economic development stakeholders to develop and improve workforce development programs, policies, and systems
- Team - Advanced degrees in Human Capital Development, Economic Development, Higher Education Administration, Community Development, Public Administration, Communications, Social Work, Economics, and Systems Engineering
- Diverse lived experience includes:
  - Poverty
  - Race and gender bias
  - Immigration
  - First generation college attendance
  - Workforce program participation
  - Entrepreneurship
  - Military service
  - Neurodivergent



# Overview

1

**Goals of  
CEJA**

2

**CEJA  
Motivating  
Factors**

3

**Clean  
Energy  
Ecosystem**

4

**Engage  
with CEJA**

# Illinois Secures a Major Climate and Equity Victory

September 14, 2021 | 3:23 pm



CHAUNCEY DAVIS/FLICKR

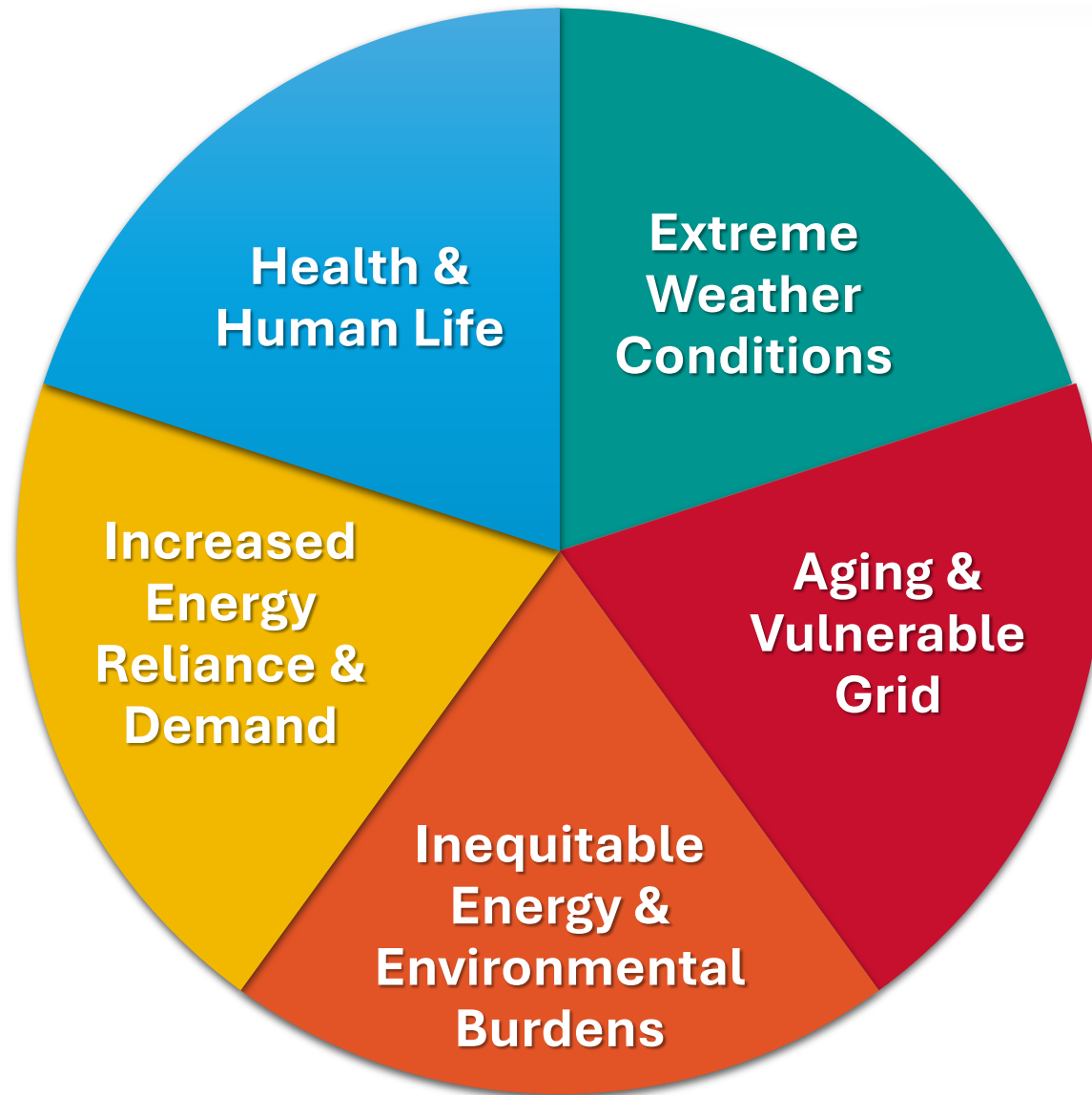
**WORKFORCE**  
POLICY LAB

***To provide the highest quality of life for the residents of Illinois and to provide for a clean and healthy environment, it is the policy of this State to rapidly transition to 100% clean energy by 2050.***

Climate & Equitable Jobs Act,  
Public Act 102-0662

**WORKFORCE**  
POLICY LAB

# CEJA Motivating Factors





# Extreme Weather Conditions



## CHICAGO SUN★TIMES

Nearly 9 inches of rain reported in some areas as record-setting storm stops trains, closes highways and floods homes

By Monday morning, all expressway between Pulaski and 54th/Cermak fewer than planned.

By Mohammad Samra and Emmanuel Camarillo

Hot asphalt, 'corn sweat' and floods: midwest swelters as heatwave grips the US

Stephen Starr in Dayton, Ohio

Wed 25 Jun 2025 10:00 EDT

The Guardian US

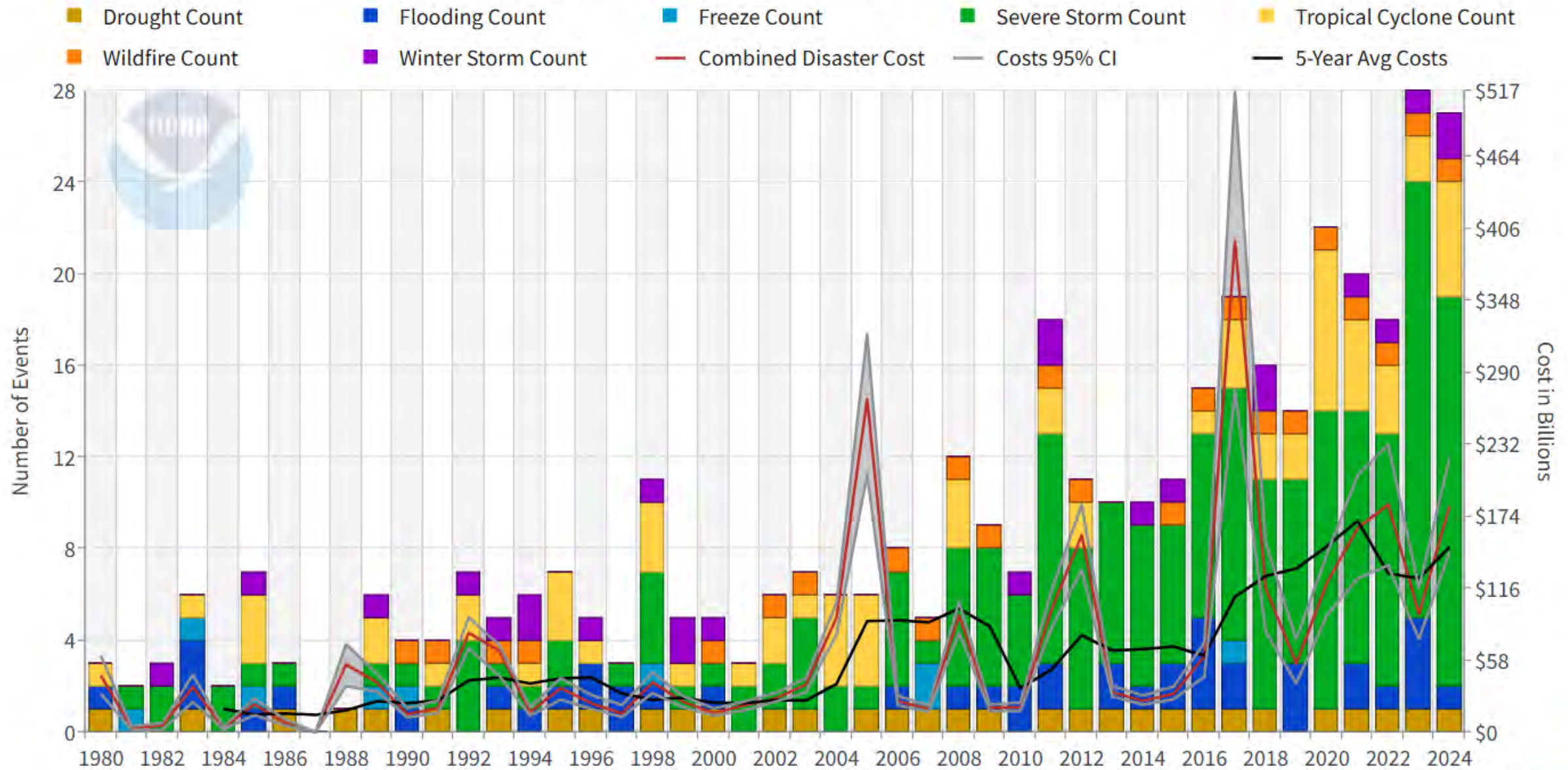
Tornadoes are spinning up farther east in US, study finds

AP

WORKFORCE  
POLICY LAB



## United States Billion-Dollar Disaster Events 1980-2024 (CPI-Adjusted)



# Health & Human Life



JULY 1, 2023 | 10 MIN READ

SCI  
AM

## Extreme Heat Is Deadlier Than Hurricanes, Floods and Tornadoes Combined

When dangerous heat waves hit cities, better risk communication could save lives

BY TERRI ADAM

★ THE TEXAS TRIBUNE

## Texas identifies the 119 people killed in Kerr County floods

Most victims were Texans, but some were visiting from other states like California, Florida and Alabama. The youngest victims were 1 year old; the oldest was 91.

BY **ATIRIKTA KUMAR** AUG. 8, 2025    UPDATED: AUG. 11, 2025

SHARE    REPUBLISH ↗

**WORKFORCE**  
POLICY LAB



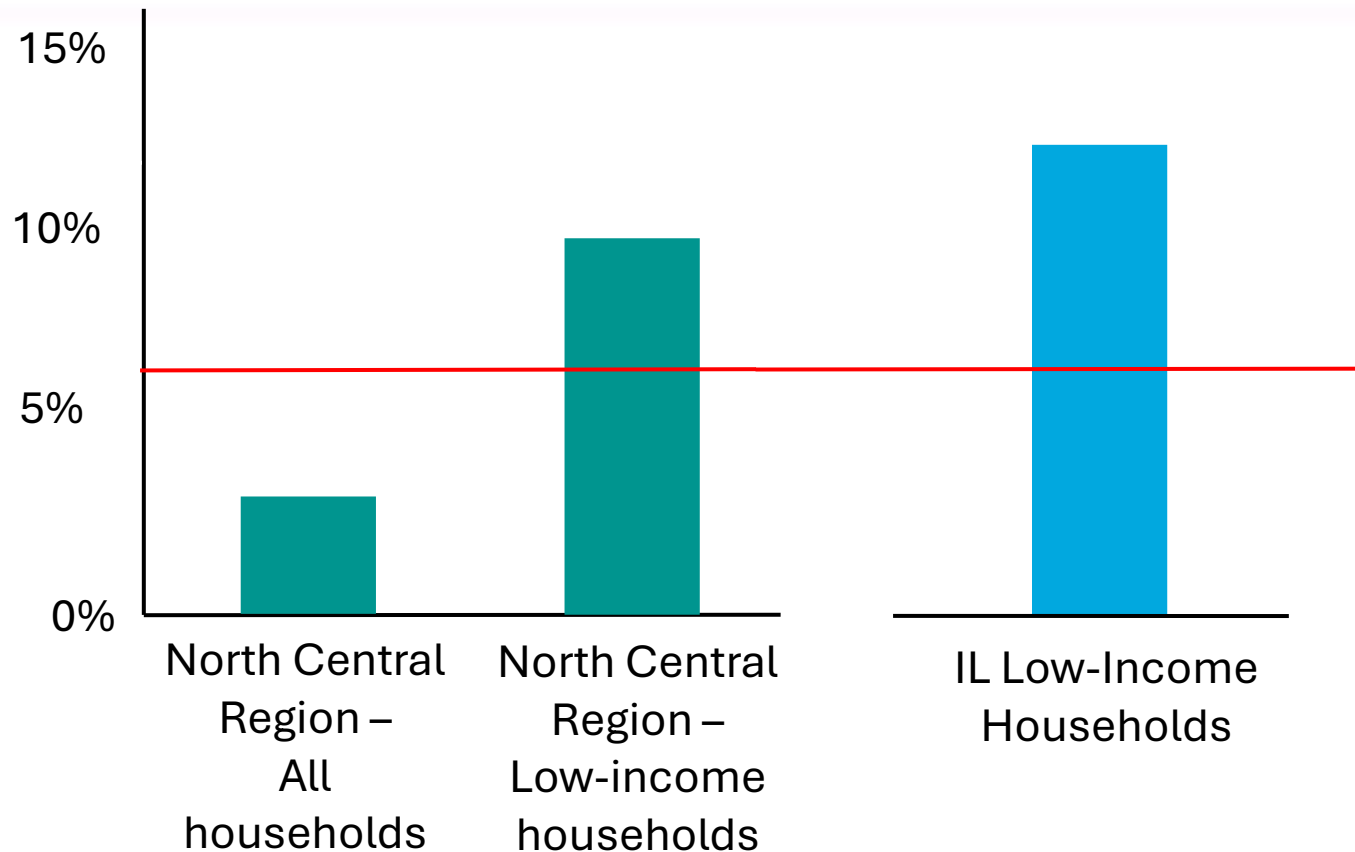
# Aging & Vulnerable Grid

80%

of electrical  
outages since 2000  
have been due to  
extreme weather



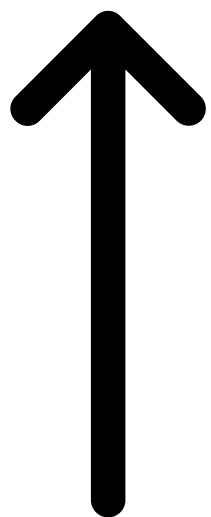
# Inequitable Energy & Environmental Burden



Energy burden for low-income households in Illinois outpace the region

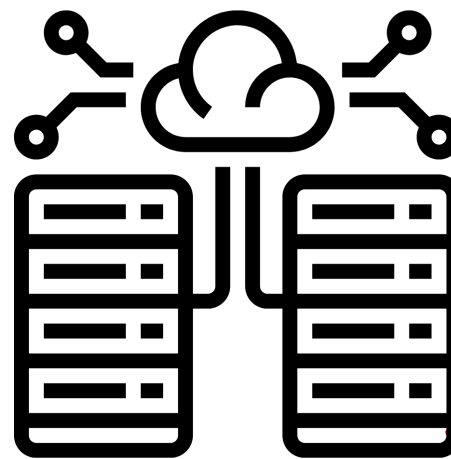


# Increased Energy Reliance & Demand



**54%**

Increase in energy  
demand over the  
last 20 years



**1**

data center



**80,000**

homes



**When spiders  
unite, they can  
tie down a lion.**

**-Ethiopian Proverb**



# Illinois Clean Energy Ecosystem

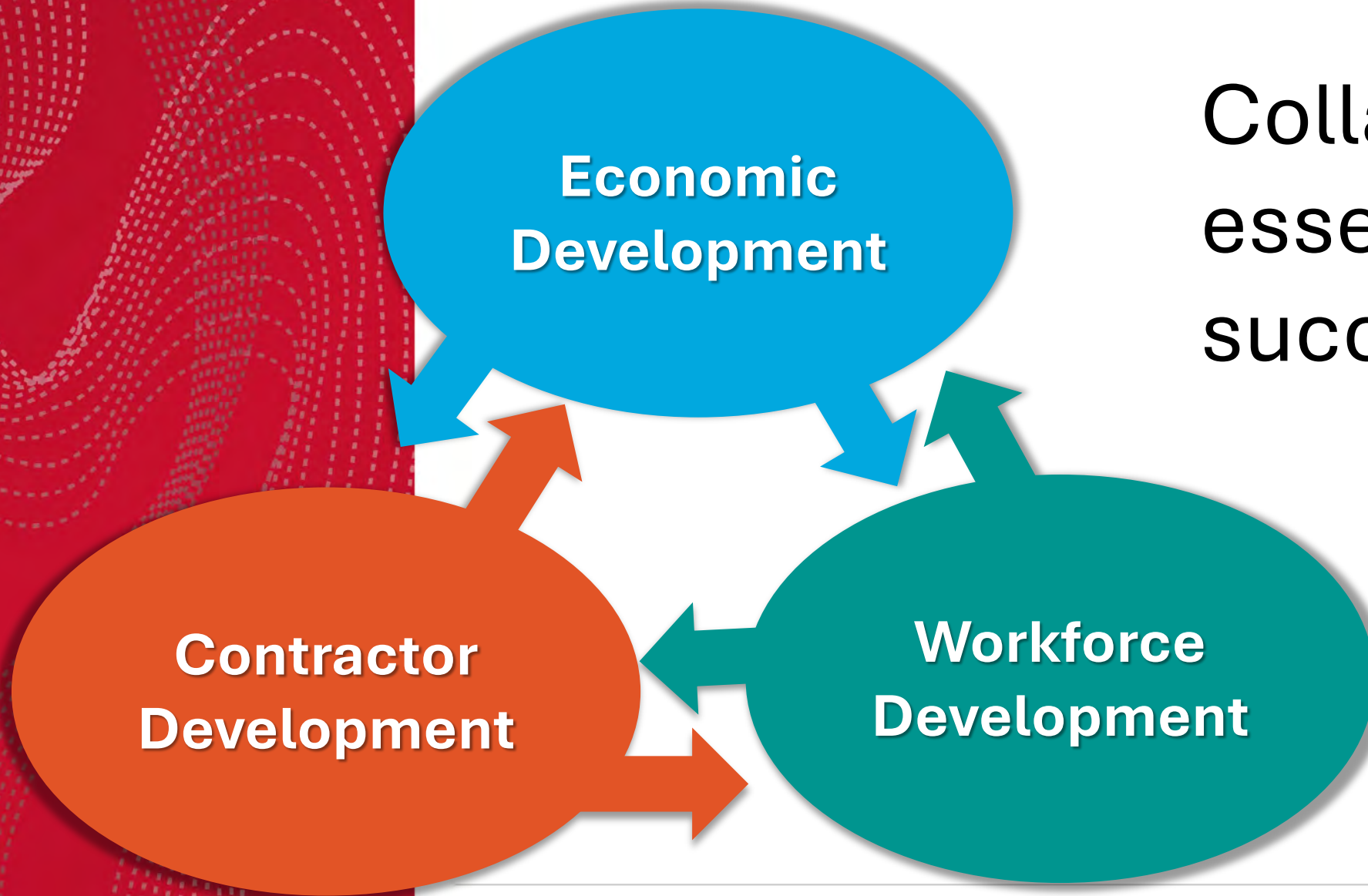
CEJA Energy Programs

Non-CEJA Energy Programs





Collaboration is  
essential to the  
success of CEJA





# How can you engage with CEJA through DCEO?

Seek Economic  
Development  
Grant Funding

Join a Workforce  
Development  
Program

Join a Contractor  
Development  
Program

Personal  
Incentives  
(i.e. EV, Solar)

Provide  
Feedback/Input

Hire Workforce  
Graduates

Partner with  
Existing  
Grantees

...and more!



# Christine Flynn, MSW, MPA

Public Sector Consultant

---

Workforce Policy Lab at  
Northern Illinois University

**Email:** [CFlynn5@niu.edu](mailto:CFlynn5@niu.edu)

