

March 25, 2024

Angela Tovar  
Commissioner, City of Chicago Department of Environment  
Via Electronic Mail

Dear Commissioner Tovar,

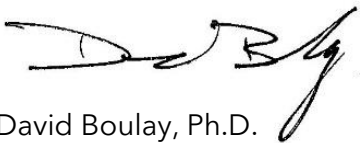
The Illinois Manufacturing Excellence Center (IMEC) supports the Coalition application from the City of Chicago and County of Cook for \$199 million for the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant. As the U.S. Department of Commerce NIST Manufacturing Extension Partnership Center for Illinois, IMEC is a team of improvement specialists dedicated to providing manufacturers in Illinois with the tools and techniques to excel and compete globally.

In 2023 alone, IMEC assisted over 2,500 manufacturers and worked with its extensive ecosystem of partners to ensure manufacturers had the resources and technical assistance they required. Some of that work centered around ESG (environmental, social and governance), such as IMEC's four registered electric vehicle (EV) apprenticeship programs. IMEC's clients will benefit from this program because it will provide funding that will both help their communities and allow manufacturers to save on the cost of overhead with energy efficiency.

The Chicago/Cook County CRPG Coalition Proposal advances highly effective Greenhouse Gas reduction strategies that also have strong Environmental Justice benefits. Measures include an Industrial Decarbonization component (for Chicago, Suburban Cook County, and DuPage County) to assist smaller and medium sized businesses, to install energy efficient and electrified equipment, renewable energy, and refrigerant replacement systems, while reducing toxics and air pollution in Environmental Justice areas. The program will also address food waste in Chicago and Cook County through creation of food scrap collection programs and the infrastructure to support them. And it will pursue aggressive energy efficiency, electrification, and renewable energy strategies in public buildings such as schools, libraries, and public housing in low income and distressed communities to reduce air pollution, provide jobs, and create educational working models for aggressively addressing climate change.

The proposal shared by the project team to drastically reduce our GHG emissions and catalyze economic opportunities within the clean energy economy is critical for the Chicago region and we look forward to working closely to support this effort. Please do not hesitate to contact me for further assistance or information.

Sincerely,



David Boulay, Ph.D.  
President  
Illinois Manufacturing Excellence Center