

INFORMATION BULLETIN



Americas
Competitiveness
Exchange
April 27 to May 2, 2025



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for more people



EDA
U.S. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION



INTERNATIONAL
TRADE
ADMINISTRATION



Illinois
Department of Commerce
& Economic Opportunity



About ACE Illinois



The Americas Competitiveness Exchange (ACE) will be held in Illinois from April 27 to May 2, 2025.

During the week-long program, high-level decision-makers will engage with Illinois' dynamic innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem. The agenda for ACE Illinois offers opportunities for partnerships and networking connections with innovation centers, universities, and leading companies in the following key clusters: Life Science, Quantum Computing, Energy Production, Advanced Manufacturing, Agri-Tech, and Transportation and Logistics. Participants will meet with leaders from the public sector, private sector, and academia in Chicago, Aurora, Naperville and Elgin.



ACE Illinois is convened by the Organization of American States (OAS) and the United States Government, through the Department of Commerce (Economic Development Administration and the International Trade Administration) and the Department of State (Permanent Mission to the OAS). The local organizer and host is the State of Illinois, through the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity and the University of Illinois System.

*For more
information visit the
[ACE Illinois Page](#)*



Since 2014, ACE has been held in Argentina, Canada, Chile, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama, and the United States. Our special editions were held in Germany, Israel, and Armenia. ACE is a powerful catalyst for strengthening cooperation among countries and building upon ideas and models that promote innovation and entrepreneurship in economic development.

What sets Illinois Apart?

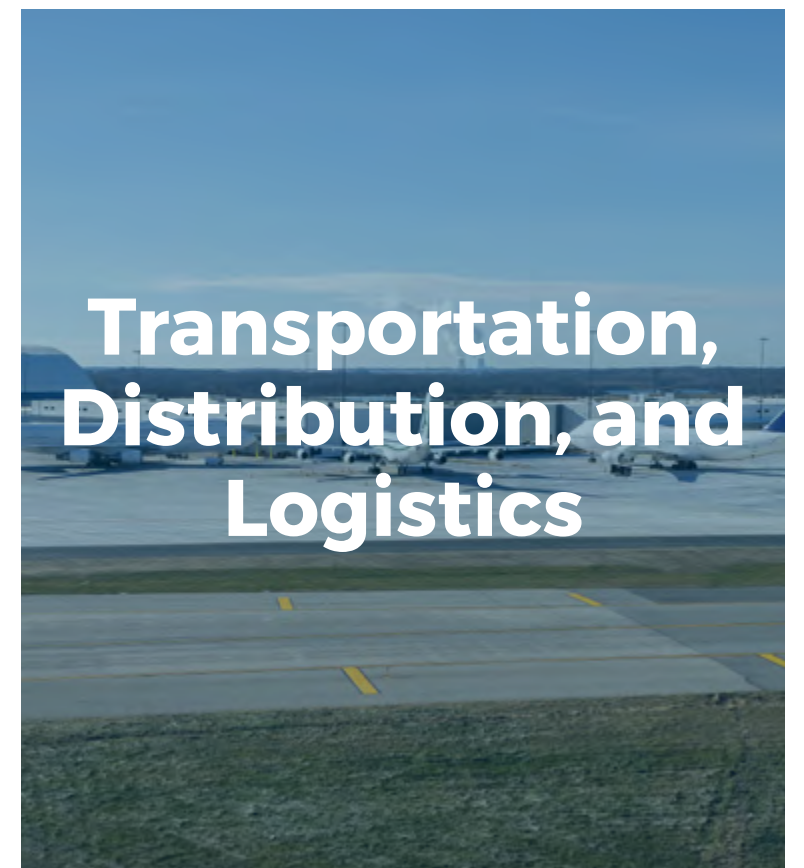
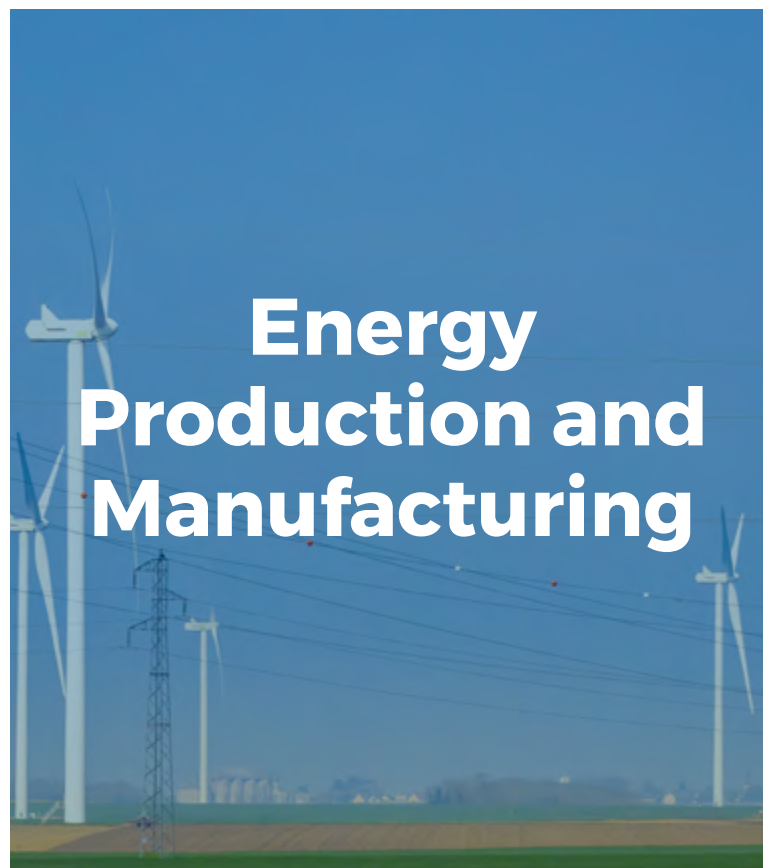
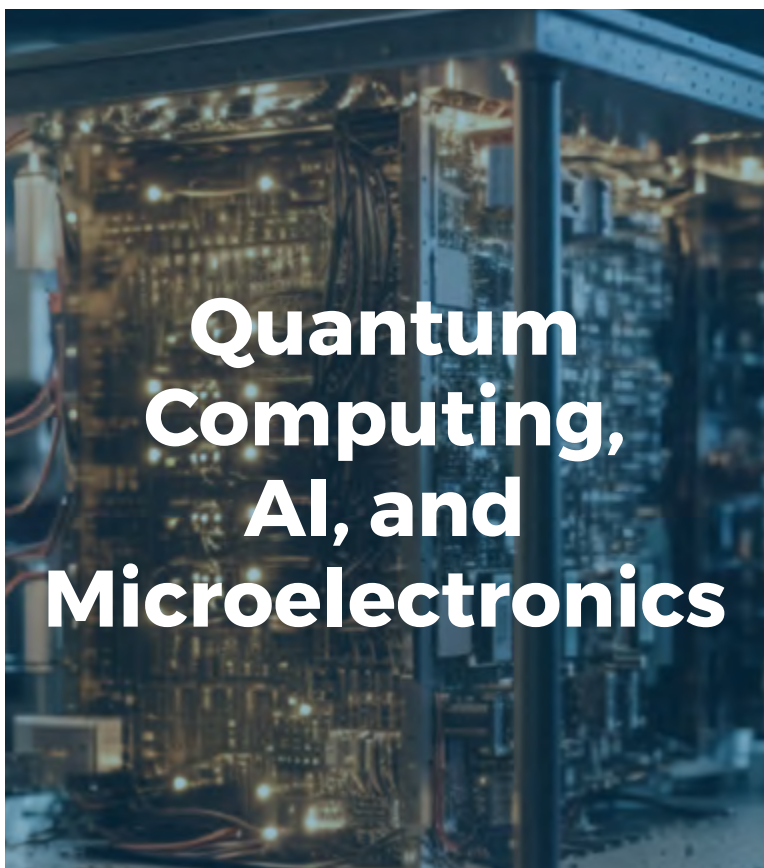
The State of Illinois offers an unparalleled opportunity at the epicenter of North America. Illinois provides companies with a world class business environment, a central location with easy access for any operation, a well-educated and experienced workforce, and an opportunity to be an integral part of the second most economically powerful region in the country.

Illinois is also one of the world's most culturally vibrant states and has become a magnet for the country's brightest minds. Businesses can benefit from low corporate taxes and tax-free personal property that help make Illinois one of the most business-friendly places in the nation.

- ▶ #1 State in the Midwest for business creation
- ▶ #1 Metro for new & expanding companies
- ▶ #1 State for sustainable development
- ▶ #5 Highest GDP in the nation
- ▶ #18 Largest economy in the world



Featured industry clusters



Host Cities

Chicago



Since its founding in 1837, Chicago grew to be the nation's third largest city, a thriving center of international trade and commerce, and a place where people of every nationality and background come to pursue the American dream. Sitting on the banks of beautiful Lake Michigan, Chicago is known for its jaw-dropping architecture, vibrant music scene, amazing food, and iconic neighborhoods.

Source: City of Chicago

<https://www.chicago.gov/city/en.html>

and Choose Chicago

<https://www.choosechicago.com/>

Naperville



Recognized nationally and internationally as one of the top communities in which to live, raise a family, and retire, Naperville has made headlines over the last few decades for its outstanding quality of life. The picturesque, unique city combines the values and charm of small-town life with the vibrancy and boldness of a modern, thriving economic powerhouse in the Chicago area.

Source: City of Naperville

<https://www.naperville.il.us/>

Elgin



Nestled along the banks of the Fox River, Elgin, Illinois is approximately 38 miles northwest of downtown Chicago and is home to approximately 115,000 people. Elgin is a unique community that proudly distinguishes itself from the rest of the metropolitan area. Its approachable, progressive identity is anchored in its resilient history and strong, diverse community that continues to embody a desire for an even brighter future.

Source: City of Elgin

<https://elginil.gov/>

Aurora



Aurora is a city in northeastern Illinois. Located along the Fox River, it is the second-most populous city in Illinois, after Chicago. The city is accessible through 5 interchanges on the East/West Tollway Corridor. Corporate offices and commercial growth on the city's east and west sides continue to expand the city's boundaries. With 4 historic districts, the city of Aurora is rich in history and pride. The future for the "City of Lights" looks bright as the community continues to grow and prosper.

Source: City of Aurora

<https://www.aurora-il.org/>

Logistics and Budget

The Program Organizers will provide the following to selected participants at no cost:

- ▶ Local transportation throughout the program from site to site in Illinois.
- ▶ VIP access to sites and experts.
- ▶ Meals during the official program hours.
- ▶ Preferential rates at the ACE selected hotels in Illinois.
- ▶ Access to advisory support and facilitators from the U.S. Government, the Departments of Commerce and State, other U.S. entities, Illinois State Government and stakeholder institutions, and authorities, as well as OAS officials.

Selected participants will be responsible for:

- ▶ Booking and paying for their airfare to and from Chicago, Illinois.
- ▶ Booking and covering the cost of their hotel accommodations in Chicago for the duration of the program in the ACE selected hotels.
- ▶ Arranging their transportation airport-hotel-airport.
- ▶ Covering the remaining cost of meals outside of the program and other miscellaneous items.

Visa and More

Information for entering the United States

Please refer to the following link to review information on how to obtain a visa:

<https://www.usa.gov/tourist-visa>

Hotel in Illinois

The Royal Sonesta Chicago Downtown has been selected to host the delegation throughout the week. In order to access the preferential rate please make sure to use the **[official link](#)** to book your reservation. Since the program will arrange local transportation, we ask that all participants stay at the official hotel.

» The hotel Royal Sonesta Chicago Downtown



- » Check in: Saturday April 26, 2025 or Sunday April 27, 2025
- » Check out: Saturday May 3, 2025

[Reservation link](#)

- » Address: 71 E Wacker Drive, Chicago, IL 60601
- » Phone: 312.346.7100

NOTE:

The rate offered to the group is only valid when reservations are made through the link provided.

The deadline for the preferential rate is April 11, 2025.

» Rates:

- **\$274.72 per night** (including taxes)

Reservation Details:

- Guests can book rooms from **April 24 – May 6, 2025**.
- Event dates are highlighted to ensure participants are aware of program schedules.
- During program dates, rooms are available at the **GSA rate per night**.
- Bookings outside of program dates are at the regular hotel rate.

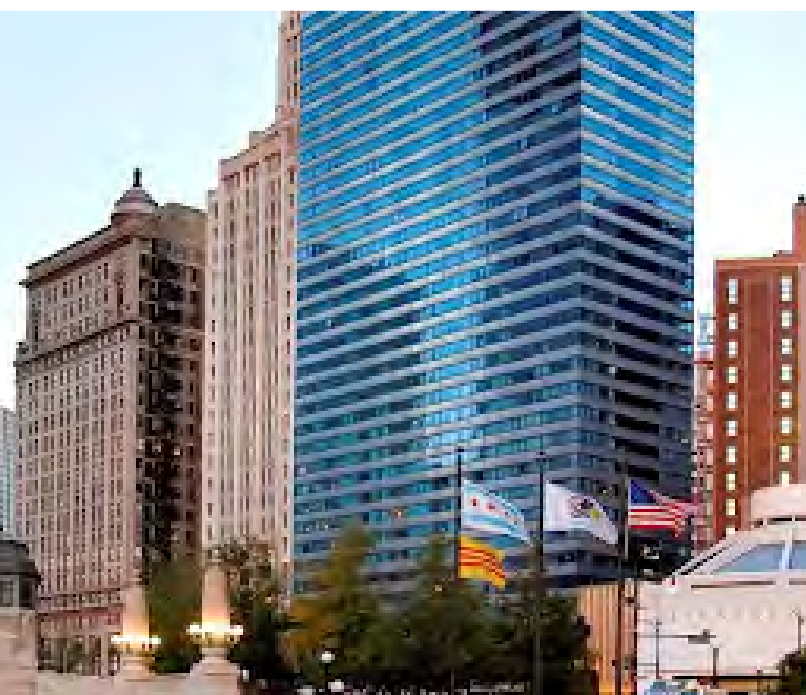
Hotel contact information:

Julia Sosnivka - JSosnivka@worldchicago.org

For cancellation Policy:

- Guests must cancel at least **48 hours before arrival** to avoid a **one-night room and tax charge**.
- Free cancellation applies up to **48 hours before reservation**.
- Cancellation details will be shared with guests upon booking.

Each participant is responsible for their own reservation and cancellation if it is necessary



Incidentals Hotel Policies:

- A \$100 per night incidental hold is required.
- For debit cards, it may take up to **10 days** for the hold to be released.
- For credit cards, the **authorization is released immediately upon check-out.**

General Hotel Information:

Check in/ Check out Policy:

- Guests can check in starting at 4:00 PM and must check out by 11:00 AM.
- Early check-in and late check-out requests are possible but not guaranteed.
- Payment Information: Room charges are not billed to credit cards until check-out.

Hotel Services:

On-site dining is available at Hoyt's American Tavern, which serves classic American dishes. Traditional room service isn't offered, but guests are able to have food delivered from Hoyt's or other local restaurants to their room. Quick snacks or grab and go items are available for purchase at the Market Place located in the lobby.

The Daily Destination Fee Includes:

- 24/7 access to the state-of-the-art fitness center
- Basic Wi-Fi for unlimited devices
- 2 bottles of water upon arrival
- \$10 Food & Beverage Credit at Hoyt's
- Preferred discounts at local restaurants, shops, and more

Dry cleaning and laundry services are available to guests.

Meals:

Meals will be provided to participants during the official program hours.

Participants are expected to cover the cost of meals and other miscellaneous/incidental items that occur outside the official program hours.

Airport information

Chicago O'Hare International Airport (ORD) is currently ranked as the third largest airport in the world, in terms of passenger traffic, and the second largest in the world for aircraft movements.

[Chicago O'Hare International Airport \(ORD\) / Official Website](#)

The ACE Illinois Committee encourages ACE participants to procure travel insurance and/or purchase refundable airline tickets.

Ground Transportation options

Taxis

Getting to and from O'Hare International Airport by taxi is both easy and convenient.

Leaving O'Hare

There are Taxi Stands at the lower level curb front (outside of Baggage Claim) at each terminal. Taxi service is available to Chicago and suburban destinations. Please make sure to use the designated Taxi Stands to ensure you have a licensed driver. For your protection, do not accept rides from drivers outside the cab stand or on the departure level (second level) of the terminal roadways. All taxis should have a working meter to calculate the fare based on time and mileage.

- Fares are based on traffic conditions, but an average fare from O'Hare to downtown Chicago is \$50
- For wheelchair accessible vehicles, please call 1-888-928-2227

Flat taxi shared ride service is available to those who wish to share a ride and pay a flat rate to certain destinations if multiple parties are available for the trip. Shared ride fares from O'Hare include:

- Downtown (\$24 per person)
- McCormick Place (\$24 per person)
- Midway International Airport (\$37 per person)

All suburban taxis should be pre-arranged by customers calling a suburban taxi company. Customers can call to pre-arrange for a suburban taxi in the Baggage Claim level or earlier before arriving. Designated pick up is on the lower-level, middle commercial lane at each Terminals 1,2,3 and inner commercial lane at Terminal 5.

Rideshare

Rideshare companies, such as Uber or Lyft, provide prearranged transportation services for compensation through an Internet-enabled application or digital platform to connect passengers with drivers of vehicles for hire.

Loading zones for Rideshare services are at the following locations:

- Terminal 2 - waiting area Upper Level between Door 2A and Door 2E
 - BLACK Zone A - Outside North of vestibule 2A
 - BLUE Zone B - Outside vestibule 2A
 - ORANGE Zone C- Outside vestibule 2B
 - GREEN Zone D - Outside vestibule 2E

Passengers should wait in the specific colored zones until their ride arrives to the same colored zone before proceeding to the designated pick-up location. A waiting area inside is available between vestibules 2A and 2D.

Black Car pickups continue to be offered on the lower level of all terminals.

Dress code:

The default dress code for ACE is business/business casual attire. It is recommended that participants wear comfortable shoes throughout the six-day program. More details about the dress code for each day and activities will be provided by the organizers closer to the event.

Weather information :

The weather in April in Chicago is starting to warm up, but remains unpredictable. The only consistent aspect of Chicago's spring weather is its variability.

The average daily temperature for Chicago in April is a relatively warm 59°F, but it can still drop to an average of 39°F.

Language:

Activities during the six-day program will be conducted in English.

Currency:

US Dollar.

It is recommended that participants inform their credit card company about their travel plans to avoid potential payment issues.

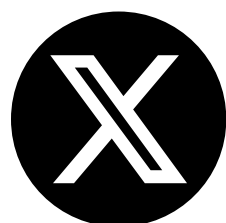
Contact us:

Please reach out to the ACE Committee by contacting Mr. César Parga, Chief of the Section of Competitiveness, Innovation and Technology at the OAS, at cparga@oas.org cc: msolis@oas.org, egomez@oas.org;

Find ACE online



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