

Center for Labor & Community Research

(Chicago, IL)

Total Award: \$80,000 over 1 year*Illinois High Performance Manufacturing Initiative*

To support the Illinois High-Performance Manufacturing Initiative, a project of the Center for Labor & Community Research, which brings together the Illinois Manufacturers' Association (IMA) and the Illinois AFL-CIO to develop and promote a common "high-road" state economic strategy. Emphasis will be placed on the long-term needs of companies, consumers, workers, communities and shareholders. IMA represents 4300 manufacturing companies which can expect labor support to overcome challenges they face, including inadequate workforce education. AFL-CIO members will expect corporate support for policies that address worker health and environmental issues. Beyond a quid pro quo relationship, the project takes a long-term view that would see these member groups transform so that they are advancing a common "high-road" economic vision. This high-road approach would include health benefits for workers and environmental protections for communities. This unique joint venture will challenge conventional, "low-road" strategies that focus solely on short-term profitability by emphasizing the long-term business case for investment in innovation, efficiency and waste reduction, promoting transparency and fairness, as well as offering incentives for high job performance and on-the-job training. This will be the first year in an expected two-to-three year project to implement the recommendations made in the report, *State of Illinois Manufacturing*, which has been endorsed by the IMA and the AFL-CIO. Each organization has committed funding and other resources to the project based on unanimous votes of their respective boards.

Program Contribution Breakdown:**\$20,000** Environment Program: *Objective I, Strategies 1 & 2***\$20,000** Health Program: *Objective II, Strategy 1 & 2***\$40,000** Interprogram Initiatives for Social and Economic Justice: *Objectives I & II*