

# PITCH. CONNECT. FUND.

## DEVELOPMENT FORUM TO GROW ILLINOIS AND IOWA

HOLIDAY INN - ROCK ISLAND - 226 17TH STREET - ROCK ISLAND, IL 61201  
REGISTER FOR FREE BY MARCH 20, 2025

**THURSDAY, MARCH 27, 2025**  
**1:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.**

**Pitch. Connect. Fund.** is your chance to pitch your deal, network with key investors, and access low-cost capital to meet your funding needs. If your project creates jobs, stimulates growth, and helps transform communities, this is where it all comes together. Since its debut in 2019, Pitch. Connect. Fund. has driven over \$300 million in investments across Iowa and Illinois—and this year, we're scaling up to bring over \$500 million in capital through our esteemed presenters and pitch panelists.

**Afternoon Sessions: Learn. Strategize.** Gain expert insights into key capital sources and actionable strategies to secure funding and drive impactful projects. Join top economic development leaders as they discuss:

- ✓ New Market Tax Credits – Incentives and opportunities in underserved communities and severely distressed areas.
- ✓ CDFI Lending – Leverage mission-driven capital for businesses and community initiatives.
- ✓ Loan Funds (\$500,000 to \$4M)- Explore flexible financing options for large-scale projects.
- ✓ Small Business Loan Funds & Microloans – Secure tailored funding solutions for entrepreneurs.
- ✓ Historic Tax Credits – Maximize federal and state historic incentives to revitalize properties.
- ✓ Deal Structuring – Learn how to structure deals with Illinois-specific incentives from expert legal counsel.
- ✓ Property Insurance – Learn opportunities and strategies from the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

**New This Year: Technical Assistance Session** For projects not yet fully developed, this session provides expert guidance to refine your pitch and connect with funders. While it does not include one-on-one pitches, it offers valuable exposure and relationship-building opportunities within the funding community.

**Submit Your Pitch & Get Funded** Ready to take the stage? Submit your pitch by March 20, 2025, via the QR code or website. Notifications will be sent within 2– 5 days, and all submissions remain confidential until shared with your pitch panel. Don't miss out—Pitch. Connect. Fund. Your next big opportunity starts here!

Beth Payne, Senior Vice President  
Economic Growth Corporation  
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☎ 309-794-6711  
Equal Opportunity Providers

Scan  
to Submit Pitch  
by March 20,  
2025



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# OVERVIEW

## Project Pitches

9:00-11:50 a.m.

Projects across Iowa and Illinois seeking capital are invited to pitch to investors and funders. To be considered, submit your project online by March 20, 2025. Pitches are scheduled in advance, and selected presenters will receive instructions by March 25, 2025. GROWTH ensures strict confidentiality, sharing your pitch deck only with relevant funders. Incomplete pitches will be directed to the How to Pitch session for valuable guidance, networking, and relationship-building (note: no one-on-one pitch presentations). *Note: The morning session is reserved for project pitches and is not open to general registrants.*

## Check-In

11:30-12:00 p.m.

Check-in will take place upstairs, in front of the main conference entrance.

## Opening & Keynote

12:00-1:00 p.m.

### OPENING- OPPORTUNITIES TO ACCESS CAPITAL

Attendees will be introduced to the programs available through the investors and learn strategies and requirements to access capital with favorable terms, tailored to their funding needs. This session will highlight how these resources can drive significant community and economic impact in distressed areas.

### KEYNOTE- LT. GOVERNOR JULIANNA STRATTON

We have invited the The Honorable Lt. Governor Julianna Stratton, as a keynote address to share her insights on economic development, community revitalization, and fostering opportunities in underserved areas. (Invited,, confirmation pending).

## Sessions

1:00-5:00 p.m.

*All sessions will be held in the Ballroom, unless otherwise noted, in a Conversation Style setting. Questions welcomed throughout each session.*

### 1:00-2:35 PM - INVESTOR PERSPECTIVES

Learn from our esteemed panelists on what it takes to bring projects to fruition. Gain insights into available capital sources and offers actionable strategies to secure funding and drive impactful projects. You will hear from all panelists on

New Market Tax Credits

Loan Funds (\$500,000 to \$10M)

Small Business Loan Funds & Microloans

Historic Tax Credits

### 2:45-3:45 PM- STRUCTURE

Learn to structure deals for maximum opportunity, from basic to complex, with guidance from expert legal counsel. Key topics include Illinois Rivers Edge Tax Credits, State and Federal New Market Tax Credits, and State and Federal Historic Tax Credits. Explore the details of insuring historic properties amid rising premiums from the National Trust for Historic Preservation on successful deals, especially in smaller and rural communities.

### 4:00-5:00 PM - PITCH REFINEMENT

This technical assistance session is for projects that are not yet fully developed. Participants will gain valuable insights from industry experts to refine their pitch, with opportunities to connect and network with investors and funders. While the session does not include one-on-one pitch presentations, it provides meaningful exposure and the chance to build relationships within the funding community.

## Networking Reception

5:00-6:30 p.m.

Networking reception will be held in the same location as the event.

ALL PRESENTORS AND INVESTORS ARE  
EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDERS.



### Brian Hollenback

President/CEO,  
Economic Growth Corporation &  
Central States Development  
Partners, Inc.

Executive Director,  
Bridge Investment Community  
Development Corporation



### Terri Preston

Director of Strategic Development,  
Prestamos CDFI



### Nick Brunick

Partner,  
Applegate & Thorne-Thomsen



### Amanda Bloomberg

Senior Acquisitions Manager,  
National Trust Community  
Investment Corporation



### Michael Ross

Chief Investment Officer,  
Five Points Community  
Capital



### Allie Beath

Managing Director,  
CIBC US



### Tom Oldenburg

Senior Vice President, Business  
Development Officer  
U.S. Bancorp Impact Finance



### Kendall Lisiecki

Senior Manager,  
Baker Tilly US, LLP

SCAN TO REGISTER  
AND PITCH YOUR  
PROJECT HERE

