



# Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity

JB Pritzker, Governor

## **MEMORANDUM**

TO: Governor JB Pritzker & Members of the Illinois General Assembly

FROM: Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity

DATE: December 5, 2025

SUBJECT: 2025 Report; Illinois Task Force on Opportunities for At-Risk Women

The following report fulfills the statutory directive that the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) provide the Governor and the Members of the General Assembly with an annual report on the Task Force on Opportunities for At-Risk Women. The Opportunities for At-Risk Women Act (20 ILCS 5075/5) requires that a Task Force is created within DCEO, with meetings being called by a Chair elected by members of the Task Force. The duties of the Task Force on Opportunities for At-Risk Women as stated in statute (20 ILCS 5075/10) are to strategize and design a plan for DCEO to partner with State and local governmental agencies, companies, and organizations that aid in helping at-risk women and their families become successful productive citizens.

### **Program Model**

DCEO, through its Office of Economic Equity & Empowerment (OE3), is providing administrative support and technical assistance to the Task Force on Opportunities for At-Risk Women. The Task Force gathers governmental agencies and organizations that assist at-risk women and their families to seek policy improvements that will increase social and economic security for these women and their families. By working together, the Task Force examines how housing assistance, educational advancement, potential career pathways and job training, financial literacy, and mental health resources can be better accessed and directly serve the needs of this community.

As outlined in statute, "at-risk women" means women who are at increased risk of incarceration because of poverty, abuse, addiction, financial challenges, illiteracy, or other causes. The term "at-risk women" may include, but shall not be limited to, women who have previously been incarcerated.

### **Program Status**

There is no activity to report in 2025 due to the absence of meetings. DCEO stands ready to provide administrative support and technical assistance to the Task Force at the call of the Chair.

Please feel free to contact DCEO with any questions regarding this report.