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Cash-strapped Nonprofits can Go Green to Keep their Lights On IFF Now Providing Below-Market, Energy Efficiency Loans and Services

IFF has been awarded a grant from The Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation to pilot a program that will help Illinois nonprofits take advantage of energy and cost saving practices formerly applied primarily to large public institutions. IFF's Energy Performance Program (E2P) will provide below-market loans and energy efficiency expertise to Illinois nonprofits that own facilities which would benefit financially from efficiency upgrades.

Trinita Logue, IFF's President and CEO, is enthusiastic about the new program. "Our Energy Performance Program will help nonprofits reduce their energy costs by 25 to 35 percent," Logue says. "With up to 40 percent of an agency's budget frequently dedicated to facility-related costs, including utilities, this program will have a direct impact on their bottom line."

Most nonprofit human service providers do not own enough facility square feet to attract an Energy Service Company such as Siemens Building Technologies and Honeywell to their project, though IFF estimates Illinois nonprofits could collectively save as much as \$18.6 million annually by enhancing their buildings' energy efficiency.

IFF's money-saving program will bundle nonprofits' facilities to reach the square feet needed to attract Energy Performance Contracting service providers. This is a long-term approach to strengthening nonprofits' ability to serve their clients by lowering the cost of operating their facilities.

IFF is currently identifying a group of human service providers to participate in the program. In one year, these providers will start to realize the savings of their energy efficiency upgrades. And within five years, their savings are expected to be sufficient to repay the costs associated with making and financing the energy efficiency improvements.

"With the support of The Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation, IFF can take the lead in addressing what has been a disconnect between the smaller facility size of typical nonprofits and the larger project size that is attractive to the companies that can provide the savings. We are poised to make a real difference in the work of nonprofits by helping them reduce the cost of their facility operations," says David Reynolds, Vice President of Real Estate Services for IFF.

Mr. Reynolds has more than 20 years of experience in engineering and construction, including direct responsibility for many of the City of Chicago's green initiatives. This experience, along with the skills and expertise of his staff, which includes six LEED™ Accredited Professionals, will serve IFF's clients well in implementing IFF's Energy Performance Program.

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Founded in 1988, IFF is a nonprofit community development financial institution (CDFI) committed to strengthening nonprofits, their clients and communities through affordable financing, real estate consulting, and research and public policy. It serves nonprofits in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Missouri and Wisconsin. To learn more about IFF, visit www.iff.org.