

January 11, 2007

**Grant Application for 2007 National Spatial Data Infrastructure
Cooperative Agreements Program, Category 3: Fifty States Initiative
Program Announcement Number 07HQPA0008, Closing Date: January 26, 2007**

Fostering Illinois' SDI: Developing a Strategic and Business Plan, and a Revitalized ILGIC

(0) Proposal Summary

(a) Applicant Organization - Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) and the Illinois Geographic Information Council (ILGIC)

(b) Collaborating Organizations

Office of the Governor	Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
Congressman Paul D. Froehlich, 56 th District	Illinois Department of Public Health
Central Management Services(Office of the CIO)	Illinois Department of Revenue
Terrorism Task Force (54 member organizations)	Illinois State Geological Survey
Illinois GIS Association (770 members-8 Board of Directors=4 municipalities, 1 county, 1 state, 2 scientific surveys) www.ilgisa.org	Illinois Department of Transportation
Illinois Professional Land Surveyors Association	Environmental Planning Solutions, Inc
City of Chicago	ESRI, Inc.
Champaign County	GIS Solutions, Inc.
United States Geological Survey	
United States National Geodetic Survey	
USDA, Natural Resource Conservation Service	
Lincoln Land Community College	
Illinois Department of Agriculture	
Illinois Emergency Management Agency	

(c) Organization Internet Address - www.illinois.gov/ilgic/

(d) Relevant National Digital Geospatial Clearinghouse Node Address
www.isgs.uiuc.edu/nsdihome/ - Illinois Natural Resources Geospatial Data Clearinghouse

(e) Key Project Contacts

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(f) Other Key Contact Personnel

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(g) Geographic Scope - State of Illinois

(h) Previous CAP Participation - Though ILGIC has never applied for a CAP award, other project participants have experience with the CAP grant process. The Illinois State Geological Survey

(ISGS) was a recipient of a 1996 CAP grant which supported the creation of the Illinois Clearinghouse. In 1998, Illinois DNR received a metadata CAP grant, and the ISGS received a CAP grant in 2005 to support the on-line distribution of the Chicago Urban Area orthoimagery.

- (i) **Brief Description of Project** - The purpose of this project is to: 1) revitalize the activities of the legislated Illinois Geographic Information Council (ILGIC); 2) revise and expand an existing GIS Strategy document that was submitted to the State in 2005; and 3) develop a business plan to support geospatial activities in Illinois. This strategic planning process will build on the existing administrative foundation of ILGIC. Two of the primary goals of this process will be to provide strategic direction to ILGIC and to strengthen its effectiveness as the principal geospatial oversight group in Illinois. The strategic and business plans for Illinois will identify the needs for enhanced geospatial coordination and integration among all levels of government, the private sector, and with all stakeholders. By using the National State Geographic Information Council's (NSGIC) *Fifty States Initiative* as a model, the core project team will focus on the development of practical strategies to quickly move down a successful path. The revised strategy and business plans will serve as roadmaps that will guide future efforts concerning the fiscal, administrative and technical requirements of an integrated geospatial technology infrastructure for Illinois.

(1) Project Scope

Current geospatial coordination activities. There are three fundamental, coexisting geospatial coordination activities in Illinois, viable in varying degrees: 1) ILGIC is a strong administrative placeholder in its legislated capacity, but the status and impact of ILGIC have waned considerably since its inception in 1995; 2) a state clearinghouse is firmly established and ready for expansion; and 3) the State of Illinois embarked on a new Information Technology Governance (ITG) model (in 2003) with the consolidation of IT infrastructure and a shared services/enterprise approach for the coordinated delivery of services. This activity impacts the future of geospatial coordination activities within state government.

The following is a brief description of ILGIC and the State IT consolidation and rationalization process. ILGIC was signed into law in 1995 to provide coordination and oversight of state geospatial program activities. Many ILGIC members represented state agencies and representation also includes members of the Illinois general Assembly, universities, professional organizations, the private sector, local government and the federal government. For several years, ILGIC met on a regular basis and gained support from within the GIS user community. As an organization, ILGIC never received funding from the State of Illinois to support and implement a sustained program. In recent years, Illinois experienced changes in administrative leadership and significant reorganization efforts within state government. During this time, ILGIC has had limited impact on geospatial policy and coordination activities in Illinois. In 2006, the Illinois General Assembly reviewed the legislation that resulted in the establishment of ILGIC (in 1995) and the General Assembly reaffirmed the status of ILGIC. In addition, the CIO and the geospatial user community are in consensus that a coordination body is essential. Moreover, because the state is focusing on state government issues, an active geospatial council is necessary to mobilize and embrace all of the stakeholder groups. The fundamental principles of coordination and collaboration are primary drivers of both statewide geospatial and IT consolidation and rationalization. For more information on ILGIC, see - www.illinois.gov/ilgic/.

As part of the ITG process, the Department of Central Management Services (CMS) was authorized to standardize and consolidate IT services. Within this governance, the State CIO now resides at CMS. GIS and all related technologies are part of the IT Rationalization process, and a GIS Domain Leader (S. Oliver, lead investigator for this project) has been assigned to work within this framework and provide CMS/CIO with a strategic business plan and implementation for geospatial issues. For more information, see - www.illinois.gov/tech/governance/process.cfm.

There have been some recent activities concerning the nature and currency of strategic and business plans for geospatial activities in Illinois. In December 2005, the CIO requested a strategic document from the GIS Domain Leader. A small workgroup drafted and submitted a document (the

draft document is attached) which focused on State government GIS initiatives. The document emphasized that ILGIC needed to develop an extensive business plan and enhanced strategy, and also identified details of “the NSGIC Nine.” After the draft strategic plan document was submitted, there was no follow-through action to implement recommendations.

With the continued growth in the industry, geospatial technology is being used by more governmental agencies, private companies and other organizations. Attendance at state GIS meetings continues to increase. With more organizations using geospatial technology, the implementation of a statewide strategic plan and the development of a business plan for geospatial activities are needed now more than ever to guide future efforts in an effective and efficient manner for all involved. In recent months, a core group has been formed that is comprised of staff members from several state and local government agencies. This group shares an interest in revamping ILGIC to develop policies that will guide future geospatial issues in Illinois.

Describe the proposed strategic and business plan development. To accomplish the goals of this core group, three specific tasks are planned: 1) host a series of meetings to enhance the development of both the strategic and business plans; 2) interact with representatives from other states to learn from their experiences; and 3) promote participation of key decision makers at the NSGIC annual meeting to broaden the awareness (within Illinois) of geospatial policy and management concerns. An invitation to participate will be extended to the CIO and members of the state legislature.

A series of meetings will be coordinated and hosted by ILGIC to gain input from as many stakeholders as possible (GIS users, program managers and administrators). These meetings will be lead by a professional facilitator with the intended result being broad support of the strategic plan from the diverse GIS community of Illinois.

- An initial meeting will be held in Springfield, Illinois. We expect attendance to be about 100 people. The purpose of this initial meeting will be to review current developments and to identify and communicate the vision of the revised strategic and business plans as well as a reorganized, reinvigorated state council for Illinois. There will be an all-out effort to encourage local participation through travel grants.
- A second meeting will focus on better defining the role of ILGIC in honing the details of the overall planning process. At this meeting, we want to gain additional input on significant concerns (from the geospatial community) that need to be included in the planning process. This meeting will take place after the annual NSGIC meeting.
- Before the third meeting, a smaller group of about 20 stakeholders will be identified to work on the remaining tasks. At the third meeting, we will address the development of specific objectives, goals and strategies. This meeting will set the stage for the development of a revised strategic plan and a business plan for geospatial activities in the state. A draft of both plans will be developed after this meeting.
- The fourth meeting will be a forum to gain additional comments and feedback about both draft plans. This input will be considered for incorporation into the final version of the plans. Before this meeting, we will disseminate the draft version of the plans to many key participants in the geospatial community in Illinois. After the final versions of both plans are developed, they will be made available via the ILGIC web site and other web sites in the state.

During this process, ILGIC will interact with members of the geospatial community by delivering updates at meetings of the Illinois GIS Association (ILGISA). In addition, ILGIC will provide written summaries of activities for inclusion in *Illinois GIS Notes*, a biannual newsletter that is distributed to over 750 ILGISA members. Additionally, using contacts developed through NSGIC meetings, we plan to interact with colleagues from other states so that we can call on their experience to help educate others within Illinois. The first of these meetings has been scheduled for January 30, 2007 as representatives from Indiana, Missouri and Wisconsin are scheduled to meet with the core

project team in Springfield, Illinois.

ILGIC will present the plans to the State CIO for official adoption by the state. The plans will serve as a road map to guide of future efforts within the geospatial realm including policies, funding, data acquisition/distribution and more. ILGIC also plans to work with members of the state legislature to secure funding and programmatic support for geospatial program activities.

One key area that will be solved by this planning process involves being connected with the “right” groups of people in the state. By working closely with the State CIO, we will include the CIO in many of the key decisions that will be part of the process to develop the strategic plan and business plans. In addition, we will establish new ties with members of the Illinois state legislature. Together, these connections should better position this effort and future activities so that ILGIC is recognized throughout state government.

(2) Skills and Capabilities

The core group of professionals who are supporting this effort have many years of experience with geospatial issues within Illinois. All of the project team members are employed as managers, program directors or senior-level staff and as such, all are experienced with project management. All team members are well-connected within the GIS community and within their areas of expertise (transportation engineering, geology, remote sensing, public health, homeland security, etc...). The professional backgrounds of the team provide a diverse array of talents and skills that will benefit this project. Sheryl Oliver has coordinated all ILGIC activities since the Council was formed in 1995. She has worked with many senior staff members in state government and is skilled within the context of many of the legislative and political processes that are central to daily life within state government. In addition, she has established a good working relationship with the State CIO. Ms. Silch works as the USGS Geospatial Liaison for Illinois and her connections within the USGS (with other State Liaisons) will help support all facets of this project. Other team members (Dr. Luman, Mr. Lovett and Mr. Krumm) are very involved with ILGISA and the project team will work closely with ILGISA to publicize ongoing project activities. Dr. Luman serves as the chair of the Illinois Mapping Advisory Committee (IMAC) and interacts with the United States Geological Survey (USGS) and Illinois state agencies to address key geospatial data issues.

Other project team members (Ms. Eller, Mr. Bomke, Mr. Pittman and Mr. Wilcox) are senior staff members within their respective organizations and they are well positioned to communicate the goals and objectives of this project (and the overall importance of this effort) within their organizations as well as with professional colleagues in the state. Mr. Reynolds coordinates a group of GIS users from many state agencies, and this group meets on a monthly basis. Mr. Reynolds will keep the user group informed about this project and solicit their input as appropriate. This will help to disseminate “project news” throughout many state agencies and work at building “buy-in” from one segment of the geospatial user community. Mr. Faedtke is very involved with local government GIS programs in northeastern Illinois. He will interact with County GIS Program Managers in the (six-county) Northeastern Illinois County GIS Cooperative Program as well as other neighboring counties. The project team will be able to bring stakeholders together from many sectors and achieve consensus on project goals and future directions.

(3) Commitment to Effort

The State of Illinois has a long history of working with GIS technology and addressing policy and program issues. ILGIC was signed into law in 1995. The Illinois Clearinghouse was launched in 1997 and continues to be a key resource for geospatial data in Illinois. ILGISA is an organization that supports GIS professionals in the state and IMAC is an effective body that addresses cooperative programs with the USGS (the delivery of the 2005 orthoimagery is the most recent example). To advance geospatial issues in the future, the State of Illinois needs a Geographic Information Office (GIO) position (a full-time geospatial program coordinator); a robust and active state council; and sustained funding for geospatial program activities including data acquisition and

distribution. A revised and focused strategic plan and a well designed business plan will provide the groundwork for these efforts.

The partner organizations and participants represent many sectors within the geospatial community. Ms. Oliver will coordinate the overall effort. She will take the lead on most of the project tasks and will be supported by all project participants. Ms. Oliver will interact with the State CIO and other senior administrative officials, and she will also be primarily responsible for organizing the series of meetings that are described in the Scope of Work. The remaining participants have volunteered for this project because they are concerned about geospatial coordination issues in Illinois. All participants will work together to host regular meetings of the core project group; host the series of meetings that are described in the Scope of Work; interact with members of the administration and state legislature; and help publicize project results. Each participant is deeply committed to this effort and everyone is eager to have this effort succeed.

(4) Organizational and Managerial Capacity

Management Plan: This project will be coordinated and supported as an ILGIC activity. Ms. Oliver will be the lead Principle Investigator and she will be supported by a core team of project participants. These participants are identified in this proposal as “Key Project Contacts” and “Other Key Contact Personnel.” Ms. Oliver work with staff members at the Illinois DNR to provide all required project and financial reports to the project sponsor.

Project Implementation: In addition to the series of meetings that are described in the Project Scope, the project team will be involved with a number of related activities. Current plans include addressing many issues that are related to the development of a strategic plan to guide geospatial activities in Illinois. The core group of project participants has been meeting on a monthly basis and this schedule will continue. As part of the project implementation, the project team will interact with other state councils to research existing administrative structures. States with similar governmental structures will be contacted concerning the position and authority of state councils. As part of this process, staff members from Indiana, Missouri and Wisconsin are scheduled to meet with the Illinois project team on January 30, 2007. As a result of working with other states and reviewing their strategic and business plan, a report will be compiled that outlines choices for an improved state council structure, benefits of the Council to stakeholders and best practice recommendations. This information, along with the FGDC Strategic Plan Template and Business Plan Template will be used to guide the State of Illinois in the development of a clear strategy. The FGDC Strategic Planning Process Map will also be consulted to help develop the activities, tasks, and accomplishments necessary for the successful completion of a Strategic Plan and Business Plan for the State.

Accomplishment capacity: Principle Investigator Sheryl Oliver has twenty-two years of experience working with geospatial technology issues and she has served as the ILGIC Coordinator since the group was established in 1995. Ms. Oliver is a Past-President of NSGIC and was on the founding Board of Directors for both NSGIC and ILGISA. She also serves as the GIS Domain Leader which has afforded her an effective working relationship with the CIO for the State of Illinois. The qualifications of other project participants are included in Skills and Abilities section of this proposal.

Project Outcomes: Establishing a fully-functioning ILGIC and developing revised strategic and business plans will enable the entire State of Illinois to benefit through the sharing of infrastructure (hardware, software, and data), resources (staff), and processes. Also included in the success of the plan is the application of the NSGIC Nine Coordination Criteria. A coordinated effort between the federal, state and local governments will improve the integration of geospatial data with tabular data and improve decision-making mechanisms that ultimately serve the public. The final outcome of this project will be improved coordination of programs, policies, technologies, and resources within the State of Illinois. This also facilitates Illinois providing geospatial information in support of the NSDI and the objectives of the *Fifty States Initiative* action plan.