

*Illinois Equitable Grant Making Assessment Initiative*  
**Grants Analysis Technical Report** ◀

Prepared for the Illinois Arts Council by the  
National Assembly of State Arts Agencies

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This report was prepared by the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies in partnership with the Illinois Arts Council.



## Background and Introduction

In 2023, the Illinois Arts Council (IAC) and the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies (NASAA) embarked on the Equitable Grant Making Assessment Initiative (EGAIN). EGAIN is a collaborative effort to examine the arts council's grant making through an equity lens, in order to identify funding gaps and recommend strategies that the arts council can pursue to reduce barriers to arts support. These are the aims of the initiative:

- Analyze the demographic distribution of IAC's general operating support awards (unrestricted grants that provide support to an organization as a whole rather than funding a particular project).
- Engage IAC constituents in providing feedback about their needs, experiences and perceptions.
- Identify equity strengths and weaknesses in IAC's approach to general operating support funding.
- Recommend applied actions IAC can take to work toward greater grant-making equity.
- Serve as an evidence base in the arts council's case for the resources needed to reach more Illinois communities with state support.

EGAIN is a mixed-method assessment that includes both quantitative and qualitative components. This report summarizes the findings of one quantitative component: analyzing the distribution of IAC funding. For this portion of the EGAIN assessment, NASAA conducted empirical and geographical analyses of operating support grant awards made by IAC from fiscal years 2016 to 2022. This report contains the conclusions from those analyses. Findings from other strands of research—including extensive constituent outreach and a field scan of state arts agency grant-making practices—will be published separately.

The IAC awards grants every year to help Illinois arts organizations with operating support through three programs: [General Operating Support](#), [Arts Service Organizations](#) and [Partners in Excellence](#). All three types of IAC operating support grants are included in this analysis. The General Operating Support program delivers operating support for Illinois nonprofit organizations that provide arts programming. The Arts Service Organizations program distributes general operating support for organizations that provide specialized services to the arts and cultural community, but that are not arts producers or presenters. For the purposes of this report, these two programs are combined and designated as **GOS/ASO**. The Partners in Excellence program provides operating support to designated organizations of scale and significance. For the purposes of this report, the Partners in Excellence program is designated as **PIE**. When the abbreviation GOS is used alone (without reference to either ASO or PIE), it is used as an umbrella term to encompass all operating or unrestricted award categories in Illinois or other states.

The IAC collects both application and final report data from all GOS grantees. The information collected includes geographic locations of the grantee as well as the finances of the grantee and the award's project locations.

## Key Findings

Using the data described above (as supplied by IAC to NASAA), this report examines how GOS grants are distributed. NASAA summarized records for 4,001 grants awarded in fiscal years 2016-2022:

- **GOS/ASO:** 3,817 awards; \$40,060,640
- **PIE:** 184 awards; \$7,881,890

NASAA's analysis attempts to identify whether equity gaps exist in IAC's distribution of GOS/ASO and PIE awards. This report examines data by these variables:

- **Grantee budget size:** Assessing how grants are distributed by grantee budget size can help the Illinois Arts Council assess the balance of funding concentrated in larger organizations versus smaller ones—an important equity consideration, given that many groups representing historically underserved constituencies fall on the smaller end of the budget continuum.
- **State comparisons:** Benchmarking analyses compare IAC's arts grant making to two cohorts. The first cohort benchmarks against other state arts agencies (SAAs) that are located in the Midwest region or have an agency budget size similar to IAC's. The second cohort benchmarks against SAAs with the largest budgets. These benchmarks allow IAC to understand SAA norms for GOS grant making and how its own data compares.
- **Geography and Demographics:** Geographical analyses show how grants are distributed in particular geographic areas and for key populations (low-income and socially vulnerable communities and populations with disabilities). These data help IAC to understand the extent of coverage of GOS funding and whether grant funds are distributed in proportion to demographic patterns.

Note that this analysis largely concentrates on general operating support and does not include other types of IAC grants. This focus is intentional, due to the large portion of IAC dollars devoted to operating support and the importance of operating dollars in supporting organizational development and services to the public. For the time period analyzed in this report, all GOS grant making by IAC represented 61% of the arts council's total grants and 62% of total grant funds. This makes it an important funding stream to understand. To this end, most observations about grant-making patterns or gaps surfaced in this analysis apply to GOS awards alone. Different patterns may be apparent for the arts council's other grant programs, which provide various forms of project support.

While observations on data interpretation are presented within each section, here are a few salient take-aways from the available data:

### Grantee Budget Size

- **A smaller proportion of GOS funds go to smaller organizations.** For the years 2016 through 2022, organizations above \$10 million in budget size represented only 3% of the organizations in IAC's GOS awardee pool but represented 10% of all GOS grant funds awarded.



Organizations under \$50,000 in budget size represented 21% of the awardee pool, but 7% of grant funds.

- **Over time, the percentage of grant dollars IAC has given to small organizations has increased.** The percent of dollars funding large organizations has decreased, with the exception of 2022, which saw a slight increase.
- **IAC contributes the bulk of its GOS funding to midsized organizations ranging in budget size from \$100,000 to \$5 million.** This is notable given that midsized arts organizations face unique operational pressures: they are often undercapitalized, have fewer reserves than "major" institutions, have more obligations, and enjoy less staffing, programming and space flexibility than the smallest organizations in the arts ecosystem.
- **With the exception of 2018, IAC's total number of GOS grants and total GOS dollars allotted have steadily increased.** Although 2020 and 2021 were abnormal years due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there were no major rises or falls in terms of total grants, dollars and distribution.

## Geography

- **There are disparities in the share of grant funds going to rural versus urban counties.** 6% of grants and grant dollars went to rural counties, which represent 14% of the Illinois population. 94% of grants and dollars went to urban counties, which comprise 81% of the total Illinois population.
- **More than half of Illinois's counties do not receive GOS support.** 50 out of Illinois's 102 counties received operating support awards from either the GOS/ASO program or the PIE program. 87 out of 102 counties were served through activity locations of GOS grantees. 13 counties were not reached by any type of grant or grant activity; these counties are predominantly rural and have higher rates of persons with disabilities.
- **Cook County and adjacent counties are receiving a majority of GOS funding.** The majority of GOS grants (68%) and dollars (65%) were awarded to Cook County. DuPage County, which is adjacent to Cook County, is the second highest awarded county in terms of both GOS grants (5%) and dollars (6%).
- **The urban/rural disparities and IAC's investments in Cook County and the most-funded counties remained consistent from 2016-2022.** This suggests that IAC may be supporting a fairly fixed pool of grantees and may wish to intentionally recruit new organizations to support communities not previously served.

## Demographics

- **Operating support awards are concentrated in middle and low-income counties.** Fewer grants and dollars go to wealthier counties than their share of the population.
- **Census tracts with higher levels of social vulnerability are receiving a substantial share of IAC investments.** The state's most vulnerable tracts (in which 23% of the population resides) receive 21% of grant funds and 26% of project activities. The least vulnerable tracts

(in which 26% of the population resides) receive 23% of grant funds and 22% of project activities.

- **One percent of IAC grant dollars go to counties with the highest concentration of people with disabilities.** These counties comprise 3% of the total Illinois population and are predominantly rural.

## Comparisons to Other State Arts Agencies

- **The dollar amounts of IAC awards are smaller than those seen in some other states.** In a large-population state containing numerous organizations to serve with a modest budget, IAC's grant resources are spread thinly. The median award size in Illinois is comparable to the overall benchmarking cohort. However, both the maximum and minimum award sizes in Illinois were smaller than amounts reported by the majority of other states included in the benchmark analysis.
- **Among large SAAs, IAC ranked lowest in terms of percent of dollars going to large organizations and highest in percent of dollars going to small organizations.** Among regionally benchmarked SAAs, Illinois ranked second lowest in percent of dollars going to large organizations and third highest in percent of dollars going to small organizations.

Due to limitations in the supply of data, **this analysis cannot empirically evaluate IAC's grant making through a racial equity lens.** IAC currently does not collect demographic data about the race/ethnicity of grantees. The arts council bases its final reports largely on information required on National Endowment for the Arts Partnership Agreement Final Descriptive Reports, which no longer include data requirements for the race/ethnicity of organizations funded or audiences reached. Also, a complex variety of state and federal laws and regulations constrains what race/ethnicity data public agencies can collect and consider in conjunction with funding decisions. Given what is known about the systemic barriers that people of color have historically faced in accessing resources, it may be important for IAC to identify a feasible way to address demographic data issues in the future. In the meantime, information on grants awarded to regions scoring high on the federal Social Vulnerability Index—which includes race/ethnicity as one component—is included in this analysis.

## Analysis of Grantee Size

All GOS data used below for benchmarking comes from [Final Descriptive Report](#) data supplied annually to NASAA and the National Endowment for the Arts. The IAC analyses below use data from FY2016-2022 for GOS/ASO grants and PIE grants. FY2019 was chosen as the preferred baseline year for comparison, in order to maintain consistency across SAAs and to avoid the dramatic one-time swings in funding that some states received for pandemic relief. Top-line observations from the benchmarking analysis include:

- **Of the 10 regionally benchmarked SAAs, IAC made the fourth largest investment (shared with Kentucky) in GOS funding in absolute dollar terms.** With 64% of its grant dollars taking the form of GOS awards, this signifies that IAC had a substantial commitment to capacity

building and to flexible funding that grantees could use in the ways they determined were most beneficial to their missions.

- **IAC award sizes fall into a relatively narrow dollar range, resulting in smaller award amounts than many other states.** The median size of IAC awards is comparable to the overall benchmarking cohort. However, both the maximum and minimum award sizes in Illinois were smaller than the amounts recorded by the majority of the other eight SAAs included in the benchmark analysis states that are regionally adjacent or have comparable SAA budget sizes. IAC's award sizes were also substantially smaller than most other SAAs included in the large-budget SAA benchmarking cohort.
- **IAC contributes the bulk of its GOS funding to mid-sized organizations ranging in budget size from \$100,000 to \$5 million in total revenues.** Organizations in this budget bracket received 60% of operating support awards and 75% of operating support dollars during the funding period studied.
- **IAC made 810 grants to small organizations (below \$50,000 in budget size) from FY2016 to FY2022.** We do not know the total universe of possible organizations in this budget class, to assess what portion of all Illinois organizations IAC is or is not serving. Nevertheless, 810 organizations represented a robust number of small groups. On average, 115 organizations under \$50,000 in budget size were given grants annually over the seven-year period.
- **For FY2016-2022, organizations above \$10 million in budget size represented 3% of the organizations in IAC's GOS awardee pool and represented 10% of all GOS grant funds awarded. Conversely, organizations under \$50,000 in budget size represented 21% of the awardee pool and 7% of grant funds.** A higher concentration of operating support dollars in larger organizations is common among state arts agencies and other arts funders. However, that pattern appears to be less accentuated in Illinois due to the smaller award sizes given by IAC. Illinois ranked second lowest among similar benchmarked states in aggregate dollars going to larger organizations and third highest in aggregate dollars going to smaller organizations.
- **Larger organizations derived less of their total revenue from IAC grants, whereas smaller organizations derived a larger portion of total revenue from IAC grants.** This finding is consistent with the results of national arts research (conducted by NASAA and others) underscoring the importance of SAA support for small organizations and the large impact SAA awards may have on these organizations' operating capacity and programming. It also reflects practical limits on the portion of large organizations' budgets that an SAA with limited resources can affect, especially in cases where the operating budget of individual grantees substantially exceeds the size of an SAA's entire state appropriation.
- **Over time, the total number of GOS grants and total GOS dollars awarded by IAC has steadily increased.** The only exception to this trend was 2018, in which the arts council received only partial funding from the state due to a state budget impasse.
- **Over time, the percent of grant dollars given to small organizations generally has increased while the percent of dollars funding large organizations has decreased.** The single exception to this trend was 2022, which saw a slight increase to larger organizations.

## Grants by Grantee Budget Size

The tables below show IAC grants and grant dollars for all GOS awards for FY2022, for the sum of FY2016-2022, and for the average of FY2016-2022.

During the seven years studied in this assessment, the majority of grant dollars went to midsized organizations ranging in revenue sizes from \$100,000 to \$5 million.

On the smaller end of the budget scale, organizations with budgets of less than \$50,000 received 21% of all awards and 7% of award dollars. Organizations above \$10 million in budget size represented only 3% of the organizations in IAC's GOS awardee pool but represented 10% of all GOS grant funds awarded. Larger organizations derived less of their revenue from IAC grants than smaller ones. The smallest organizations received a third or more of their total revenue from these grants, whereas the largest organizations received 1% or less of their total revenue from the grants.

**Table 1: GOS Grants, by Grantee Revenue (FY2022)**

Grantee Budget	No. of GOS Grants	Percent of GOS Grants	GOS Grant Dollars	Percent of GOS Grant Dollars	Total Grantee Revenue	Grant Dollars as Percent of Total Revenue
Below \$10K	50	7%	\$132,300	2%	\$229,616	57.6%
\$10K - \$49.9K	142	19%	\$715,250	9%	\$3,961,320	18.1%
\$50K - \$99.9K	93	13%	\$416,900	5%	\$6,737,694	6.2%
\$100K - \$249.9K	129	18%	\$990,450	13%	\$21,913,956	4.5%
\$250K - \$499.9K	103	14%	\$1,187,150	15%	\$35,983,112	3.3%
\$500K - \$999.9K	84	11%	\$1,247,900	16%	\$61,676,591	2.0%
\$1M - \$1.9M	63	9%	\$1,172,150	15%	\$87,935,754	1.3%
\$2M - \$4.9M	38	5%	\$820,250	11%	\$115,892,900	0.7%
\$5M - \$9.9M	10	1%	\$265,000	3%	\$69,171,148	0.4%
\$10M - \$19.9M	7	1%	\$221,200	3%	\$99,912,886	0.2%
\$20M and above	14	2%	\$580,650	7%	\$769,608,321	0.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>733</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$7,749,200</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$1,273,023,298</b>	<b>0.6%</b>

**Table 2: GOS Grants, by Grantee Revenue (Sum of FY2016-2022)**

Grantee Budget	No. of GOS Grants	Percent of GOS Grants	GOS Grant Dollars	Percent of GOS Grant Dollars	Total Grantee Revenue	Grant Dollars as Percent of Total Revenue
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Below \$10K	164	4%	\$325,025	1%	\$858,261	37.9%
\$10K - \$49.9K	646	17%	\$2,270,675	6%	\$18,404,440	12.3%
\$50K - \$99.9K	466	12%	\$1,805,575	5%	\$33,888,431	5.3%
\$100K - \$249.9K	777	20%	\$5,691,985	14%	\$133,102,072	4.3%
\$250K - \$499.9K	553	14%	\$6,313,020	16%	\$195,033,773	3.2%
\$500K - \$999.9K	489	13%	\$7,435,650	19%	\$353,101,679	2.1%
\$1M - \$1.9M	294	8%	\$5,385,400	13%	\$411,514,960	1.3%
\$2M - \$4.9M	245	6%	\$5,330,690	13%	\$725,636,890	0.7%
\$5M - \$9.9M	66	2%	\$1,464,245	4%	\$448,545,271	0.3%
\$10M - \$19.9M	44	1%	\$1,378,160	3%	\$640,243,775	0.2%
\$20M and above	73	2%	\$2,660,215	7%	\$4,367,615,735	0.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,817</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$40,060,640</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$7,327,945,287</b>	<b>0.5%</b>

**Table 3: Average GOS Grant Award and Grantee Budget Size (FY2016-2022)**

Grantee Budget	Average GOS Grant Dollars	Average Grantee Revenue
Below \$10K	\$1,982	\$5,233
\$10K - \$49.9K	\$3,515	\$28,490
\$50K - \$99.9K	\$3,875	\$72,722
\$100K - \$249.9K	\$7,326	\$171,303
\$250K - \$499.9K	\$11,416	\$352,683
\$500K - \$999.9K	\$15,206	\$722,089
\$1M - \$1.9M	\$18,318	\$1,399,711
\$2M - \$4.9M	\$21,758	\$2,961,783
\$5M - \$9.9M	\$22,186	\$6,796,140
\$10M - \$19.9M	\$31,322	\$14,550,995
\$20M and above	\$36,441	\$59,830,353
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$10,495</b>	<b>\$1,919,818</b>

**Table 4: GOS Grants by Fiscal Year (2016-2022)**

FY	No. of GOS Grants	Average GOS Grant Dollars	Total GOS Grant Dollars
2016	596	\$6,364	\$3,793,065

2017	463	\$11,008	\$5,096,700
2018*	76	\$3,246	\$246,700
2019	614	\$12,626	\$7,752,600
2020	632	\$12,254	\$7,744,775
2021	703	\$10,921	\$7,677,600
2022	733	\$10,572	\$7,749,200

\* In FY18 IAC received only partial funding from the state due to a state budget impasse

## Grants by Grantee Budget Size, Benchmarked Data

The following tables benchmark IAC's GOS grants by budget size against two cohorts of SAAs.

**Cohort 1** benchmarks IAC against SAAs that are geographically adjacent or have similar operating budget sizes. States include Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Michigan, Missouri, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina and Wisconsin.

**Cohort 2** benchmarks IAC against the largest SAAs, reflecting grants made by agencies with appropriations to which Illinois may aspire. States include Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York and Ohio. California is included in only the rural analysis.

While every state is unique and comparisons should be viewed advisedly, this type of benchmarking provides useful context for understanding IAC's norms in the context of the broader SAA field. The data used here come from NASAA's FY2019 Final Descriptive Report database of records submitted to the National Endowment for the Arts as a requirement of Partnership Agreement funding. These data exclude decentralized subgrant data (SAA grants to local or regional agencies for the purpose of regranting).

When comparing Illinois Arts Council GOS allocations to benchmarked states, for Cohort 1 Illinois was ranked fourth (along with Wisconsin) in the share of grant dollars devoted to GOS. Award amounts in Illinois are average in size relative to the comparison cohort. While the overall median award amount is the same (\$11,100), five of the nine comparison states have larger minimum award amounts than Illinois. Likewise, five of the nine comparison states have larger maximum award amounts than Illinois.

Among Cohort 2 states, Illinois is surpassed by only Ohio in the share of grant dollars devoted to GOS and in the smallest minimum award. Illinois has the second smallest median award and maximum award.

**Table 5: All and GOS Grant Making across Benchmarked States, Cohort 1 (FY2019)**

SAA	All Grant Dollars	No. of All Grants	No. of GOS Grants	GOS as Percent of All Grants	GOS Grant Dollars	GOS as Percent of All Grant Dollars	Minimum GOS Grant Dollars	Median GOS Grants Dollars	Maximum GOS Grant Dollars
<b>Illinois</b>	<b>\$12,109,478</b>	<b>1,013</b>	<b>614</b>	<b>61%</b>	<b>\$7,752,600</b>	<b>64%</b>	<b>\$900</b>	<b>\$11,100</b>	<b>\$57,800</b>
Indiana	\$3,511,819	239	68	28%	\$1,086,651	31%	\$5,347	\$12,222	\$38,377
Iowa	\$1,235,765	151	48	32%	\$630,000	51%	\$5,000	\$15,000	\$20,000
Kentucky	\$1,218,416	180	88	49%	\$1,033,060	85%	\$1,000	\$7,187	\$66,976
Missouri	\$4,259,949	476	52	11%	\$1,633,865	38%	\$6,841	\$15,818	\$133,659
Ohio	\$13,566,043	939	336	36%	\$10,532,815	78%	\$250	\$13,550	\$527,235
Pennsylvania	\$4,335,938	320	310	97%	\$4,300,938	99%	\$3,000	\$7,272	\$164,017
South Carolina	\$4,279,831	457	170	37%	\$2,299,854	54%	\$846	\$9,429	\$272,832
Wisconsin	\$1,118,593	239	170	71%	\$717,029	64%	\$390	\$2,075	\$17,500
<b>Cohort Medians</b>	<b>\$4,259,949</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>\$1,633,865</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>	<b>\$11,100</b>	<b>\$66,976</b>
<b>Cohort Totals</b>	<b>\$45,635,832</b>	<b>4,014</b>	<b>1,856</b>	<b>46%</b>	<b>\$29,986,812</b>	<b>66%</b>	<b>\$250</b>		<b>\$527,235</b>
Illinois Sum, FY2016-2022	\$64,834,988	6,281	3,817	61%	\$40,060,640	62%	\$400	\$8,200	\$57,800
Illinois Average, FY2016-2022	\$9,262,141	897	545	61%	\$5,722,949	62%	\$400	\$8,200	\$57,800

**Table 6: All and GOS Grant Making across Benchmarked States, Cohort 2 (FY2019)**

SAA	All Grant Dollars	No. of All Grants	No. of GOS Grants	GOS As Percent of All Grants	GOS Grant Dollars	GOS as Percent of All Grant Dollars	Minimum GOS Grant Dollars	Median GOS Grants Dollars	Maximum GOS Grant Dollars
<b>Illinois</b>	<b>\$12,109,478</b>	<b>1,013</b>	<b>614</b>	<b>61%</b>	<b>\$7,752,600</b>	<b>64%</b>	<b>\$900</b>	<b>\$11,100</b>	<b>\$57,800</b>
Maryland	\$19,412,715	642	57	9%	\$5,856,633	30%	\$1,000	\$33,974	\$1,132,183
Massachusetts	\$13,005,953	2,097	347	17%	\$4,977,714	38%	\$3,000	\$8,800	\$57,000
Minnesota	\$37,699,679	637	183	29%	\$15,702,593	42%	\$8,000	\$48,758	\$1,052,011
New Jersey	\$15,667,412	199	104	52%	\$9,844,750	63%	\$5,000	\$30,269	\$1,000,000
New York	\$51,389,500	1,849	186	10%	\$5,766,609	11%	\$5,000	\$25,000	\$250,000
Ohio	\$13,566,043	939	336	36%	\$10,532,815	78%	\$250	\$13,550	\$527,235
<b>Cohort Medians</b>	<b>\$19,412,715</b>	<b>1,013</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>\$7,752,600</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>\$3,000</b>	<b>\$28,000</b>	<b>\$527,235</b>
<b>Cohort Totals</b>	<b>\$184,450,809</b>	<b>8,666</b>	<b>1,881</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>\$61,984,215</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>\$250</b>		<b>\$1,132,183</b>
Illinois Sum, FY2016-2022	\$64,834,988	6,281	3,817	61%	\$40,060,640	62%	\$400	\$8,200	\$57,800
Illinois Average, FY2016-2022	\$9,262,141	897	545	61%	\$5,722,949	62%	\$400	\$8,200	\$57,800

GOS Grants by Smallest and Larger Organizations, Benchmarked Data

The tables below examine GOS grants to organizations with revenues of \$50,000 and below and to organizations with revenues above \$1 million. The maximum award was added as a useful data point to understand whether states are limiting award sizes to either small or large organizations.

Overall, these data tell us that SAAs take a wide range of approaches when providing operating support awards for smaller organizations. Some states give no or very few operating support grants to small organizations, while others give a larger portion of their total GOS grants to these organizations.

One caveat has to do with states with decentralized grant-making programs. Decentralized programs allocate state block grants to a designated entity for the purpose of regranting. These funds are then redistributed to additional—typically smaller—organizations. The Final Descriptive Report (FDR) data used for this analysis encompasses only awards made directly by SAAs and does not reflect regranted awards or funds designated for regranting. If regranting awards were taken into account, it is likely that states in the benchmarking group with decentralized grant programs would show a higher portion of overall grant funds devoted to smaller organizations. These regrants may or may not take the form of operating support. States with decentralized grantmaking programs include Indiana, Pennsylvania, Minnesota and Illinois.

From an equity perspective, the most notable finding from these data is the high percentage of total GOS dollars that went to larger arts organizations. There are a number of understandable reasons for funding to be distributed in this way, including the budget needs and audience sizes of larger organizations, funding formulas that index grant award sizes to organizational budget sizes, and legacy systems (such as adjudication criteria or compliance requirements) that may disadvantage younger or smaller organizations. The good news is that, among SAAs in both cohorts, Illinois devotes larger percentages of GOS funding to small organizations and smaller percentages to large organizations.

Illinois ranks as the third highest state in percentage of GOS dollars that are awarded to *smaller* organizations within Cohort 1, and as the highest, along with Massachusetts, in Cohort 2. In terms of percentage of GOS dollars awarded to *larger* organizations, Illinois is ranked second lowest among Cohort 1 benchmarked states and the lowest among Cohort 2 states.

Another note on these data is that they reflect SAA FY2019 investments for most of the states, and several of these states have undergone recent deep examinations of their GOS strategies and formulas that will likely result in policy changes in coming years.

**Table 7: GOS Grants to Organizations with Total Revenues of \$50K and below, Cohort 1  
(FY2019, Sorted by Percent of GOS Grant Dollars)**

SAA	GOS Grants (All Orgs)	GOS Dollars (All Orgs)	GOS Grants (50K and under)	% of GOS Grants (50K and under)	GOS Dollars (50K and under)	Percent of GOS Dollars (50K and under)	Maximum GOS Grant (50K and under)
Wisconsin	170	\$717,029	36	21%	\$84,860	12.0%	\$11,970
South Carolina	170	\$2,299,854	43	25%	\$203,034	9.0%	\$43,300
<b>Illinois</b>	<b>614</b>	<b>\$7,752,600</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>\$363,300</b>	<b>5.0%</b>	<b>\$18,300</b>
Pennsylvania	310	\$4,300,938	24	8%	\$166,851	4.0%	\$27,841
Ohio	336	\$10,532,815	55	16%	\$313,312	3.0%	\$18,701
Iowa	48	\$630,000	3	6%	\$15,000	2.4%	\$5,000
Kentucky	88	\$1,033,060	13	15%	\$24,396	2.4%	\$7,928
Missouri	52	\$1,633,865	4	8%	\$36,531	2.2%	\$11,288
Indiana	68	\$1,086,651	0	0%	\$0	0.0%	N/A
<b>Cohort Medians</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>\$1,633,865</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>\$166,851</b>	<b>4.0%</b>	<b>\$18,300</b>
<b>Cohort Totals</b>	<b>1,856</b>	<b>\$29,986,812</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>\$1,207,284</b>	<b>4.0%</b>	<b>\$43,300</b>
Illinois Sum, FY2016-2022	3,817	\$40,060,640	812	21%	\$2,599,500	6%	\$48,800
Illinois Average, FY2016-2022	545	\$5,722,949	116	21%	\$371,357	6%	\$48,800

**Table 8: GOS Grants to Organizations with Total Revenues of \$50K and below, Cohort 2 (FY2019, Sorted by Percent of GOS Grant Dollars)**

SAA	GOS Grants (All Orgs)	GOS Dollars (All Orgs)	GOS Grants (50K and under)	% of GOS Grants (50K and under)	GOS Dollars (50K and under)	Percent of GOS Dollars (50K and under)	Maximum GOS Grant (50K and under)
Massachusetts	347	\$4,977,714	33	10%	\$234,714	5%	\$50,000
<b>Illinois</b>	<b>614</b>	<b>\$7,752,600</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>\$363,300</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>\$18,300</b>
Ohio	336	\$10,532,815	55	16%	\$313,312	3%	\$18,701
New York	186	\$5,766,609	6	3%	\$115,500	2%	\$41,000
Maryland	57	\$5,856,633	9	16%	\$17,321	0.3%	\$3,475
New Jersey	104	\$9,844,750	1	1%	\$25,000	0.3%	\$25,000
Minnesota	183	\$15,702,593	0	0%	\$0	0%	N/A
<b>Cohort Medians</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>\$7,752,600</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>\$234,714</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>\$25,000</b>
<b>Cohort Totals</b>	<b>1,881</b>	<b>\$61,984,215</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>\$2,036,346</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>
Illinois Sum, FY2016-2022	3,817	\$40,060,640	812	21%	\$2,599,500	6%	\$48,800
Illinois Average, FY2016-2022	545	\$5,722,949	116	21%	\$371,357	6%	\$48,800

**Table 9: IAC GOS Grants to Organizations with Total Revenues of \$50K and below, by Fiscal Year (2016-2022)**



FY	No. of GOS Grants	Percent of GOS Grants	GOS grant Dollars	Percent of GOS Grant Dollars
2016	115	19%	\$166,300	4%
2017	60	13%	\$168,400	3%
2018	23	30%	\$27,000	11%
2019	122	20%	\$363,300	5%
2020	128	20%	\$489,850	6%
2021	172	24%	\$537,100	7%
2022	192	26%	\$847,550	11%

**Table 10: GOS Grants to Organizations with Total Revenues of \$1M and above, Cohort 1 (FY2019, Sorted by Percent of GOS Grant Dollars)**

SAA	GOS Grants (All Orgs)	GOS Dollars (All Orgs)	GOS Grants (\$1M and above)	% of GOS Grants (\$1M and above)	GOS Dollars (\$1M and above)	Percent of GOS Dollars (\$1M and above)	Maximum GOS Grant (\$1M and above)
Ohio	336	\$10,532,815	79	24%	\$7,591,678	72%	\$527,235
Indiana	68	\$1,086,651	29	43%	\$772,476	71%	\$38,377
Pennsylvania	310	\$4,300,938	114	37%	\$3,034,217	71%	\$164,017
Kentucky	88	\$1,033,060	24	27%	\$665,863	64%	\$66,976
Missouri	52	\$1,633,865	23	44%	\$1,047,031	64%	\$99,707
Iowa	48	\$630,000	16	33%	\$315,000	50%	\$20,000
Wisconsin	170	\$717,029	39	23%	\$352,529	49%	\$17,500
<b>Illinois</b>	<b>614</b>	<b>\$7,752,600</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>\$3,169,700</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>\$57,800</b>
South Carolina	170	\$2,299,854	24	14%	\$656,187	29%	\$36,499
<b>Cohort Medians</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>\$1,633,865</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>\$772,476</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>\$57,800</b>
<b>Cohort Totals</b>	<b>1,856</b>	<b>\$29,986,812</b>	<b>465</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>\$17,604,681</b>	<b>59%</b>	<b>\$527,235</b>
Illinois Sum, FY2016-2022	3,817	\$40,060,640	722	19%	\$16,218,710	40%	\$57,800
Illinois Average, FY2016-2022	545	\$5,722,949	103	19%	\$2,316,959	40%	\$57,800

**Table 11: GOS Grants to Organizations with Total Revenues of \$1M and above, Cohort 2 (FY2019, Sorted by Percent of GOS Grant Dollars)**

SAA	GOS Grants (All Orgs)	GOS Dollars (All Orgs)	GOS Grants (\$1M and above)	% of GOS Grants (\$1M and above)	GOS Dollars (\$1M and above)	Percent of GOS Dollars (\$1M and above)	Maximum GOS Grant (\$1M and above)
Maryland	57	\$5,856,633	23	40%	\$4,946,424	84%	\$1,132,183
Massachusetts	347	\$4,977,714	152	44%	\$3,800,000	76%	\$57,000
Minnesota	183	\$15,702,593	63	34%	\$11,354,512	72%	\$1,052,011
New Jersey	104	\$9,844,750	37	36%	\$7,321,375	74%	\$1,000,000
New York	186	\$5,766,609	84	45%	\$3,103,440	54%	\$105,320
Ohio	336	\$10,532,815	79	24%	\$7,591,678	72%	\$527,235
<b>Illinois</b>	<b>614</b>	<b>\$7,752,600</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>\$3,169,700</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>\$57,800</b>
<b>Cohort Medians</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>\$7,752,600</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>\$4,946,424</b>	<b>72%</b>	<b>\$527,235</b>
<b>Cohort Totals</b>	<b>1,881</b>	<b>\$61,984,215</b>	<b>555</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>\$41,287,129</b>	<b>67%</b>	<b>\$1,132,183</b>
Illinois Sum, FY2016-2022	3,817	\$40,060,640	722	19%	\$16,218,710	40%	\$57,800
Illinois Average, FY2016-2022	545	\$5,722,949	103	19%	\$2,316,959	40%	\$57,800

**Table 12: IAC GOS Grants to Organizations with Total Revenues of \$1M and above, by Fiscal Year (2016-2022)**

FY	No. of GOS Grants	Percent of GOS Grants	GOS Grant Dollars	Percent of GOS Dollars
2016	119	20%	\$1,699,710	45%
2017	119	26%	\$2,628,800	52%
2018	10	13%	\$90,900	37%
2019	117	19%	\$3,169,700	41%
2020	110	17%	\$2,926,300	38%
2021	115	16%	\$2,644,050	34%
2022	132	18%	\$3,059,250	39%

GOS Grants to Cohort 1 Large Organizations

In addition to examining the grants by budget range, NASAA looked at GOS grants by institution type to organizations with revenues above \$30 million for Cohort 1. These data are useful to understand the types of organizations with the largest resources that receive SAA funds.

These data show that there are similarities among the types of organizations with the largest revenues. These data do not illuminate the community outreach or inclusive and diverse practices of these individual organizations; however, they highlight a pattern of funding and wealth existing in certain types of institutions.

**Table 13: Largest SAA GOS Grantees with Budgets Exceeding \$30 million, by Total Revenue (Cohort 1, FY2019)**

SAA State	Grantee Name	GOS Grant Amount	Total Revenue
Illinois	Art Institute of Chicago	\$48,100	\$273,351,377
Pennsylvania	Philadelphia Museum of Art	\$164,017	\$130,870,387
Ohio	Playhouse Square Foundation	\$525,103	\$100,477,766
Illinois	Lyric Opera of Chicago	\$52,900	\$76,225,380
Illinois	Chicago Symphony Orchestra	\$52,800	\$69,056,833
Ohio	Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra	\$525,304	\$63,444,134
Ohio	Cleveland Museum of Art	\$525,510	\$58,212,099
Pennsylvania	The Pittsburgh Trust for Cultural Resources	\$161,476	\$55,935,184
Ohio	The Musical Arts Association	\$527,235	\$53,467,235
Pennsylvania	The Philadelphia Orchestra	\$141,428	\$48,702,155
Missouri	Saint Louis Art Museum	\$95,904	\$44,162,126
Illinois	Ravinia Festival Association	\$52,900	\$43,393,524
Illinois	The Morton Arboretum	\$20,200	\$42,045,552
Illinois	Window to the World Communications, Inc.	\$57,800	\$41,731,860
Ohio	The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum, Inc.	\$363,508	\$40,838,670
Indiana	The Children's Museum of Indianapolis	\$38,377	\$37,221,537
Illinois	Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events	\$57,800	\$35,721,399
Illinois	Chicago Public Media, Inc.	\$14,700	\$31,909,485
Missouri	Nelson Gallery Foundation	\$98,679	\$31,656,001

## GOS Grants by Project Discipline

The data below show granting by discipline for the IAC. Multidisciplinary projects receive the most dollars followed by music and theatre.

**Table 14: IAC Project Disciplines, by Percent of GOS Dollars (FY2022)**

Project Discipline	No. of GOS Grants	Percent of GOS Grants	GOS Grant Dollars	Percent of GOS Grant Dollars
Multidisciplinary	160	21.80%	\$1,912,300	24.70%
Music	182	24.80%	\$1,707,950	22.00%
Theatre	145	19.80%	\$1,438,200	18.60%
Visual Arts	71	9.70%	\$812,200	10.50%
Dance	64	8.70%	\$642,050	8.30%
Media Arts	36	4.90%	\$456,700	5.90%
Folklife/Traditional Arts	35	4.80%	\$301,350	3.90%
Opera/Musical Theatre	17	2.30%	\$225,950	2.90%
Literature	10	1.40%	\$85,500	1.10%
Humanities	5	0.70%	\$69,700	0.90%
N/A Not Reported	3	0.40%	\$57,900	0.70%
Design Arts	3	0.40%	\$19,750	0.30%
Non-Arts/Non-Humanities	2	0.30%	\$19,650	0.30%
<b>Total</b>	<b>733</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$7,749,200</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Geographical Analysis

The following maps and tables use the locations of GOS/ASO and PIE grantees as well as the locations they serve through their programs (a.k.a. "activity locations"), which may reach beyond the grantee's home community. Activity locations are mapped onto various demographic or population attributes as a proxy for audiences served. Distribution of grants and grant activities is examined by county, by rural/urban designation, by populations in poverty, by populations with disabilities and by social vulnerability. NASAA also included analysis of awards according to four greater Illinois regions, as defined by the Illinois Arts Council in its [PIE grants guidelines](#). A map of the four regions and the counties they incorporate is found below.

The following observations were made for both FY2022 and FY2016-2022:

- **50 out of Illinois's 102 counties received operating support awards.** 87 counties were served through activity locations.

- **13 counties were not reached by any type of grant or grant activity location.** These counties are predominantly rural and have higher rates of persons with disabilities.
- **Rural counties comprise 14% of Illinois's population but received only 6% of IAC operating support grants and funds.** Urban counties are awarded 94% of grants and dollars while representing around 86% of the total Illinois population. Geographic disparities held true for other types of IAC grants, as well. These patterns held over the period analyzed.
- **Most of the benchmarked SAAs devoted more of their GOS dollars to rural communities than did IAC.** However, IAC ranked second largest in terms of median award size to rural communities.
- **The majority of GOS grants (68%) and dollars (65%) were awarded to Cook County.** DuPage County, which is adjacent to Cook County, is the second highest awarded county, with 5% of grants and 6% of dollars. These counties are urban, fall in the high to middle range of percentages of persons living in poverty, and are in the low range of percentages of persons with disabilities. Regions B and C (see Figure 1), which contain these counties, account for 80% of GOS dollars and 73% of all grant dollars. Grants to Cook County and the top-ranking counties remained consistent over the time period.
- **The highest-poverty counties in the state are receiving IAC grants and dollars proportional to their total population.** 12% of the Illinois population lives in the highest-poverty quartile, which received 12% of operating support grants and funds. Wealthier counties received fewer grants and dollars, both in aggregate terms and in terms of the share of the population they comprise.
- **A substantial portion of IAC investments reach Illinois's most vulnerable communities, as defined by the Social Vulnerability Index.** The state's most vulnerable tracts (in which 28% of the population resides) receive 22% of grant awards, 22% of grant funds and 27% of project activities. The least vulnerable tracts (in which 31% of the population resides) receive 22% of grant awards, 22% of grant funds and 21% of project activities.
- **Counties with the highest concentration of individuals with disabilities are receiving fewer operating support awards.** The 26 counties with the highest percentages of persons with disabilities received 1% of IAC awards and 1% of dollars. These counties are predominantly rural.





## Grant and Activity Location

Because each SAA has a legislative mandate to serve its entire state, geographic equity is an important consideration. Understanding the relative distribution of grants across counties and the balance between rural and urban funding is of particular importance.

For fiscal years 2016-2022, IAC GOS awards reached 1,678 organizations located in 50 counties. 23,563 activity locations were documented for these organizations, reaching 87 counties. The majority of GOS grants and dollars during FY2016-2022 went to Cook County. Cook County remained consistent in averaging 66% of GOS dollars over the time period while representing 41% of the state's population. Within Cook County, Chicago received 83% of GOS dollars.

18 counties consistently ranked in the top 10 awarded GOS dollars over the 2016-2022 period: Champaign, Cook, DeKalb, DuPage, Jackson, Kane, Kankakee, Knox, Lake, McDonough, McHenry, McLean, Peoria, Rock Island, Sangamon, Vermilion, Will and Winnebago (see tables in Appendix).

**Table 15: All General Operating Support, Top Counties (FY2016-2022)**

County	GOS Dollars Awarded	Percent of GOS Dollars	No. of GOS Grants	Percent of GOS Grants
Cook	\$27,060,510	67.5%	2,496	65.4%
DuPage	\$1,878,705	4.7%	218	5.7%
Champaign	\$1,264,185	3.2%	138	3.6%
Lake	\$1,224,685	3.1%	100	2.6%
Kane	\$916,485	2.3%	88	2.3%
Peoria	\$1,143,230	2.9%	82	2.1%
Winnebago	\$994,975	2.5%	55	1.4%
Rock Island	\$700,815	1.7%	52	1.4%
McLean	\$473,100	1.2%	52	1.4%
Sangamon	\$512,900	1.3%	51	1.3%

**Table 16: All General Operating Support, Cook County vs. All Other Counties (FY2016-2022)**

County	GOS Dollars Awarded	Percent of GOS Dollars	No. of GOS Grants	Percent of GOS Grants
Cook	\$27,060,510	67.5%	2,496	65.4%
All others	\$13,011,830	32.5%	1,321	34.6%

**Table 17: Percent of GOS Dollars to Cook County, by Fiscal Year**

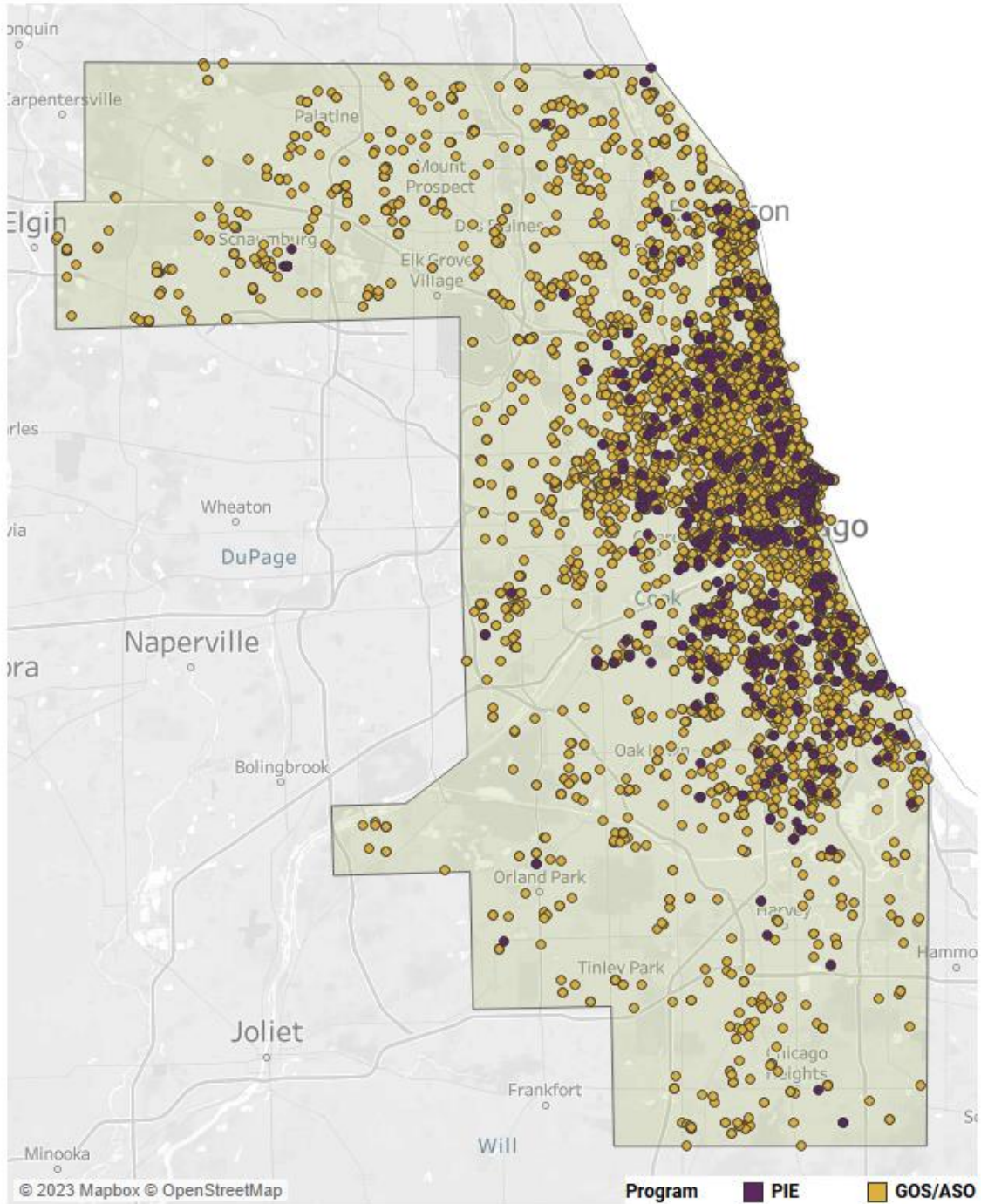
<b>FY</b>	<b>Percent</b>
2016	66.7%
2017	69.3%
2018	54.0%
2019	67.8%
2020	67.6%
2021	67.2%
2022	67.4%

**Table 18: All GOS, Chicago vs. All Other Cities in Cook County (FY2016-2022)**

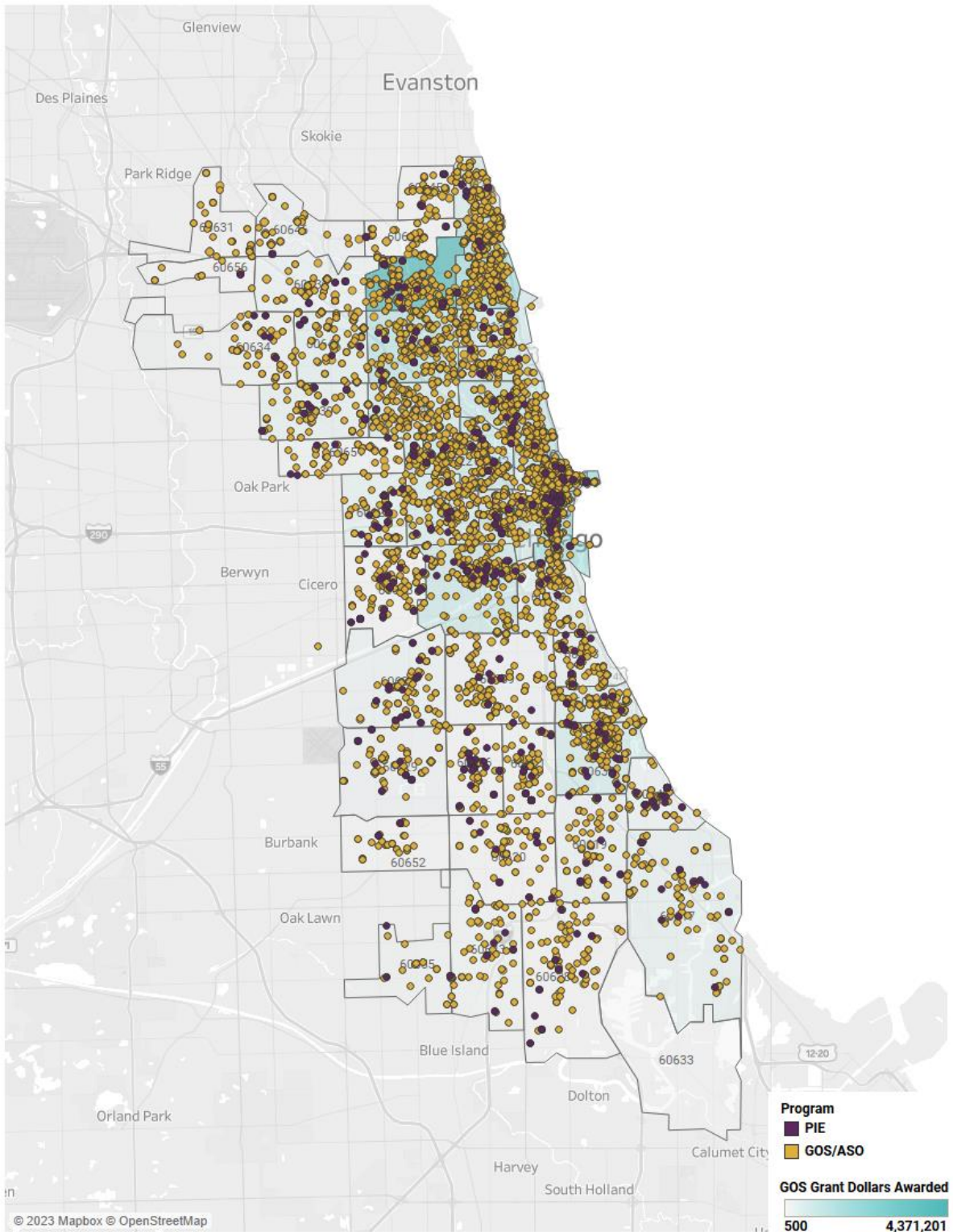
<b>City</b>	<b>No. of GOS Grants</b>	<b>Percent of Grants</b>	<b>GOS Grant Dollars</b>	<b>Percent of GOS Grant Dollars</b>
Chicago	1,953	78.2%	\$22,581,990	83.4%
All others in Cook County	543	21.8%	\$4,478,520	16.6%

The following figures map grants for Cook County and the Chicago area from FY2016-2022. For detailed maps of Champaign, McLean, Peoria, Sangamon and Winnebago counties, see the Appendix.

**Figure 2: Cook County Grants and Activity Locations (FY2016-2022)**



**Figure 3: Cook County Grants and Activity Locations, Chicago Area (FY2016-2022)**





The table below shows the top 10 counties ranked by GOS per capita dollars. While Cook County receives a substantial share of GOS grants and dollars, other counties are receiving more dollars per person. Moultrie county ranks highest at \$17.68 per person, followed by Jefferson at \$7.22 per person.

**Table 19: Top 10 Counties Ranked by Per Capita GOS Grant Dollars (FY2016-2022)**

County	No. of GOS Grants	GOS Grant Dollars	Population	Population Rank	Dollars by Population
Moultrie	6	\$258,665	14,634	74	\$17.68
Jefferson	6	\$269,765	37,362	37	\$7.22
McDonough	23	\$194,235	27,743	50	\$7.00
Marshall	6	\$75,150	11,781	85	\$6.38
Peoria	82	\$1,143,230	182,439	12	\$6.27
Champaign	138	\$1,264,185	206,583	10	\$6.12
Adams	26	\$393,635	65,878	23	\$5.98
Carroll	5	\$82,350	15,586	71	\$5.28
<b>Cook</b>	<b>2,496</b>	<b>\$27,060,510</b>	<b>5,265,398</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>\$5.14</b>
Rock Island	52	\$700,815	144,694	14	\$4.84

Population data is based on the U.S. Census Bureau 2021 American Community Survey.

The figures below display per capita GOS grant dollars for FY2022 and for FY2016-2022. Fifty-two counties were not reached by GOS grants from FY2016-2022. A list of the counties is provided in the Appendix. The state per capita median for all the counties reached by GOS grants in FY2022 is \$0.64 per person.

**Figure 4: Per Capita Figures for GOS Dollars, by County (FY2022)**

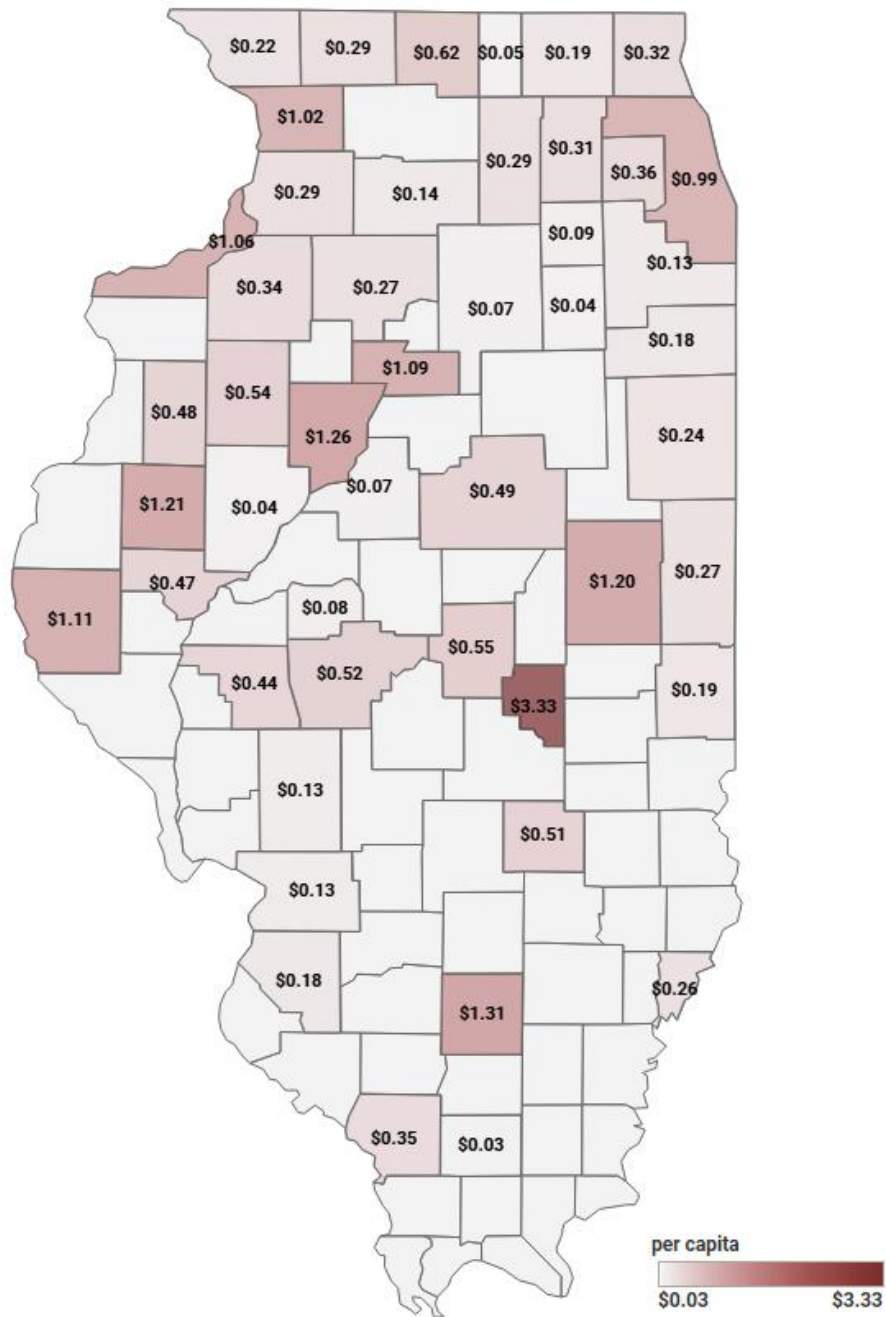
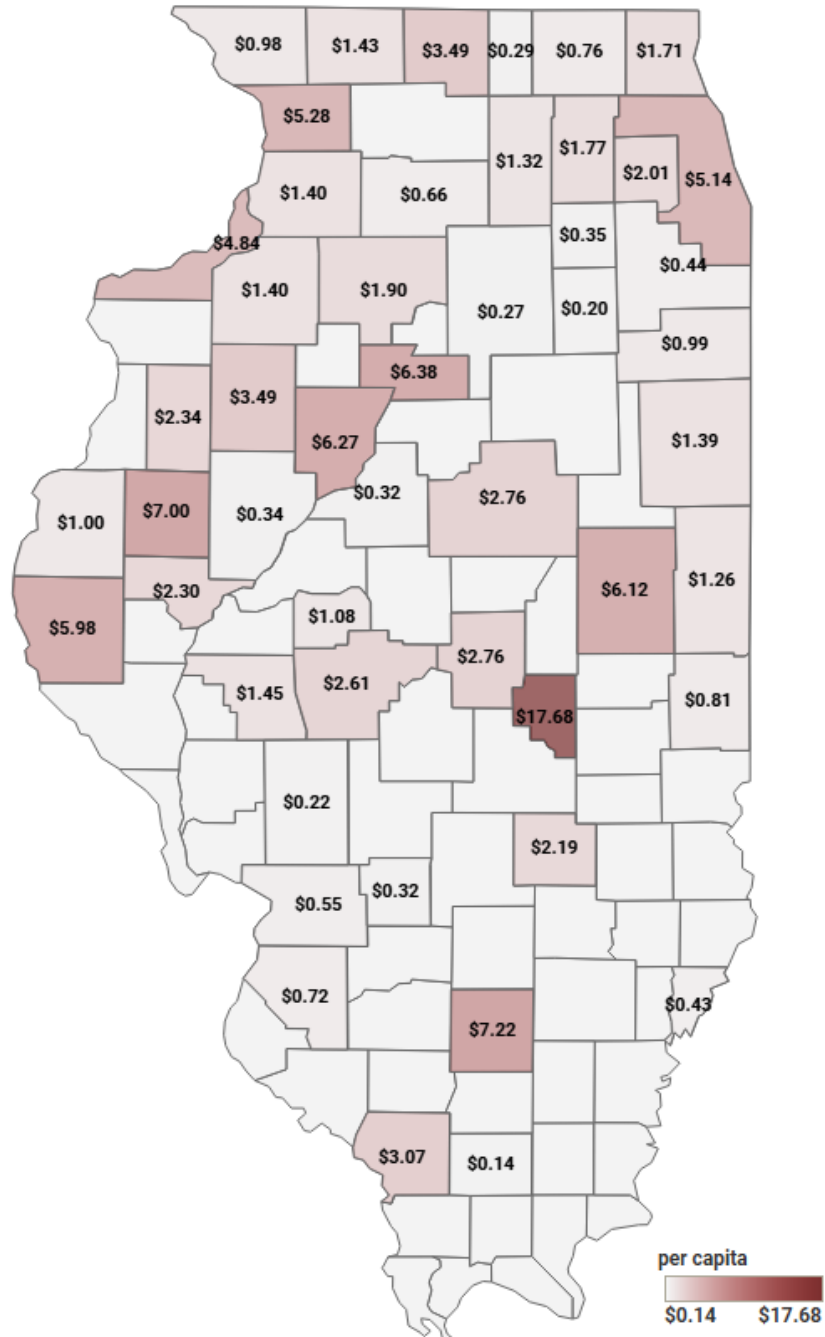
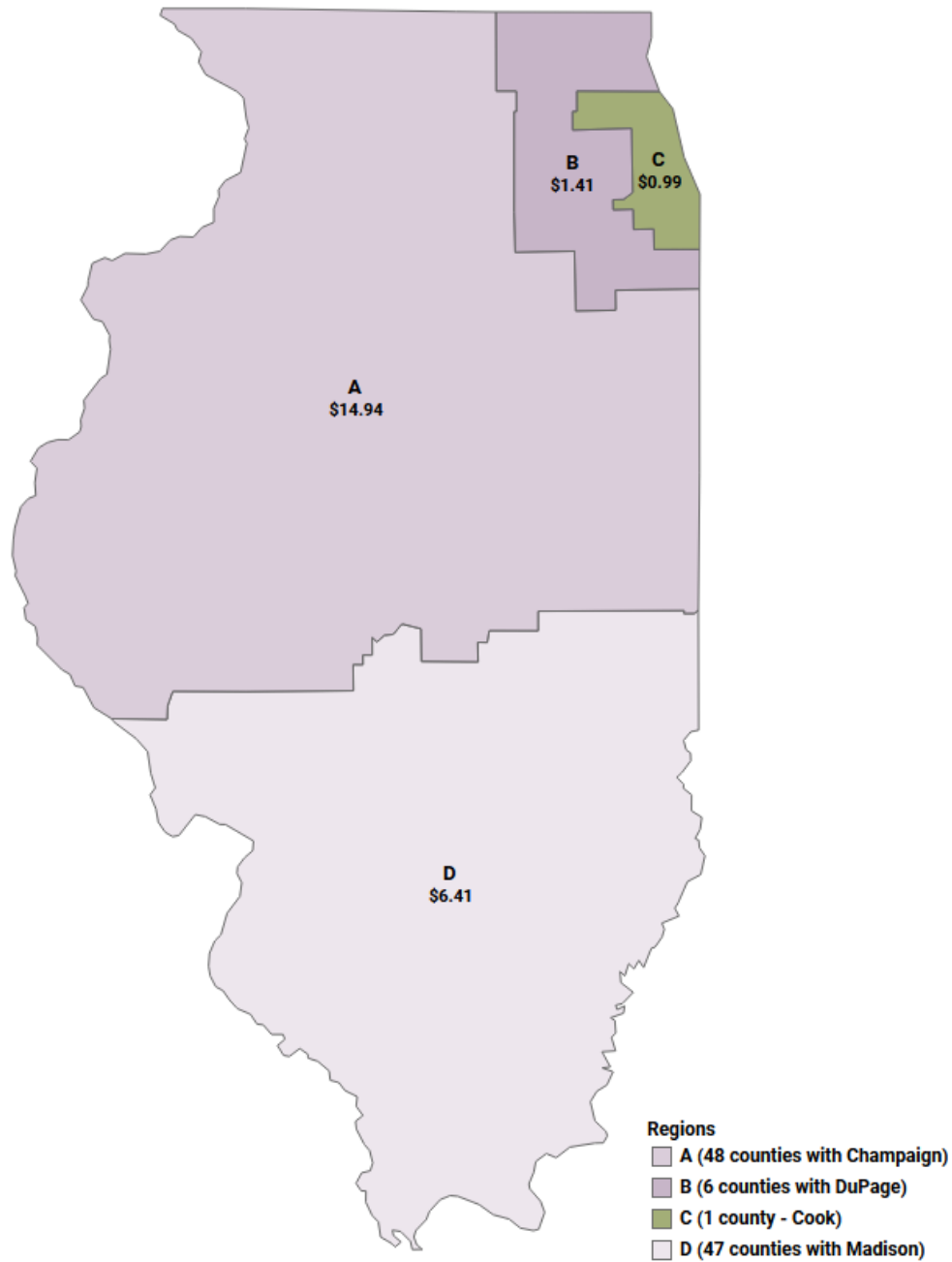


Figure 5: Per Capita Figures for GOS Dollars, by County (FY2016-2022)

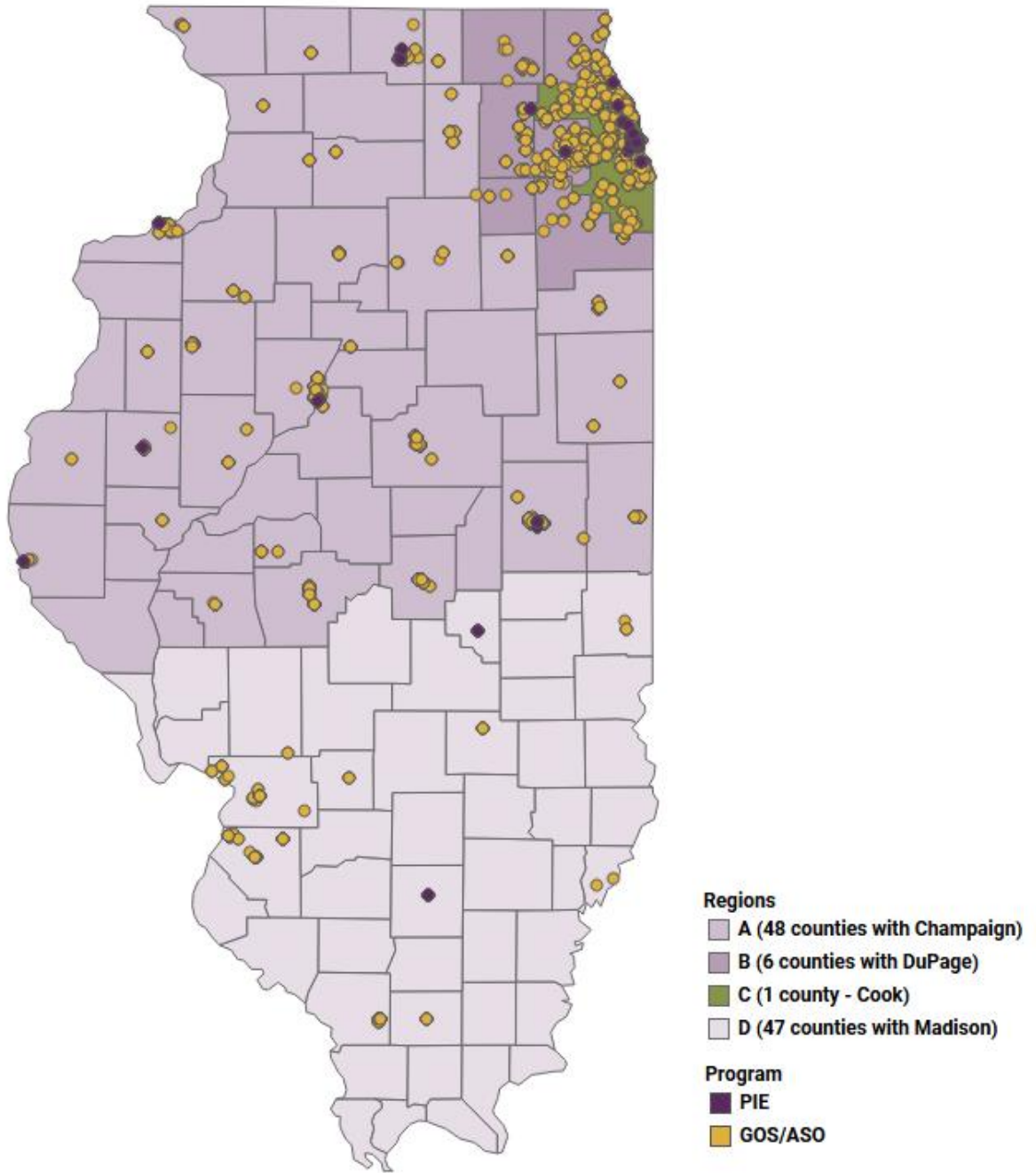


The distribution of GOS grants above shows that most of these grants are concentrated in a few areas. Other support awards (all non-GOS grants) have a wider spread, reaching into some counties that did not receive GOS grants in the time period analyzed. Nevertheless, geographic gaps are still present in 36 counties.

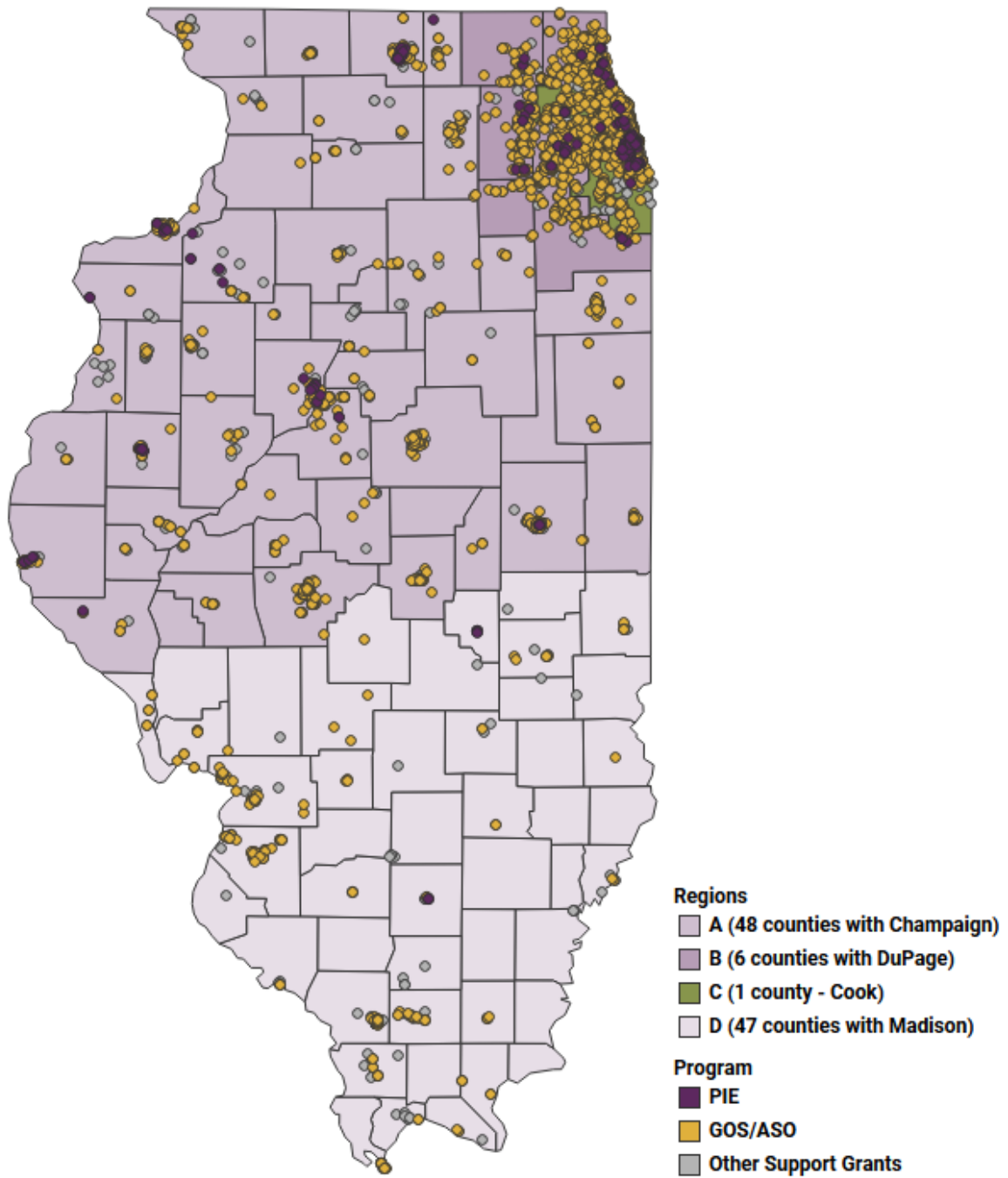
**Figure 6: Per Capita Figures for All Grant Dollars, by Region (FY2016-2022)**



**Figure 7: Locations of GOS Grants, by County (FY2016-2022)**



**Figure 8: Locations of GOS Grants and Other Support Grants, by County (FY2016-2022)**





The tables below show the grant and grant activity location numbers for all GOS grants, GOS/ASO grants and PIE grants for Cook County and all other counties. The majority of GOS grants, dollars and activities take place within Cook County, exceeding the county's representation of the Illinois population. PIE grants, dollars and activity locations are more evenly distributed between Cook County and other counties, although they still proportionally exceed the population of Cook County.

**Table 20: All GOS Grants and Grant Activity Locations, Cook County vs. Others (FY2016-2022)**

County	Percent of Population	No. of Grants	Percent of Grants	Grant Dollars	Percent of Grant Dollars	No. of Grants & Activity Locations	Percent of Grants & Activity Locations
Cook	41.1%	2,496	65.4%	\$27,060,510	67.6%	16,757	71.2%
Others	58.9%	1,319	34.6%	\$12,985,430	32.4%	6,791	28.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>3,815</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$40,045,940</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>23,548</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Table 21: GOS/ASO Grants and Grant Activity Locations, Cook County vs. Others (FY2016-2022)**

County	Percent of Population	No. of Grants	Percent of Grants	Grant Dollars	Percent of Grant Dollars	No. of Grants & Activity Locations	Percent of Grants & Activity Locations
Cook	41.1%	2,393	65.9%	\$22,348,050	69.5%	15,809	71.5%
Others	58.9%	1,238	34.1%	\$9,816,000	30.5%	6,313	28.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>3,631</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$32,164,050</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>22,122</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Table 22: PIE Grants and Grant Activity Locations, Cook County vs. Others (FY2016-2022)**

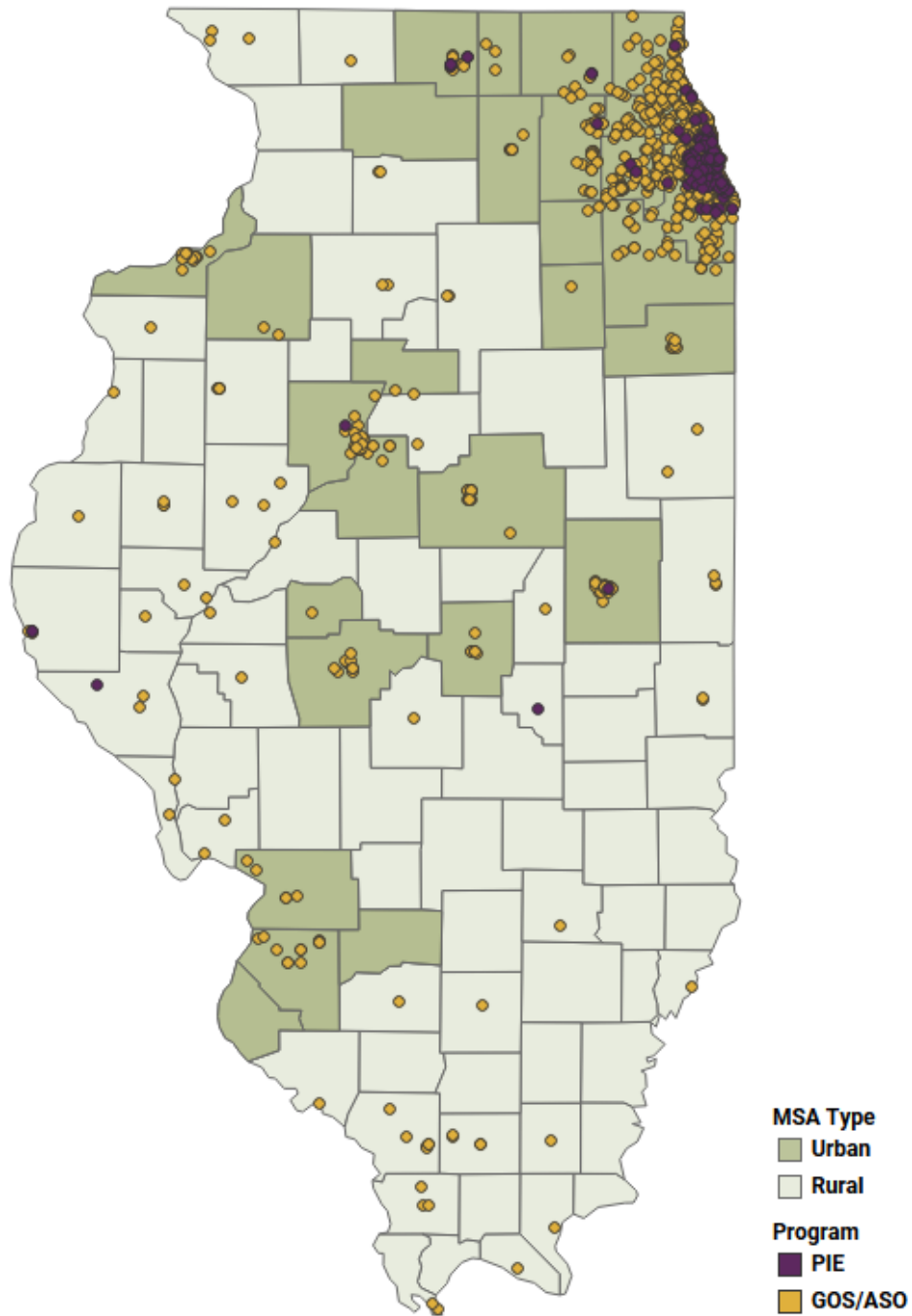
County	Percent of Population	No. of Grants	Percent of Grants	Grant Dollars	Percent of Grant Dollars	No. of Grants & Activity Locations	Percent of Grants & Activity Locations
Cook	41.1%	103	56.0%	\$4,712,460	59.8%	948	66.5%
Others	58.9%	81	44.0%	\$3,169,430	40.2%	478	33.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$7,881,890</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,426</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Grants by Rural and Urban Location

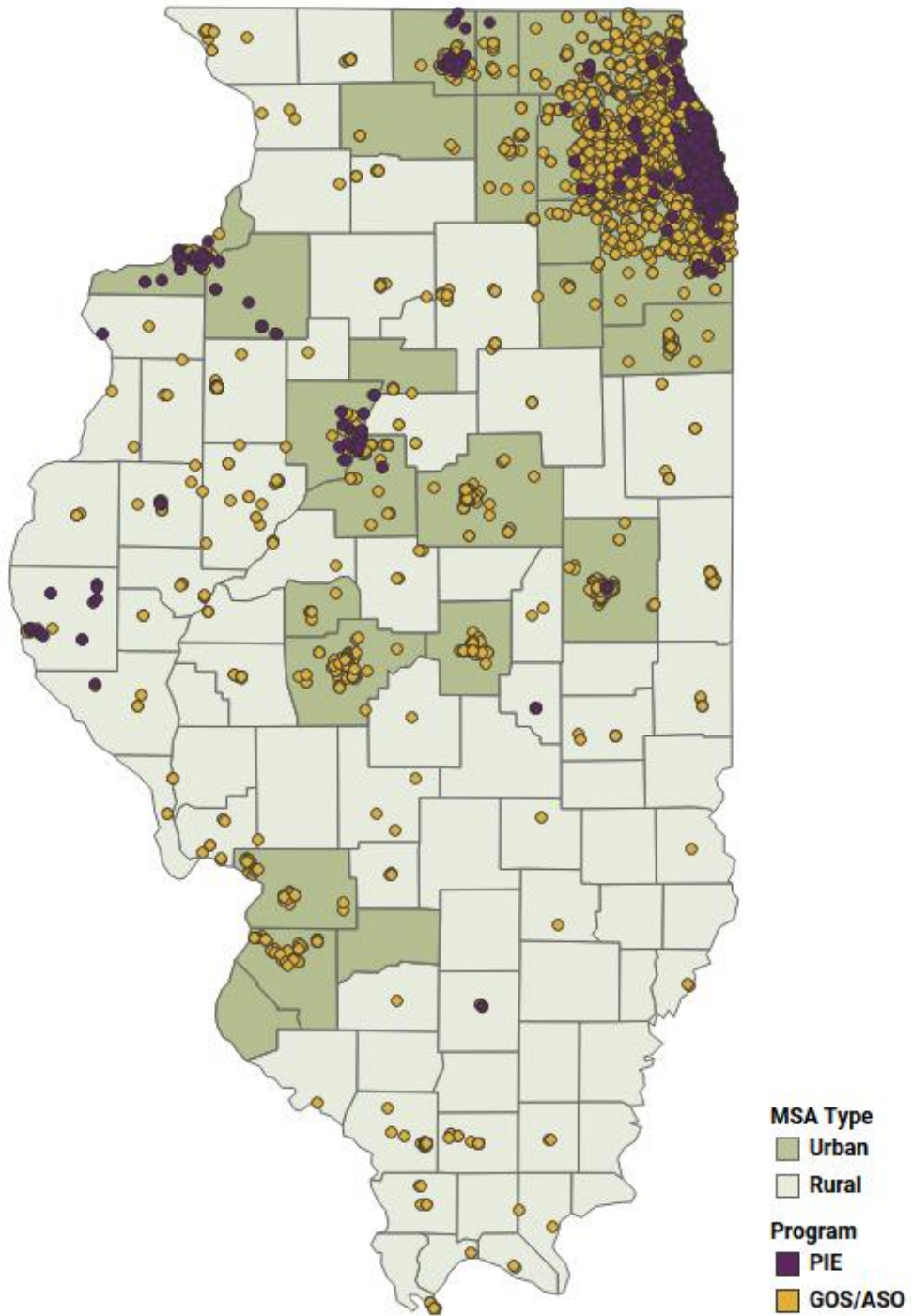
The following rural/urban analysis uses metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs), regions defined by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget based on urban centers and adjacent areas possessing a high amount of economic integration with those cores. For this analysis, grants were classified as falling within MSAs (urban) or outside of MSAs (rural) based on postal ZIP codes.

About 14% of Illinois's population lives in rural ZIP codes. GOS/ASO and PIE grants were awarded to grantees in rural places at 5.8% and 12.5%, respectively. More grant activities happened in rural settings for PIE programs than for GOS/ASO programs, at 8% and 4%, respectively. The percent of grant dollars going to rural PIE grantees (10%) was more than double that for GOS/ASO grantees (4%), but still fell far short of population proportionality.

**Figure 9: GOS Grant Activity Locations in Urban and Rural Counties (FY2022)**



**Figure 10: GOS Grant Activity Locations in Urban and Rural Counties  
(FY2016-2022)**



The tables below show the share of IAC operating awards and dollars going to rural and urban counties. The data show geographic disparities in IAC grants relative to the distribution of residents in urban versus rural areas. The urban share of all GOS dollars is around 95%, while 80% of the population is urban. The rural share of all GOS funding is just 6%, while 14% of Illinois residents live in rural counties. With the exception of FY2018, the percent of funds devoted to rural counties has decreased over the time period of FY2016-2022. The number of rural awards has stayed roughly the same in recent years, but the share of all grants represented by these awards has dropped, indicating that growth in the IAC grantee pool has come largely from urban areas.

**Table 23: All GOS Grants and Grant Activity Locations, by Rural vs. Urban (FY2016-2022)**

	Percent of Population	No. of Grants	Percent of Grants	Grant Dollars	Percent of Grant Dollars	No. of Grants & Activity Locations	Percent of Grants & Activity Locations
Rural	14.3%	232	6.1%	\$2,203,950	5.5%	1,043	4.4%
Urban	85.7%	3,583	93.9%	\$37,841,990	94.5%	22,520	95.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>3,815</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$40,045,940</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>23,563</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Table 24: GOS/ASO Grants and Grant Activity Locations, by Rural vs. Urban (FY2016-2022)**

	Percent of Population	No. of Grants	Percent of Grants	Grant Dollars	Percent of Grant Dollars	No. of Grants & Activity Locations	Percent of Grants & Activity Locations
Rural	14.3%	209	5.8%	\$1,404,300	4.4%	918	4.1%
Urban	85.7%	3,422	94.2%	\$30,759,750	95.6%	21,219	95.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>3,631</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$32,164,050</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>22,137</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Table 25: PIE Grants and Grant Activity Locations, by Rural vs. Urban (FY2016-2022)**

	Percent of Population	No. of Grants	Percent of Grants	Grant Dollars	Percent of Grant Dollars	No. of Grants & Activity Locations	Percent of Grants & Activity Locations
Rural	14.3%	23	12.5%	\$799,650	10.1%	125	8.8%
Urban	85.7%	161	87.5%	\$7,082,240	89.9%	1,301	91.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$7,881,890</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,426</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Table 26: All Grants and Grant Activity Locations, by Rural vs. Urban (FY2016-2022)**

	Percent of Population	No. of Grants	Percent of Grants	Grant Dollars	Percent of Grant Dollars	No. of Grants & Activity Locations	Percent of Grants & Activity Locations
Rural	14.3%	537	8.6%	\$6,181,247	9.6%	2,230	7.4%
Urban	85.7%	5,739	91.4%	\$58,414,265	90.4%	27,909	92.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>6,276</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$64,595,512</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>30,139</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Table 27: Rural GOS Grants, by Fiscal Year (FY2016-2022)**

Fiscal Year	No. of GOS Grants	GOS Grant Dollars	Rural GOS Grants	Percent of Rural GOS Grants	Rural GOS Grant Dollars	Percent of Rural GOS Grant Dollars	Minimum Rural Grant Dollars	Median Rural Grants Dollars	Maximum Rural Grant Dollars
2016	596	\$3,793,065	40	6.7%	\$229,300	6.0%	\$600	\$3,000	\$24,165
2017	463	\$5,096,700	25	5.4%	\$227,200	4.5%	\$1,000	\$5,200	\$46,000
2018	76	\$246,700	7	9.2%	\$23,100	9.4%	\$400	\$2,500	\$7,300
2019	614	\$7,752,600	37	6.0%	\$453,600	5.9%	\$2,100	\$9,200	\$52,900
2020	632	\$7,744,775	37	5.9%	\$428,850	5.5%	\$1,500	\$7,400	\$53,400
2021	703	\$7,677,600	43	6.1%	\$434,450	5.7%	\$1,300	\$7,300	\$44,500
2022	705	\$7,475,950	43	6.1%	\$407,450	5.5%	\$1,200	\$5,700	\$48,800
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,789</b>	<b>\$39,787,390</b>	<b>232</b>	<b>6.1%</b>	<b>\$2,203,950</b>	<b>5.5%</b>	<b>\$400</b>	<b>\$5,800</b>	<b>\$53,400</b>
<b>Average</b>	<b>541</b>	<b>\$5,683,913</b>	<b>33.14</b>		<b>\$314,850</b>		<b>\$1,157</b>	<b>\$5,757</b>	<b>\$39,581</b>

## Benchmarking Illinois and Similar States' Grants to Rural ZIP Codes

The tables below compare IAC to Cohort 1 and Cohort 2 benchmarking states for GOS rural grant making. California is included in Cohort 2 for the rural analysis. While California did not have enough information on grantee revenues to be included in the large SAA cohort 2 budget analysis above, it has sufficient data to be included in the rural analysis below. *Rural* is defined as ZIP codes that fall outside of MSAs. Under such definitions, no ZIP code classifies as rural for New Jersey in Cohort 2.

The comparative data reveals that IAC's total percentages of GOS awards and dollars devoted to rural areas were on the lower end for Cohort 1, but also that the percentage of its rural population is the second lowest for this cohort. So, while other SAAs in Cohort 1 devote a higher percentage of funds to rural communities, they also have higher percentages of rural populations. Five out of the eight states devoted higher percentages of dollars to rural communities, around 20% versus IAC at 6%. Illinois ranked fourth in terms of median award size to rural communities, meaning that its awards are relatively large compared to other states.

Compared to Cohort 2, Illinois ranked as the lowest state, along with Ohio, in percentage of funds going to rural communities, while having the third largest percentage of rural communities in the



cohort. Five out of the seven states with rural communities devote higher percentages of dollars to rural programs than IAC. Many of the larger states devote more grant awards to rural communities than the percentage of their population that resides in rural regions.

**Table 28: Rural GOS Grants for Illinois and Benchmarked States, Cohort 1  
(FY2019, Sorted by Rural GOS Grant Dollars)**

SAA	% of Rural Population	No. of GOS Grants	GOS Grant Dollars	Rural GOS Grants	Percent of Rural GOS Grants	Rural GOS Grant Dollars	Percent of Rural GOS Grant Dollars	Minimum Rural Grant Dollars	Median Rural Grants Dollars	Maximum Rural Grant Dollars
OH	18%	336	\$10,532,815	50	14.90%	\$618,086	5.90%	\$943	\$9,898	\$31,088
IL	14%	614	\$7,752,600	37	6.00%	\$453,600	5.90%	\$2,100	\$9,200	\$52,900
SC	26%	169	\$2,258,460	32	18.90%	\$433,738	19.20%	\$1,903	\$2,500	\$42,720
MO	30%	52	\$1,633,865	14	26.90%	\$266,217	16.30%	\$6,841	\$12,410	\$112,000
KY	49%	88	\$1,033,064	33	37.50%	\$262,454	25.40%	\$1,000	\$2,891	\$40,834
WI	31%	170	\$717,029	50	29.40%	\$161,190	22.50%	\$1,100	\$2,000	\$13,300
PA	15%	308	\$4,293,699	21	6.80%	\$126,778	3.00%	\$3,000	\$5,000	\$13,996
IA	49%	47	\$615,000	14	29.80%	\$115,000	18.70%	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$20,000
IN	25%	68	\$1,086,635	2	2.90%	\$24,783	2.30%	\$6,307	\$12,392	\$18,476
<b>Total</b>		<b>1,852</b>	<b>\$29,923,167</b>	<b>253</b>	<b>13.7%</b>	<b>\$2,461,846</b>	<b>8.2%</b>	<b>\$943</b>	<b>\$5,579</b>	<b>\$112,000</b>
<b>Avg.</b>		<b>206</b>	<b>\$3,324,796</b>	<b>51</b>		<b>\$9,731</b>		<b>\$3,133</b>	<b>\$6,810</b>	<b>\$38,368</b>

**Table 29: Rural GOS Grants for Illinois and Benchmarked States, Cohort 2  
(FY2019, Sorted by Rural GOS Grant Dollars)**

SAA	% of Rural Population	No. of GOS Grants	GOS Grant Dollars	Rural GOS Grants	Percent of Rural GOS Grants	Rural GOS Grant Dollars	Percent of Rural GOS Grant Dollars	Minimum Rural Grant Dollars	Median Rural Grants Dollars	Maximum Rural Grant Dollars
MN	27%	183	\$15,725,863	27	14.80%	\$1,023,569	6.50%	\$8,000	\$36,978	\$75,555
NY	7%	184	\$5,678,609	28	15.20%	\$748,300	13.20%	\$12,000	\$21,500	\$75,000
OH	18%	336	\$10,532,815	50	14.90%	\$618,086	5.90%	\$943	\$9,898	\$31,088
MA	5%	345	\$4,958,100	41	11.90%	\$521,400	10.50%	\$3,000	\$8,800	\$57,000
IL	14%	614	\$7,752,600	37	6.00%	\$453,600	5.90%	\$2,100	\$9,200	\$52,900
CA	3%	54	\$1,550,501	10	18.50%	\$449,988	29.00%	\$28,000	\$47,764	\$55,000
MD	7%	57	\$5,856,633	5	8.80%	\$429,704	7.30%	\$2,500	\$123,821	\$142,075
NJ	0%	104	\$9,844,750	0	0.00%	\$-	0.00%	\$-	\$-	\$-
<b>Total</b>		<b>1,263</b>	<b>\$54,147,271</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>12.7%</b>	<b>\$3,791,047</b>	<b>7.0%</b>	<b>\$943</b>	<b>\$15,000</b>	<b>\$142,075</b>
<b>Avg.</b>		<b>180</b>	<b>\$7,735,324</b>	<b>27</b>		<b>\$631,841</b>		<b>\$9,074</b>	<b>\$41,460</b>	<b>\$72,620</b>

## Populations in Poverty

The public sector has an important role to play in ensuring that arts activities are present in communities of all income levels, so that not only the wealthy have access to the benefits of the arts. For this reason, it is useful to examine the extent to which arts funding is reaching lower-income regions of a state.

Using demographic data from the U.S. Census Bureau's 2021 American Community Survey, the following maps and tables show the percentages of GOS grants by county poverty rates. Poverty is defined by the census as households that fall under the income required to meet basic needs. About 12% of the population of Illinois lived in poverty in 2021.

The poverty tables can be read as follows: The lowest 25% of counties are the group of counties with the lowest percentage of households in poverty; the middle 50% represent counties between the lowest and highest rates of households in poverty; and the highest 25% are counties that hold the highest rates of households in poverty.

When overlaying IAC grant records with county poverty data, the highest poverty counties in Illinois are receiving a share of grants and dollars exactly proportional to their population size. A majority of operating support grants and dollars went to counties representing the middle range of households in poverty. Wealthier counties (lowest 25%) received substantially fewer grants and dollars than the overall population they represent.

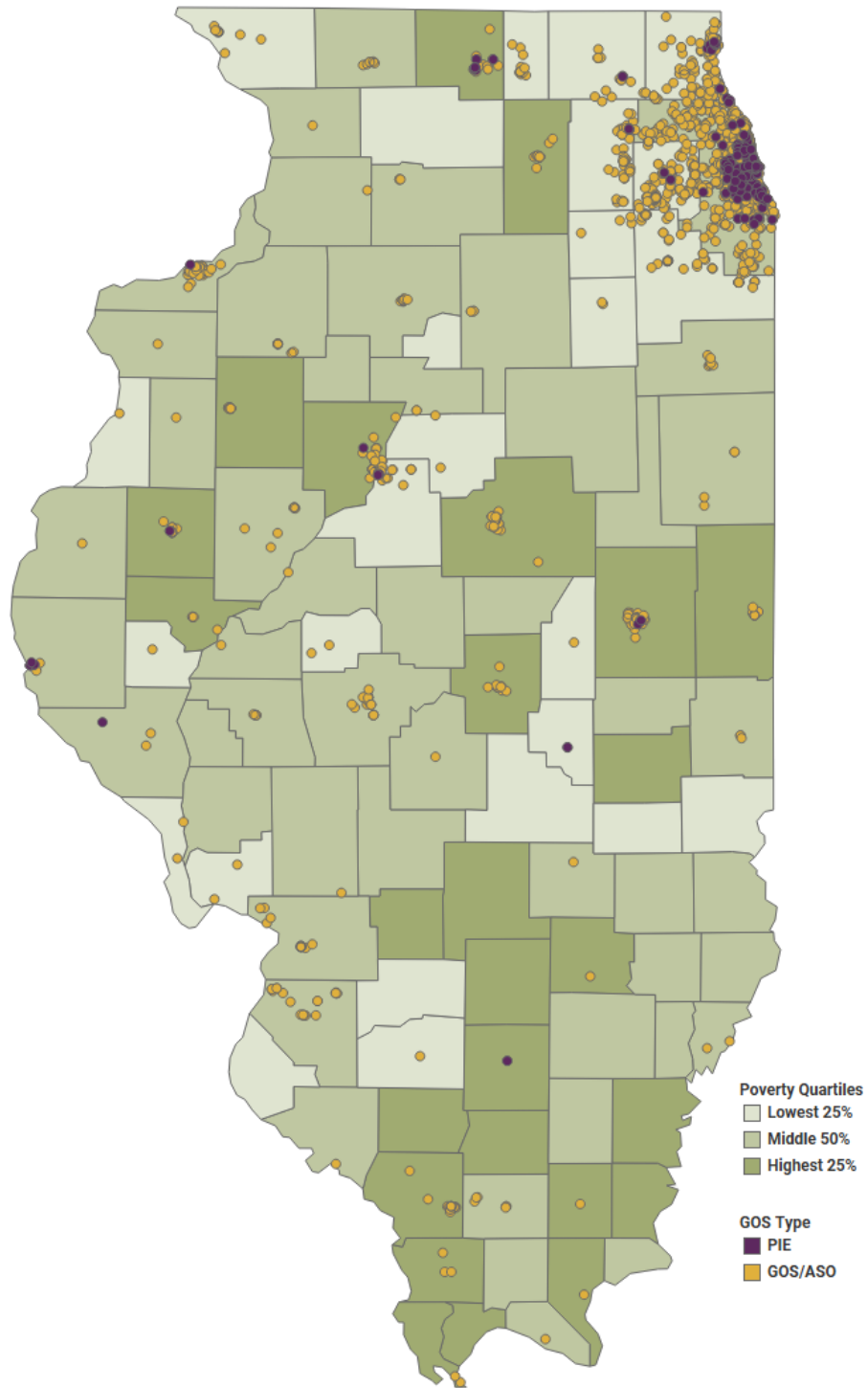
**Table 30: All GOS Grants and Grant Activity Locations, by County Poverty Rate (FY2022)**

Poverty Rate Quartile	No. of Grants	No. of Grants Percent of Total	Grant Dollars	Grant Dollars Percent of Total	Percent of Population	Activity Locations and Grants	Act'y. Loc'ns. and Grants Percent of Total	Counties
Lowest 25%	95	13%	\$962,150	13%	<b>30%</b>	438	13%	26
Middle 50%	552	75%	\$5,809,800	75%	<b>58%</b>	2,617	78%	50
Highest 25%	86	12%	\$977,250	12%	<b>12%</b>	285	9%	26

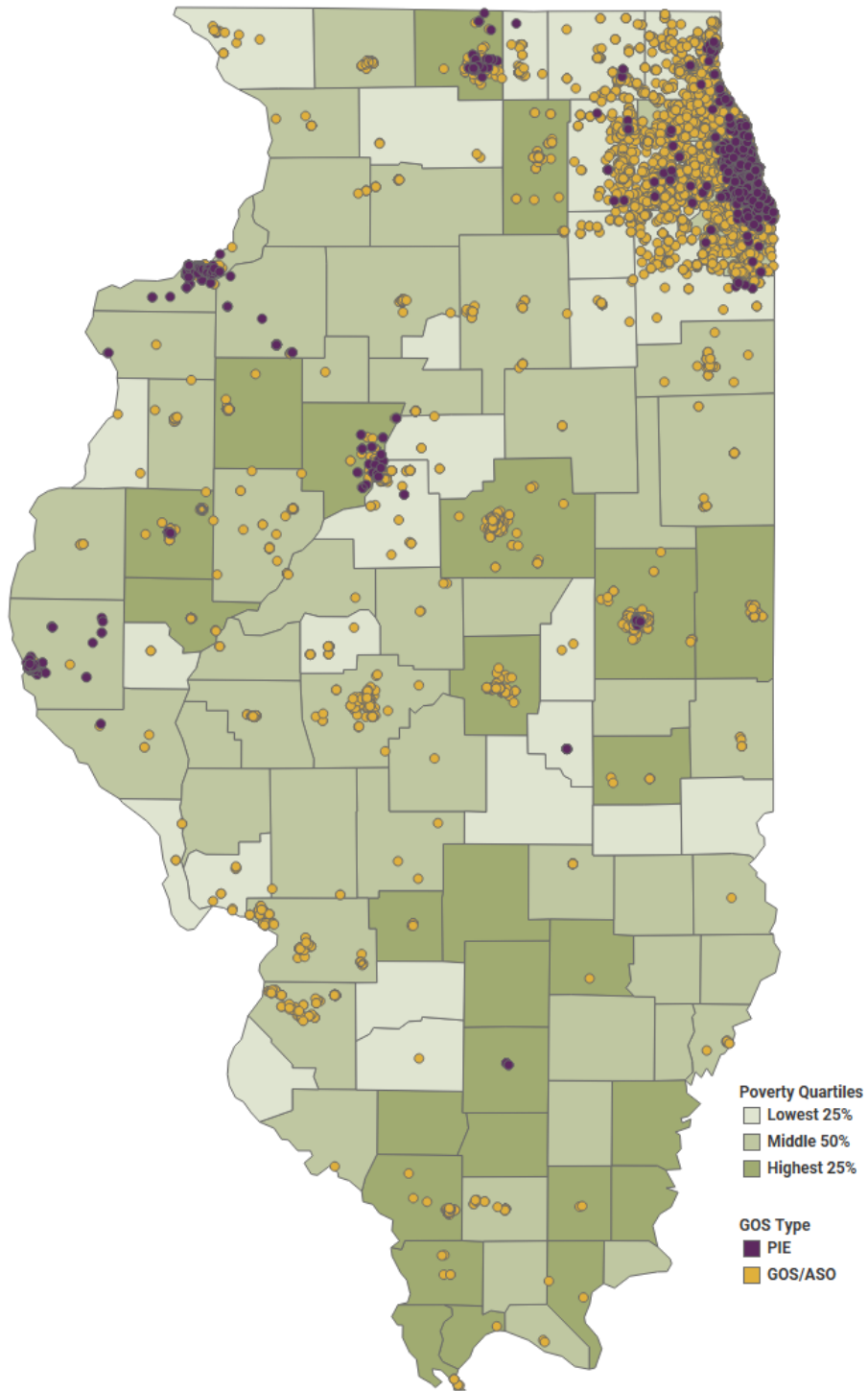
**Table 31: All GOS Grants and Grant Activity Locations, by County Poverty Rate (FY2016-2022)**

Poverty Rate Quartile	No. of Grants	No. of Grants Percent of Total	Grant Dollars	Grant Dollars Percent of Total	Percent of Population	Activity Locations and Grants	Act'y. Loc'ns. and Grants Percent of Total	Counties
Lowest 25%	523	14%	\$4,967,540	12%	<b>30%</b>	3,213	14%	26
Middle 50%	2,817	74%	\$29,861,510	75%	<b>58%</b>	18,228	77%	50
Highest 25%	475	12%	\$5,216,890	13%	<b>12%</b>	2,103	9%	26

**Figure 11: GOS Grant Activity Locations, by County and Poverty Rate (FY2022)**



**Figure 12: GOS Grant Activity Locations, by County and Poverty Rate (FY2016-2022)**



To compare how GOS/ASO grants and PIE grants fare against other types of grants, the following tables show the total and percentage of other support grants (grants other than general operating support) by poverty rates. The tables show similar results to the GOS grant tables. However, substantially more of these project support grants, dollars and activities go toward counties with higher poverty rates.

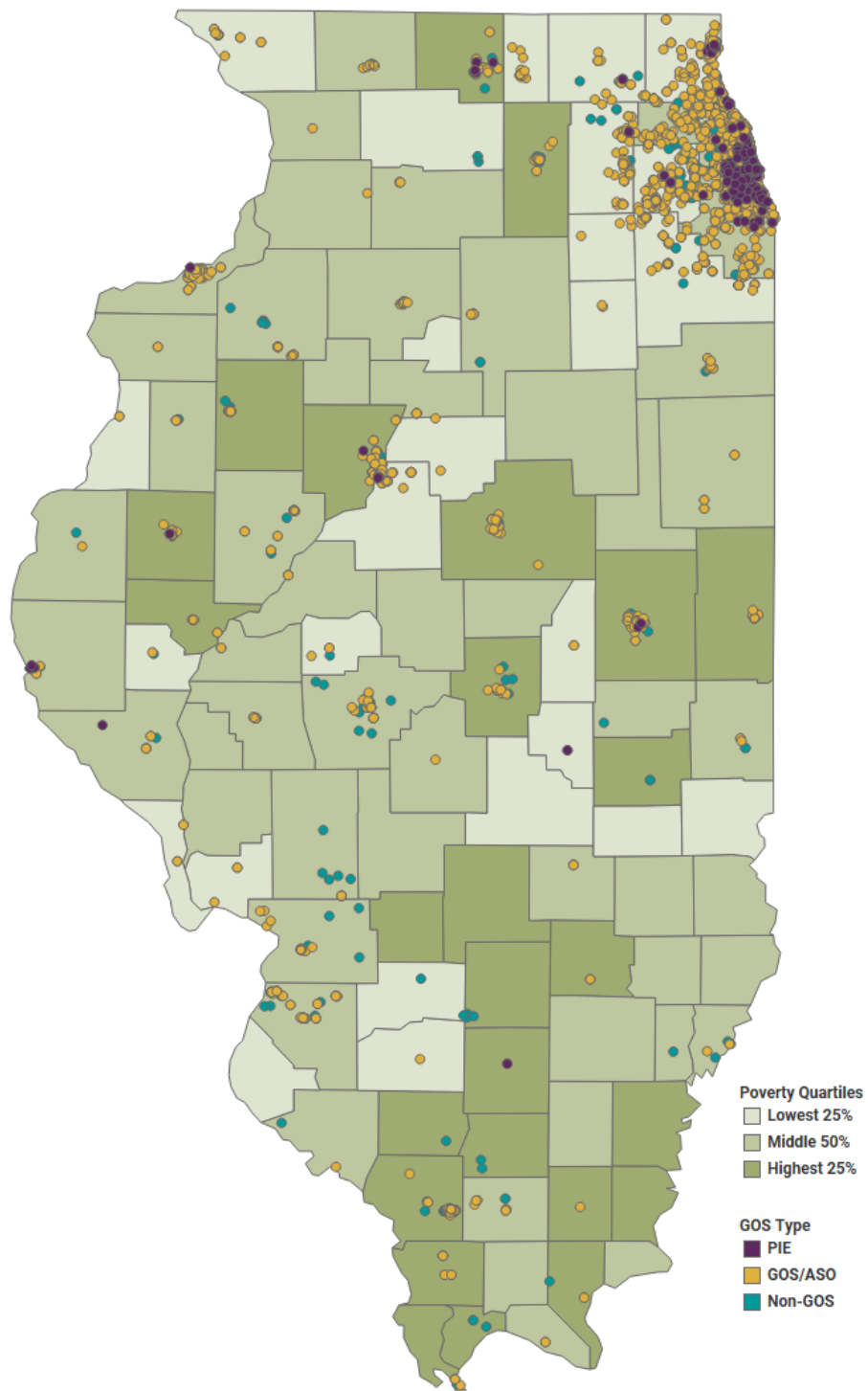
**Table 32: Other Support Grants and Grant Activity Locations, by Poverty Rate (FY2022)**

Poverty Rate Quartile	No. of Grants	No. of Grants Percent of Total	Grant Dollars	Grant Dollars Percent of Total	Percent of Population	Activity Locations and Grants	Act'y Loc'ns. and Grants Percent of Total	Counties
Lowest 25%	69	13%	\$388,130	7%	<b>30%</b>	203	12%	26
Middle 50%	382	69%	\$3,922,789	69%	<b>58%</b>	1,277	74%	50
Highest 25%	99	18%	\$1,335,360	24%	<b>12%</b>	237	14%	26

**Table 33: Other Support Grants and Grant Activity Locations, by Poverty Rate (FY216-2022)**

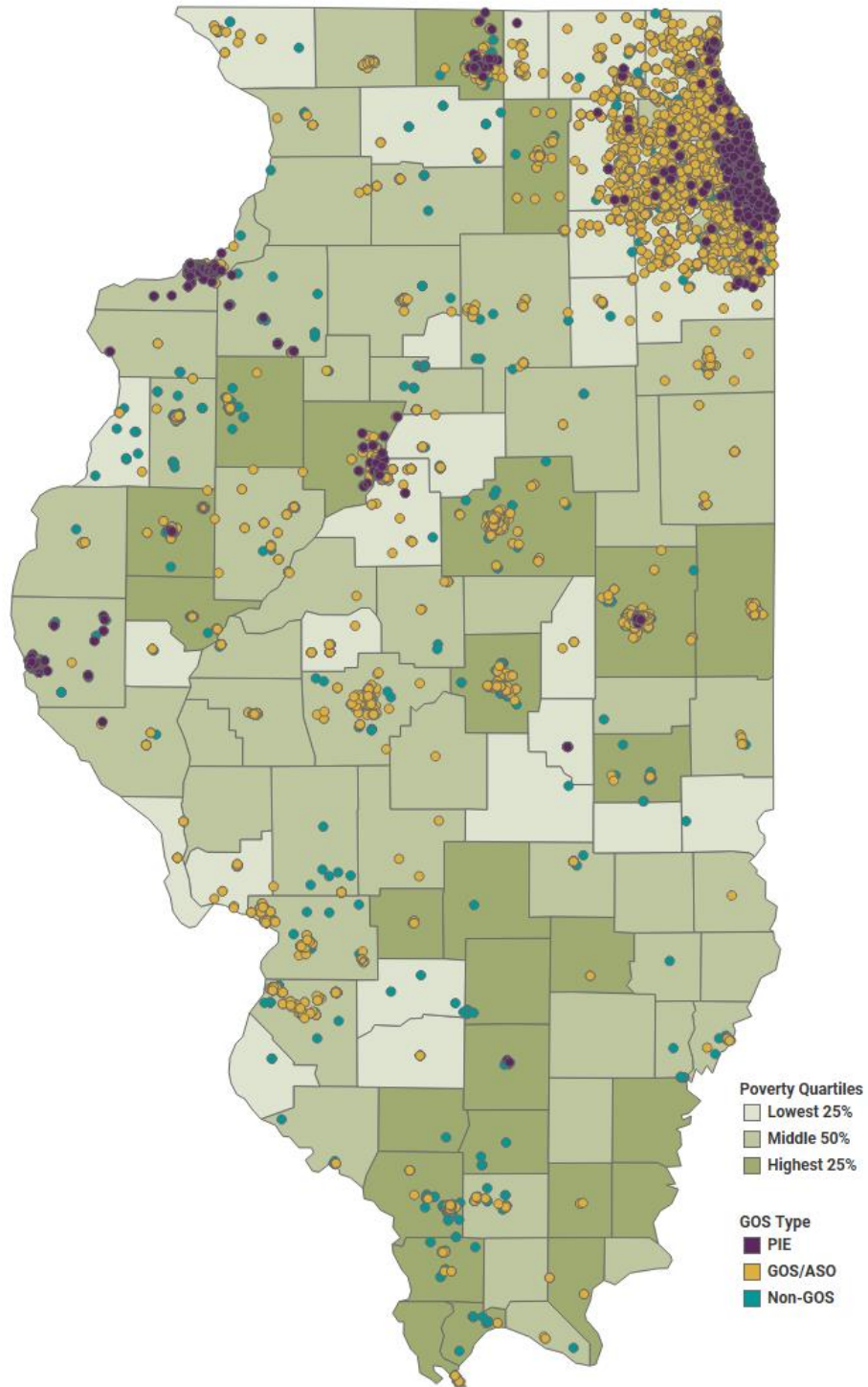
Poverty Rate Quartile	No. of Grants	No. of Grants Percent of Total	Grant Dollars	Grant Dollars Percent of Total	Percent of Population	Activity Locations and Grants	Act'y. Loc'ns. and Grants Percent of Total	Counties
Lowest 25%	332	13%	\$2,114,600	9%	<b>30%</b>	759	12%	26
Middle 50%	1,685	68%	\$16,191,788	66%	<b>58%</b>	4,544	69%	50
Highest 25%	444	18%	\$6,207,845	25%	<b>12%</b>	1,251	19%	26

**Figure 13: GOS and Other Grant Activity Locations, by County and Poverty Rate (FY2022)**





**Figure 14: GOS and Other Grant Activity Locations, by County and Poverty Rate (FY2016-2022)**



## Populations with Disabilities

People with disabilities are another population that often experiences barriers to arts participation. Although the data supplied by IAC did not permit an analysis of how many grant beneficiaries represented individuals with disabilities, it is possible to determine whether the arts council's grants are being awarded in counties showing the highest concentration of individuals with disabilities.

Using demographic data from the U.S. Census Bureau's 2021 American Community Survey, the following maps and tables show the percentages of GOS grants by county disability quartiles. The review shows that slightly more grants, dollars and activities are going to counties that have lower rates of disability relative to their population size (both GOS and other support grants). Counties with middle and higher rates are receiving fewer awards and dollars than their population sizes. Only 1% of IAC's GOS grants and dollars are going to the 26 counties comprising the state's highest concentrations of people with disabilities.

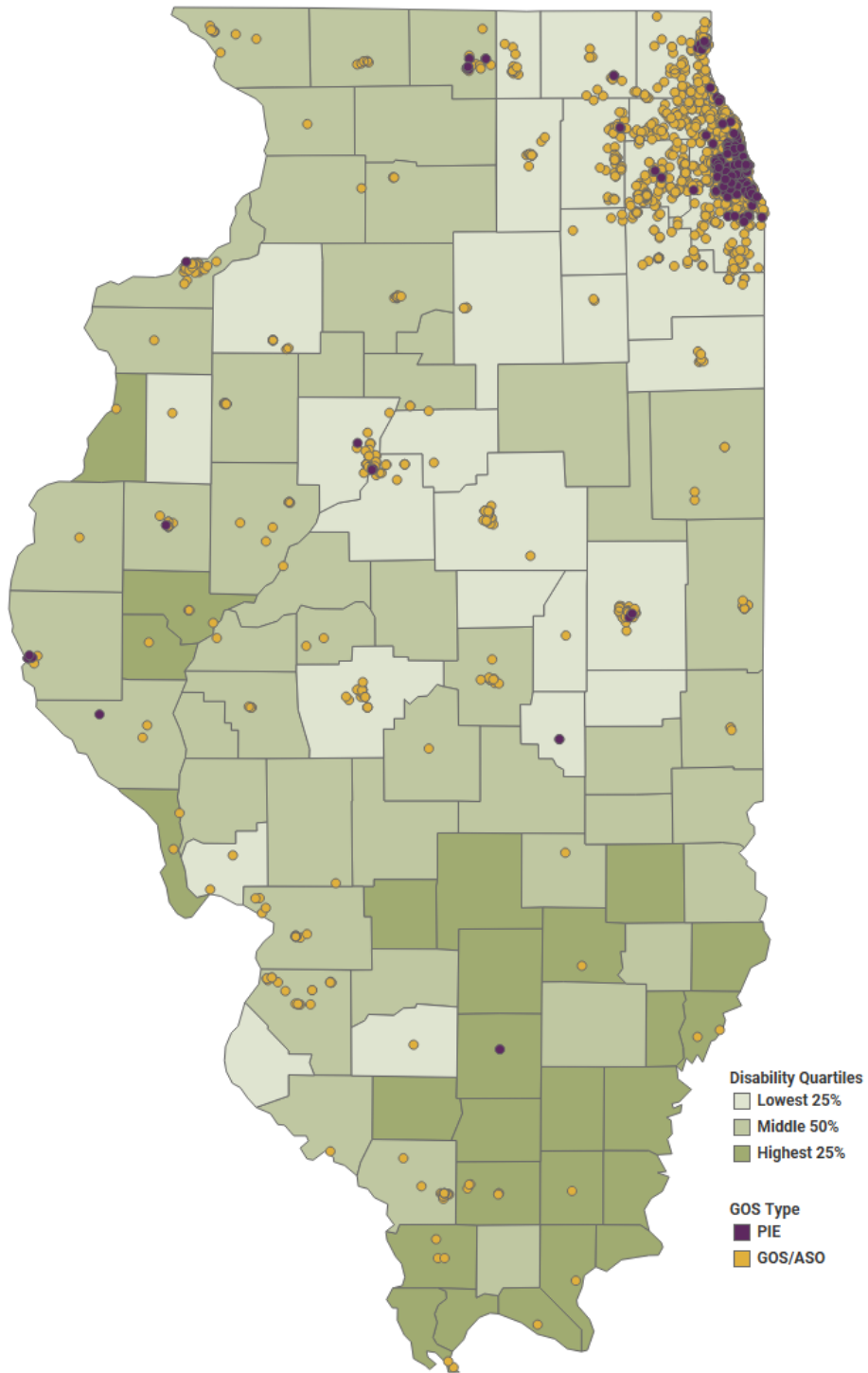
**Table 34: All GOS Grants and Grant Activity Locations, by Disability Rate (FY2022)**

Disability Rate Quartile	No. of Grants	No. of Grants Percent of Total	Grant Dollars	Grant Dollars Percent of Total	Percent of Population	Activity Locations and Grants	Act'y. Loc'ns. and Grants Percent of Total	Counties
Lowest 25%	652	89%	\$6,927,350	90%	<b>79%</b>	3,055	91%	27
Middle 50%	77	11%	\$764,950	10%	<b>18%</b>	258	8%	49
Highest 25%	4	1%	\$56,900	1%	<b>3%</b>	27	1%	26

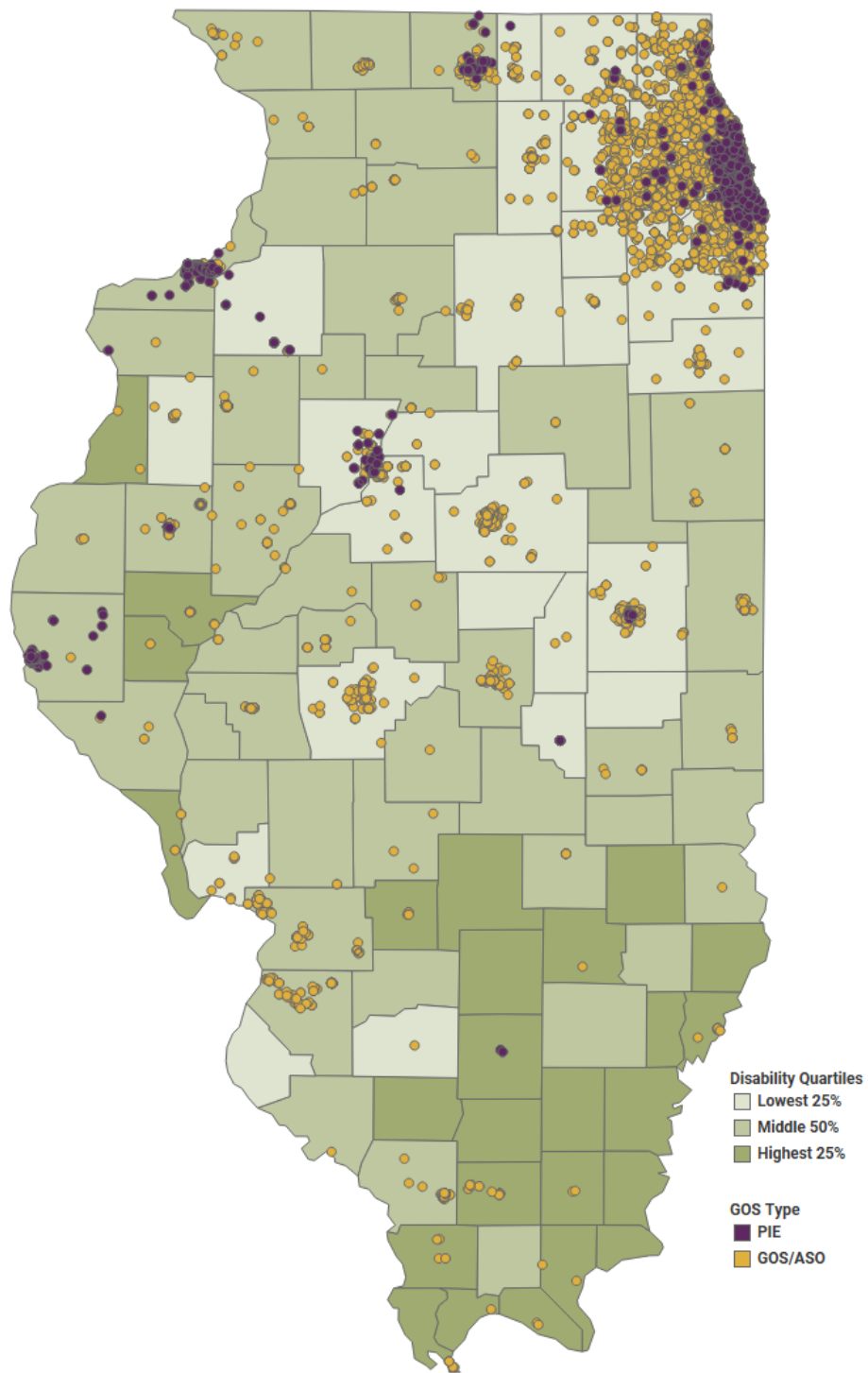
**Table 35: All GOS Grants and Grant Activity Locations, by Disability Rate (FY2016-2022)**

Disability Rate Quartile	No. of Grants	No. of Grants Percent of Total	Grant Dollars	Grant Dollars Percent of Total	Percent of Population	Activity Locations and Grants	Act'y. Loc'ns. and Grants Percent of Total	Counties
Lowest 25%	3,389	89%	\$35,765,365	89%	<b>79%</b>	21,731	92%	27
Middle 50%	406	11%	\$3,975,010	10%	<b>18%</b>	1,725	7%	49
Highest 25%	20	1%	\$305,565	1%	<b>3%</b>	88	0%	26

**Figure 15: GOS Grant Activity Locations, by Disability Rate (FY2022)**



**Figure 16: GOS Grant Activity Locations, by Disability Rate (FY2016-2022)**



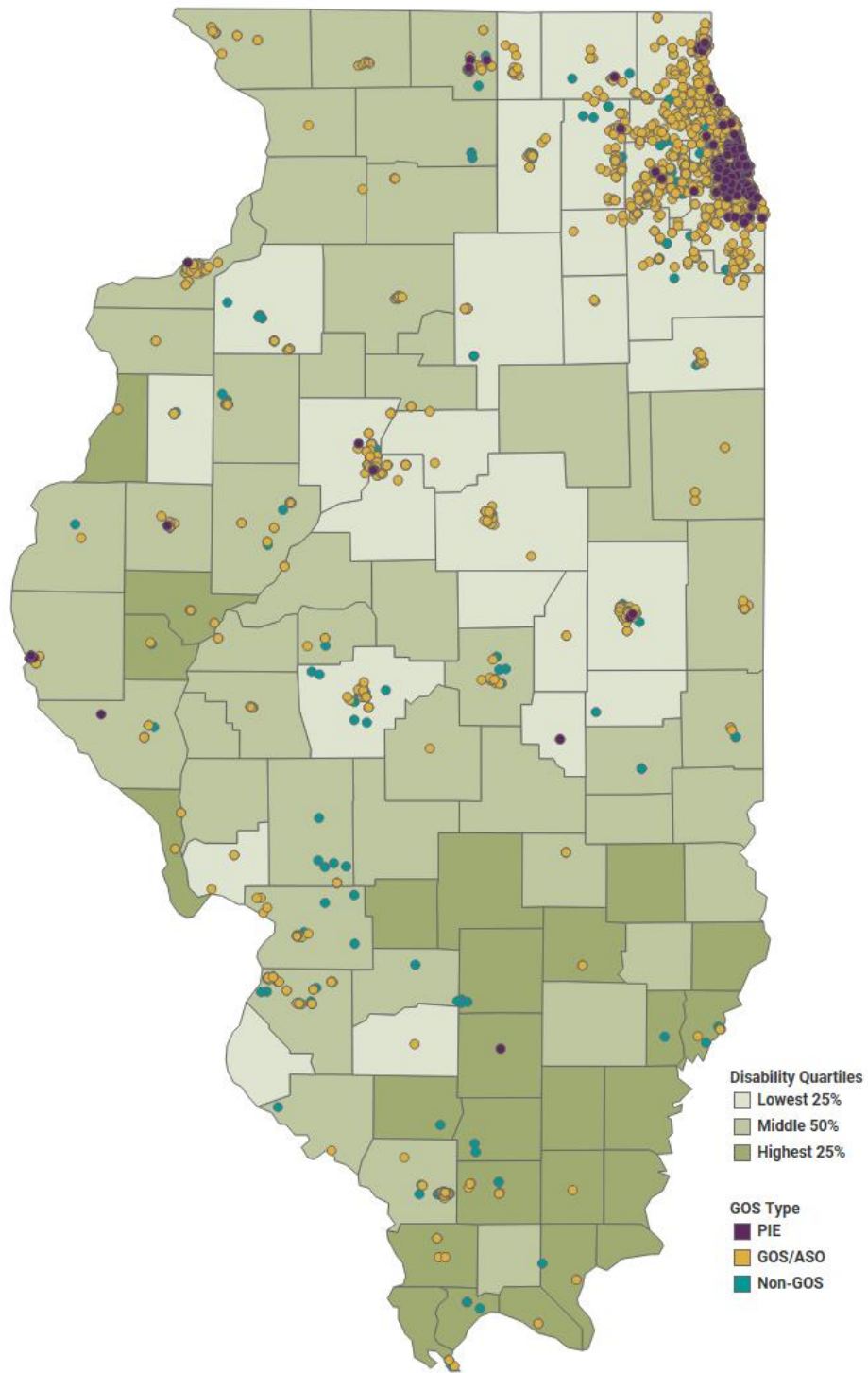
**Table 36: Other Support Grants and Grant Activity Locations, by Disability Rate (FY2022)**

Disability Rate Quartile	No. of Grants	No. of Grants Percent of Total	Grant Dollars	Grant Dollars Percent of Total	Percent of Population	Activity Locations and Grants	Act'y. Loc'ns. And Grants Percent of Total	Counties
Lowest 25%	450	82%	\$4,406,134	78%	<b>79%</b>	1,425	83%	27
Middle 50%	89	16%	\$1,044,125	18%	<b>18%</b>	249	15%	49
Highest 25%	11	2%	\$196,020	3%	<b>3%</b>	43	3%	26

**Table 37: Other Support Grants and Grant Activity Locations, by Disability Rate (FY2016-2022)**

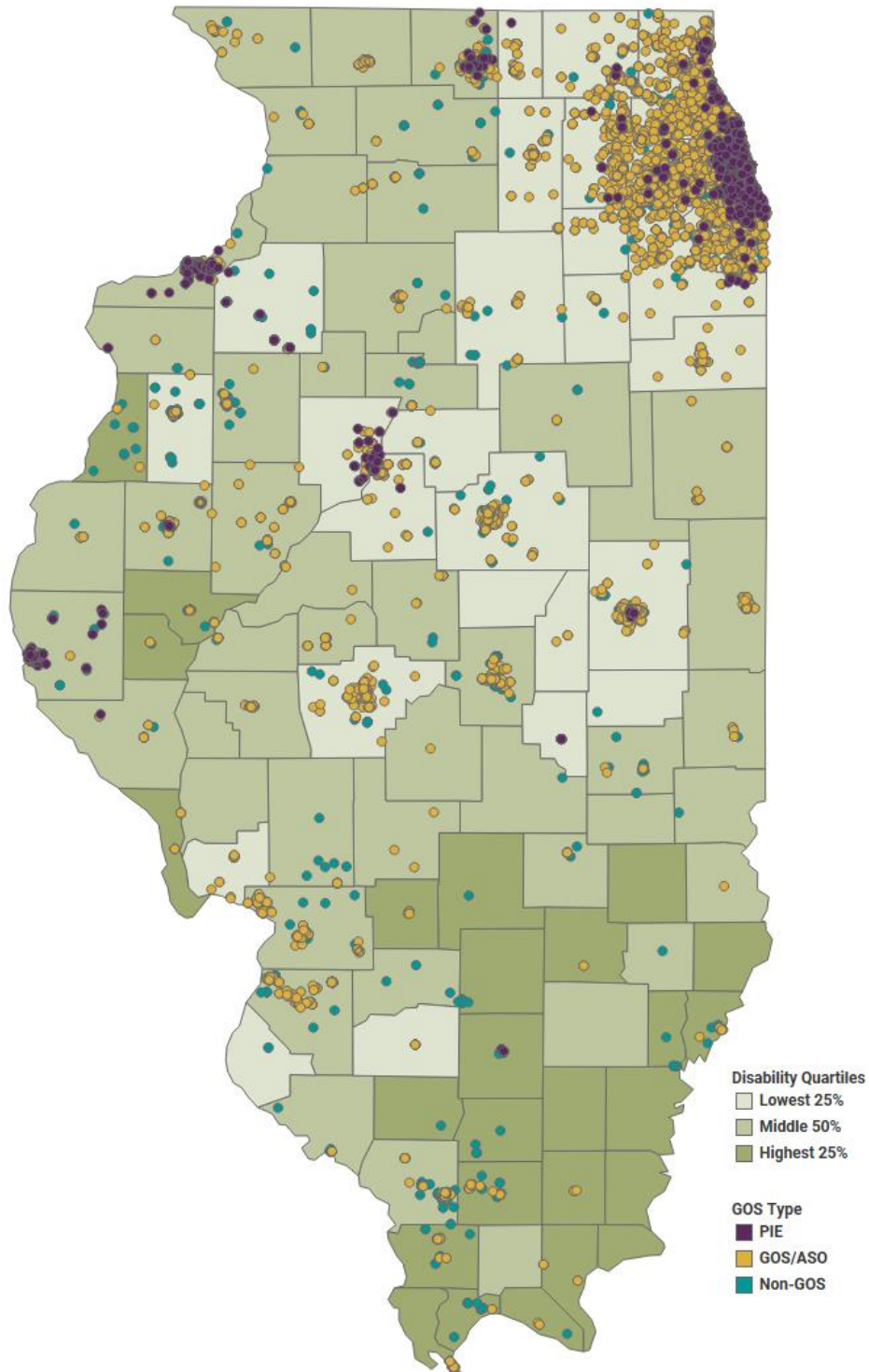
Disability Rate Quartile	No. of Grants	No. of Grants Percent of Total	Grant Dollars	Grant Dollars Percent of Total	Percent of Population	Activity Locations and Grants	Act'y. Loc'ns. And Grants Percent of Total	Counties
Lowest 25%	2,005	81%	\$19,043,544	78%	<b>79%</b>	4,980	76%	27
Middle 50%	420	17%	\$4,586,561	19%	<b>18%</b>	1,396	21%	49
Highest 25%	36	1%	\$884,128	4%	<b>3%</b>	178	3%	26

**Figure 17: GOS and Other Grant Activity Locations, by County and Disability Rate (FY2022)**





**Figure 18: GOS and Other Grant Activity Locations, by County and Disability Rate (FY2016-2022)**



## Social Vulnerability

Vulnerable populations often experience barriers to arts participation. [The Social Vulnerability Index \(SVI\)](#) uses 16 U.S. Census Bureau variables to identify communities that are highly vulnerable to human suffering and economic stress. Variables include socioeconomic status, household characteristics, racial and ethnic minority status, and housing type and transportation. The index was initially developed by the public health community to plan services for populations that may need public assistance before, during and after disasters. However, the index has been used across other sectors by planners and social scientists to understand community needs and risk susceptibility. The index may offer SAAs an interesting lens for understanding whether arts funds are reaching communities that are at especially high risk for crises or may face especially acute resource constraints.

This analysis explores the SVI and grant making at the census tract level. In FY2022, Illinois's most vulnerable tracts (in which 23% of the population resides) received 22% of IAC grant awards, 22% of grant funds and 27% of grant activity locations. The least vulnerable tracts (in which 26% of the population resides) received 22% of grant awards, 22% of grant funds and 21% of grant activity locations.

**Table 38: All GOS Grants and Grant Activity Locations, by SVI (FY2022)**

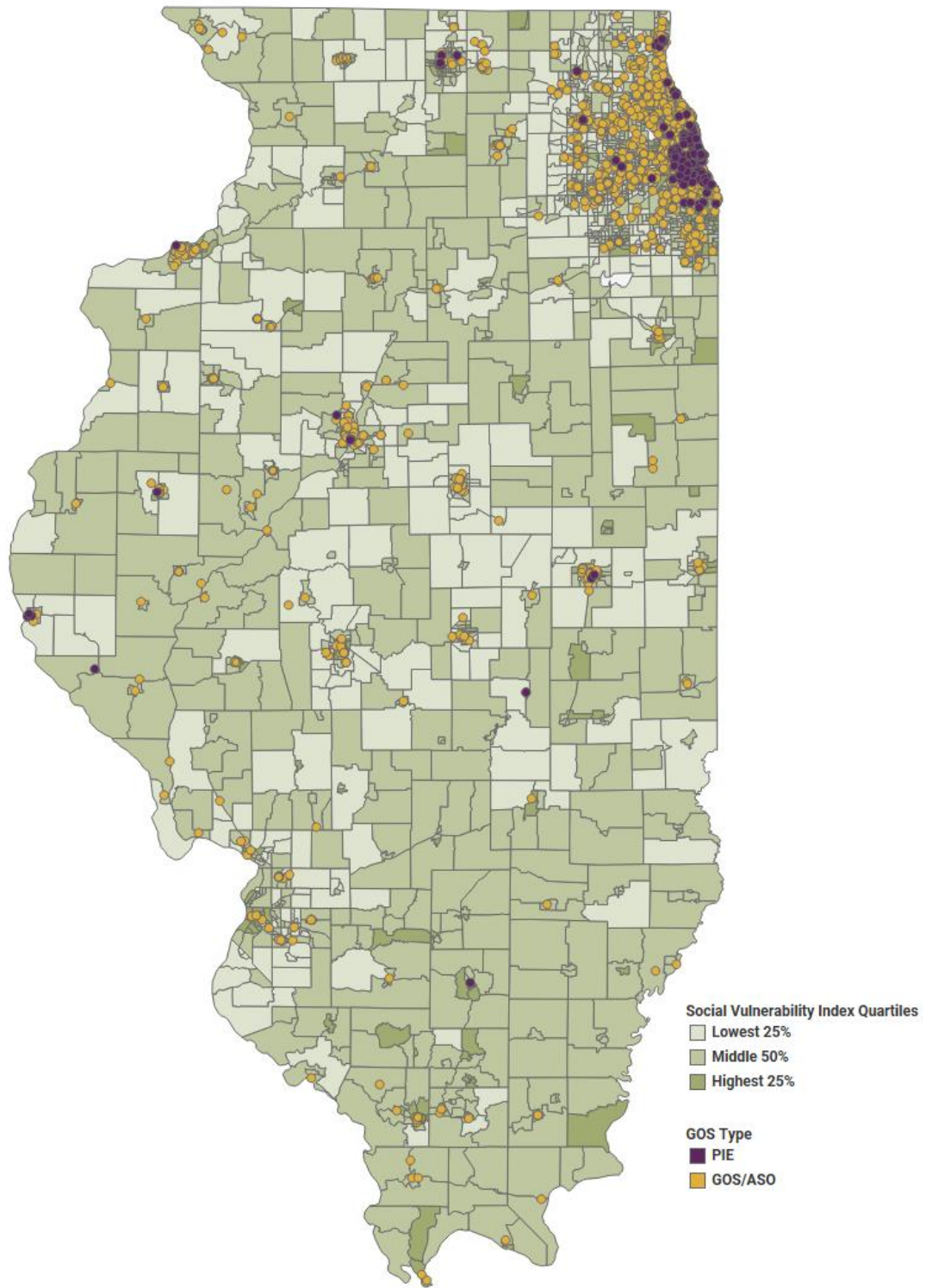
SVI Quartile	No. of Grants	No. of Grants Percent of Total	Grant Dollars	Grant Dollars Percent of Total	Percent of Population	Activity Locations and Grants	Act'y. Loc'ns. and Grants Percent of Total	Census Tracts
Lowest 25%	163	22%	\$1,723,700	22%	<b>26%</b>	685	21%	816
Middle 50%	412	56%	\$4,311,950	56%	<b>51%</b>	1,744	52%	1,631
Highest 25%	158	22%	\$1,713,550	22%	<b>23%</b>	911	27%	816

**Table 39: All GOS Grants and Grant Activity Locations, by SVI (FY2016-2022)**

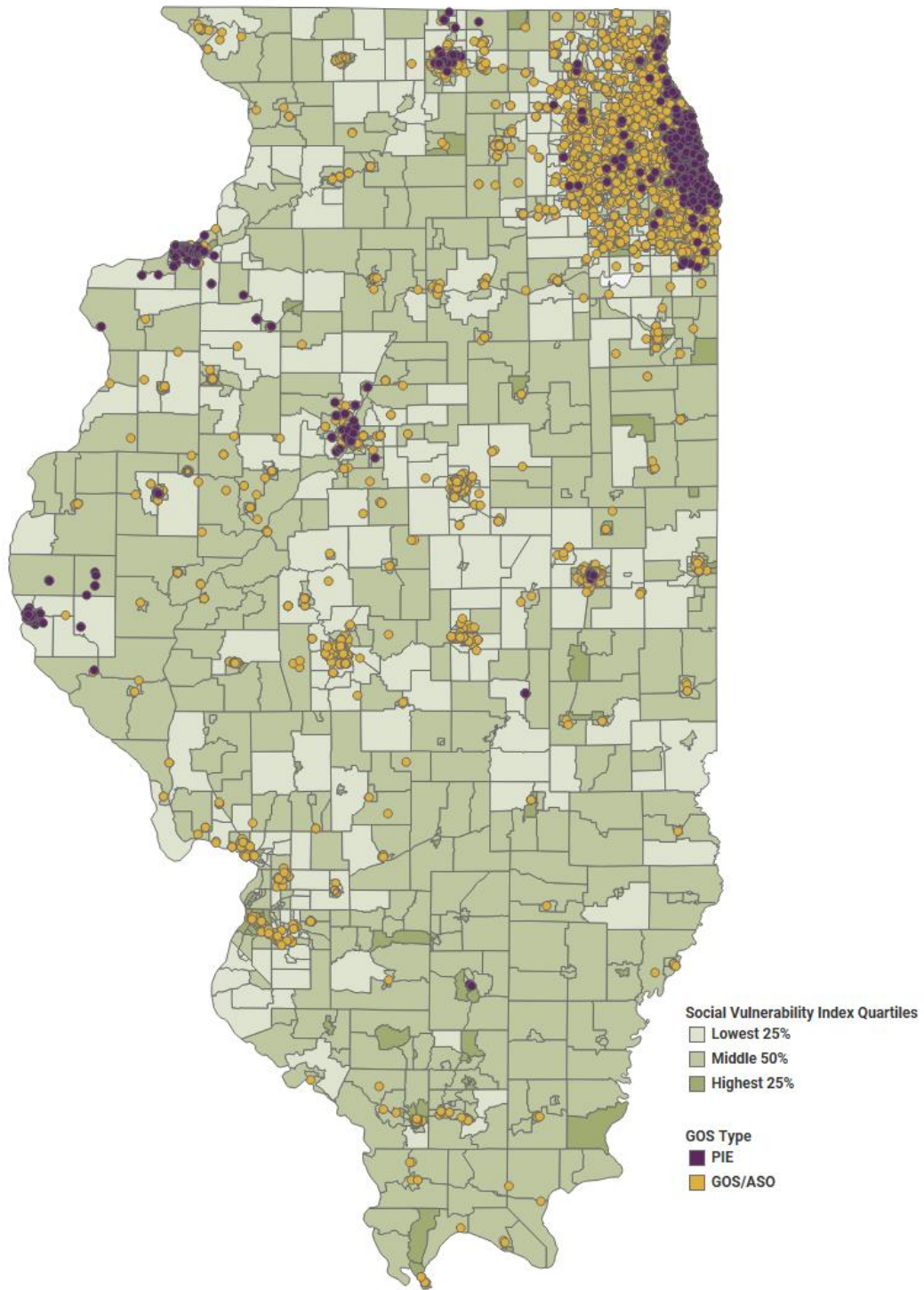
SVI Quartile	No. of Grants	No. of Grants Percent of Total	Grant Dollars	Grant Dollars Percent of Total	Percent of Population	Activity Locations and Grants	Act'y. Loc'ns. and Grants Percent of Total	Census Tracts
Lowest 25%	893	23%	\$9,299,600	23%	<b>26%</b>	5,099	22%	816
Middle 50%	2,201	58%	\$22,541,225	56%	<b>51%</b>	12,273	52%	1,631
Highest 25%	721	19%	\$8,205,115	21%	<b>23%</b>	6,172	26%	816

As can be seen in the maps below, the most socially vulnerable communities are dispersed across the entire state, reflecting a mixture of population types and rural, urban and suburban settings. Because underserved populations exist in all regions, this underscores the importance of understanding local conditions and developing grant strategies that are highly accessible and responsive.

**Figure 19: GOS Grant Activity Locations, by Census Tract and SVI (FY2022)**



**Figure 20: GOS Grant Activity Locations, by Census Tract and SVI (FY2016-2022)**



**Table 40: Other Support Grants and Grant Activity Locations, by SVI (FY2022)**

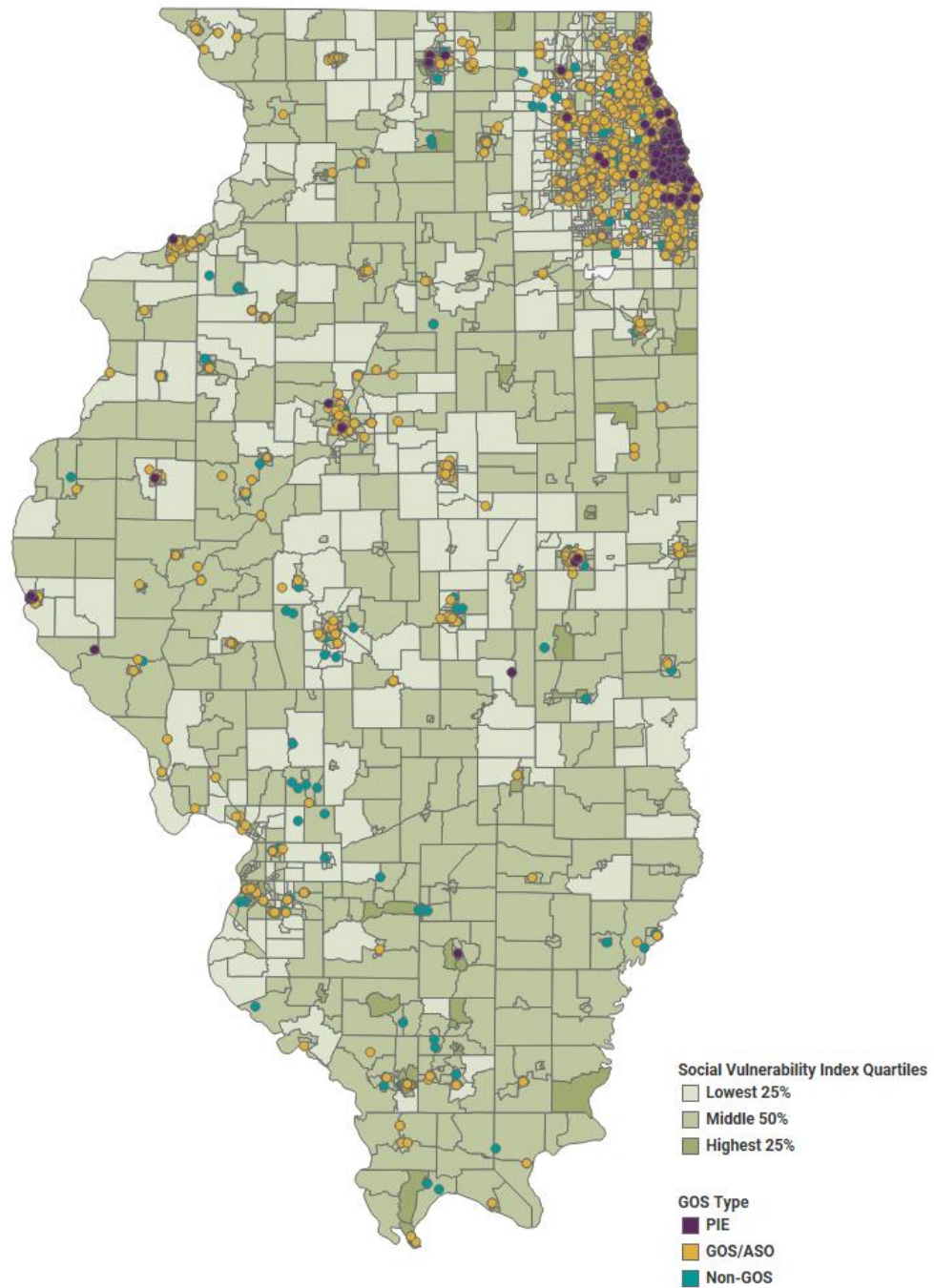
SVI Quartile	No. of Grants	No. of Grants Percent of Total	Grant Dollars	Grant Dollars Percent of Total	Percent of Population	Activity Locations and Grants	Act'y. Loc'ns. and Grants Percent of Total	Census Tracts
Lowest 25%	106	19%	\$602,904	11%	<b>26%</b>	337	20%	816
Middle 50%	313	57%	\$3,991,270	71%	<b>51%</b>	939	55%	1,631
Highest 25%	131	24%	\$1,052,105	19%	<b>23%</b>	441	26%	816

**Table 41: Other Support Grants and Grant Activity Locations, by SVI (FY2016-2022)**

SVI Quartile	No. of Grants	No. of Grants Percent of Total	Grant Dollars	Grant Dollars Percent of Total	Percent of Population	Activity Locations and Grants	Act'y. Loc'ns. and Grants Percent of Total	Census Tracts
Lowest 25%	497	20%	\$3,565,946	15%	<b>26%</b>	1,206	18%	816
Middle 50%	1,386	56%	\$16,317,843	67%	<b>51%</b>	3,630	55%	1,631
Highest 25%	578	24%	\$4,630,444	19%	<b>23%</b>	1,718	26%	816

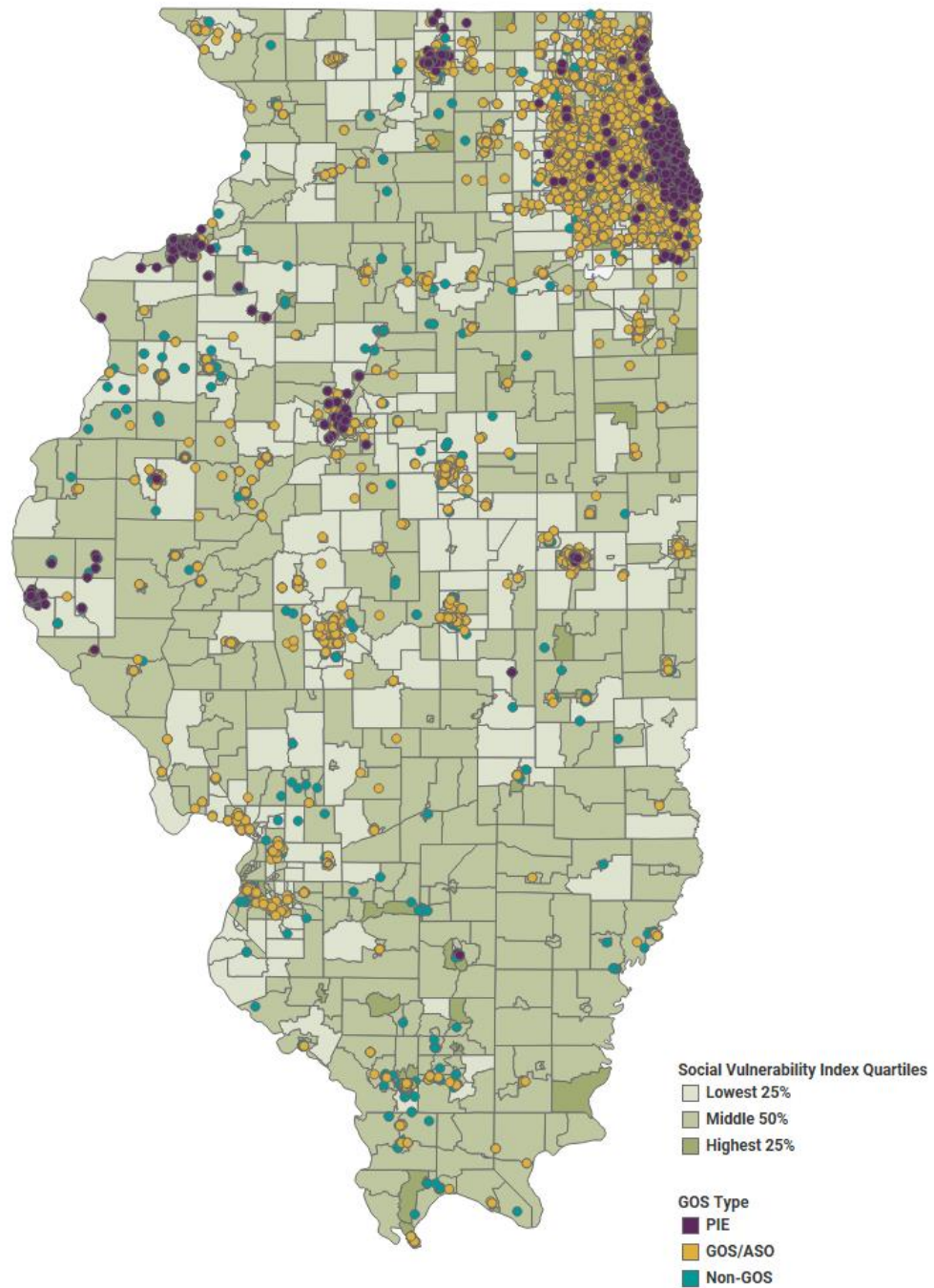


**Figure 21: GOS and Other Grant Activity Locations, by Census Tract and SVI (FY2022)**





**Figure 22: GOS and Other Grant Activity Locations, by Census Tract and SVI (2016-2022)**



## Conclusions and Recommendations

Ultimately, the function of EGAIN is to catalyze IAC reflection on its grant-making policies and practices. With this report's statistical and geospatial information—combined with interview and survey information surfaced through EGAIN's qualitative research—IAC will be well equipped to consider what GOS grant strategies it wants to preserve, what it wants to modify, and how it wants to communicate the reach and impact of its investments.

Several important caveats must accompany an analysis of this nature. The first is that it emphasizes operating support awards. Patterns may appear very different for other grants (for IAC's various project support and individual artist awards). Also, this report considers data on grantees only. It does not consider applications and cannot render an opinion on the composition of the applicant pool relative to the larger potential universe of arts organizations in Illinois. Analysis of those issues is beyond the scope of this report but could be the subject of future research.

Despite these limitations, the data contained in this report raise questions of potential value to IAC as it considers how to strengthen the equity of its grant making. Those questions include:

- **How does IAC ultimately want to define and measure grant-making equity?** What are the arts council's equity goals or priorities? This report offers a useful baseline against which future grant making can be measured, but it is entirely retrospective. Also, a population parity lens does not necessarily speak to the extra barriers that certain populations experience over time—a reminder of the important distinctions to be drawn between equality and equity. Taking these factors into account, IAC may wish to articulate some formal equity goals for the future. If so, how might those goals be quantified? How should progress be monitored? What types of data should be gathered to speak to the Arts Council's equity priorities?
- **What other information—beyond statistical data—may need to be gathered?** This report offers an extensive statistical analysis, which certainly is a useful measurement lens. However, numbers only tell part of the story. Grant statistics cannot portray the lived experiences of grantees as they seek support for their work. Listening to constituents and communities talk about their needs and perceptions around equity issues will be equally important to monitor moving forward.
- **How does the arts council want to "tell the story" of its investments?** IAC has the opportunity to institutionalize a regular practice of tracking equity related grants information and reporting on the results. In addition to informing policy decisions, regular and transparent reporting can inspire confidence in the arts council's efforts to advance equity over time. Such reports also can contribute to a strong evidence base for increased investments in the arts council. What should be reported and how often? How should the results be communicated? Who should receive the results?

- **What factors might be driving the geographic gaps noted in this analysis?** Is it lack of awareness of IAC funding opportunities? Or are grant amounts not seen as large enough to warrant the effort to apply? Are eligibility or reporting requirements obstacles? The constituent survey and interview strands of the EGAIN assessment may shed some light on these questions, and IAC should be on the lookout for all additional information that can be gleaned through formal and informal feedback loops. An accurate understanding of the obstacles constituents are experiencing will help to give the arts council's policy and practice changes good aim.
- **What action steps can potentially address the funding gaps illuminated in this report?** Given the number of counties—especially rural counties—not currently receiving IAC funding, reaching more communities will likely necessitate an expansion of grant resources combined with a proactive strategy for identifying and recruiting new organizations into the grantee pool. How can that case for additional resources be made? How can prospective organizations be identified, and how can those relationships be nurtured? It may be useful to develop an action plan for a combination of asset mapping, outreach and technical assistance.
- **What data can be collected to help IAC better understand its grant making through a race equity lens?** Data about the race/ethnicity of audiences is difficult to collect and is subject to many reporting errors. It may be fruitful for the arts council to collect information about the mission focus of applicants and/or the demographics represented by grantee staff and board members. However, public agencies face legal and regulatory constraints around what race/ethnicity data can be collected in the context of grant funding. These parameters are a moving target, with new federal and state policy rulings being issued over time. NASAA recommends that IAC seek legal counsel from the State of Illinois and consider models of how other state agencies are addressing this challenge. (The Illinois Office of Human Services, State Board of Education and Office of Minority Economic Empowerment may be good places to begin. Information on implementation of the [Data Governance and Organization to Support Equity and Racial Justice Act](#) may also be relevant.) Review of guidance from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Office of Civil Rights also will be pertinent, as NEA requirements apply to federal Partnership Agreement funds and state dollars recorded as match.

IAC is in good company as it considers these questions. Equitable grant making is an area of considerable experimentation among state arts agencies. As of this writing in 2023, [numerous state arts agencies](#) are reconsidering their funding policies and program portfolios with the goals of closing funding gaps, making grants more accessible and ensuring support for historically underserved populations. In addition to the state arts agency grant-making field scan supplied under separate cover, NASAA recommends the following resources:

- [Deepening Relationships with Diverse Communities](#) This report offers guidance on how SAAs can cultivate deeper relationships with constituents that have not been engaged as frequently as others and move toward the goal of serving the public through more inclusive and equitable support for the arts.
- [Equity Choice Points](#) This resource can help surface a broad range of grant-making practices with equity implications. It illustrates factors that can hinder equitable funding for the arts, noting some origins and effects of problematic practices and offering important decision points where SAAs can exert influence.

Exploring funding equity is an ongoing process for SAAs as part of their larger commitment to public service through the arts. This is true for the Illinois Arts Council, as detailed in its [Strategic Plan](#), committing to "Ensure equity and access in programming and grant opportunities for all Illinoisans, including (but not limited to) individuals who identify with a specific geographic location, economic status, race, sexual orientation, gender expression, or ability." By inviting this analysis and tackling provocative questions, the Illinois Arts Council is actively working toward that goal. IAC should be commended for its desire to learn, for inviting and considering action recommendations, and for its ongoing commitment to serving all Illinois communities.

## Appendix

### Counties without GOS Grants (FY2016-2022)

Alexander	DeWitt	Jasper	Montgomery	Scott
Bureau	Douglas	Jersey	Ogle	Shelby
Calhoun	Edwards	Johnson	Perry	Stark
Cass	Fayette	Lawrence	Piatt	Union
Christian	Ford	Livingston	Pike	Washington
Clark	Franklin	Logan	Pope	Wayne
Clay	Gallatin	Marion	Pulaski	White
Clinton	Greene	Mason	Putnam	Woodford
Coles	Hamilton	Massac	Randolph	
Crawford	Hardin	Mercer	Richland	
Cumberland	Henderson	Monroe	Saline	

### Counties without GOS or Other Support Grants (FY2016-2022)

Brown	Douglas	Jersey	Putnam
Calhoun	Fayette	Johnson	Saline
Cass	Ford	Lawrence	Scott
Christian	Gallatin	Mason	Shelby
Clark	Greene	Massac	Stark
Clay	Hamilton	Mercer	Washington
Crawford	Hardin	Montgomery	Wayne
Cumberland	Henderson	Piatt	White
DeWitt	Jasper	Pope	Woodford

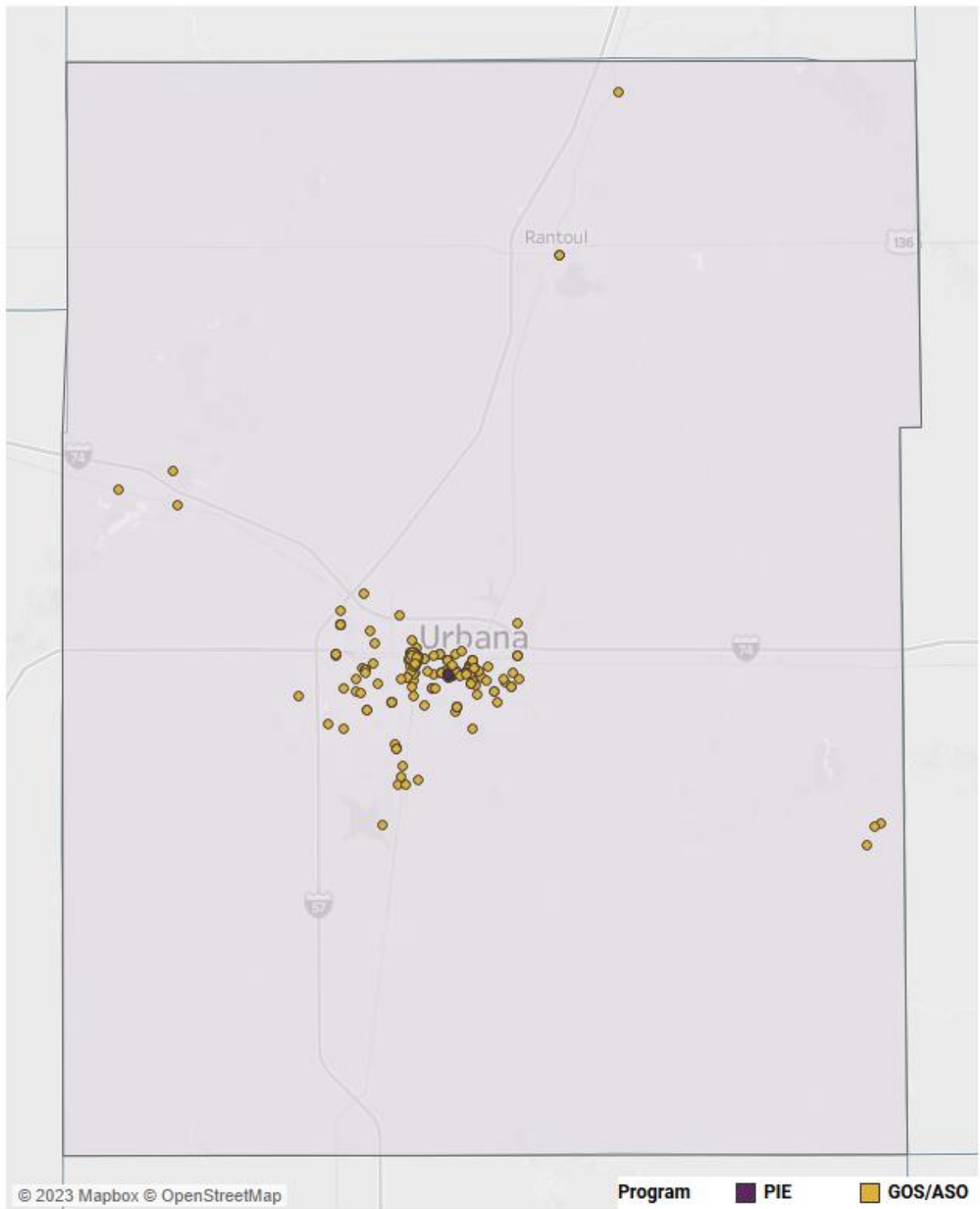
### Counties Not Reached by GOS Grants or Activity Locations (FY2016-2022)

Clark	Franklin	Monroe
Clinton	Gallatin	Perry
Cumberland	Greene	Putnam
DeWitt	Hamilton	Richland
Douglas	Hardin	Scott
Edwards	Jasper	Shelby
Fayette	Lawrence	Wayne
Ford	Marion	White

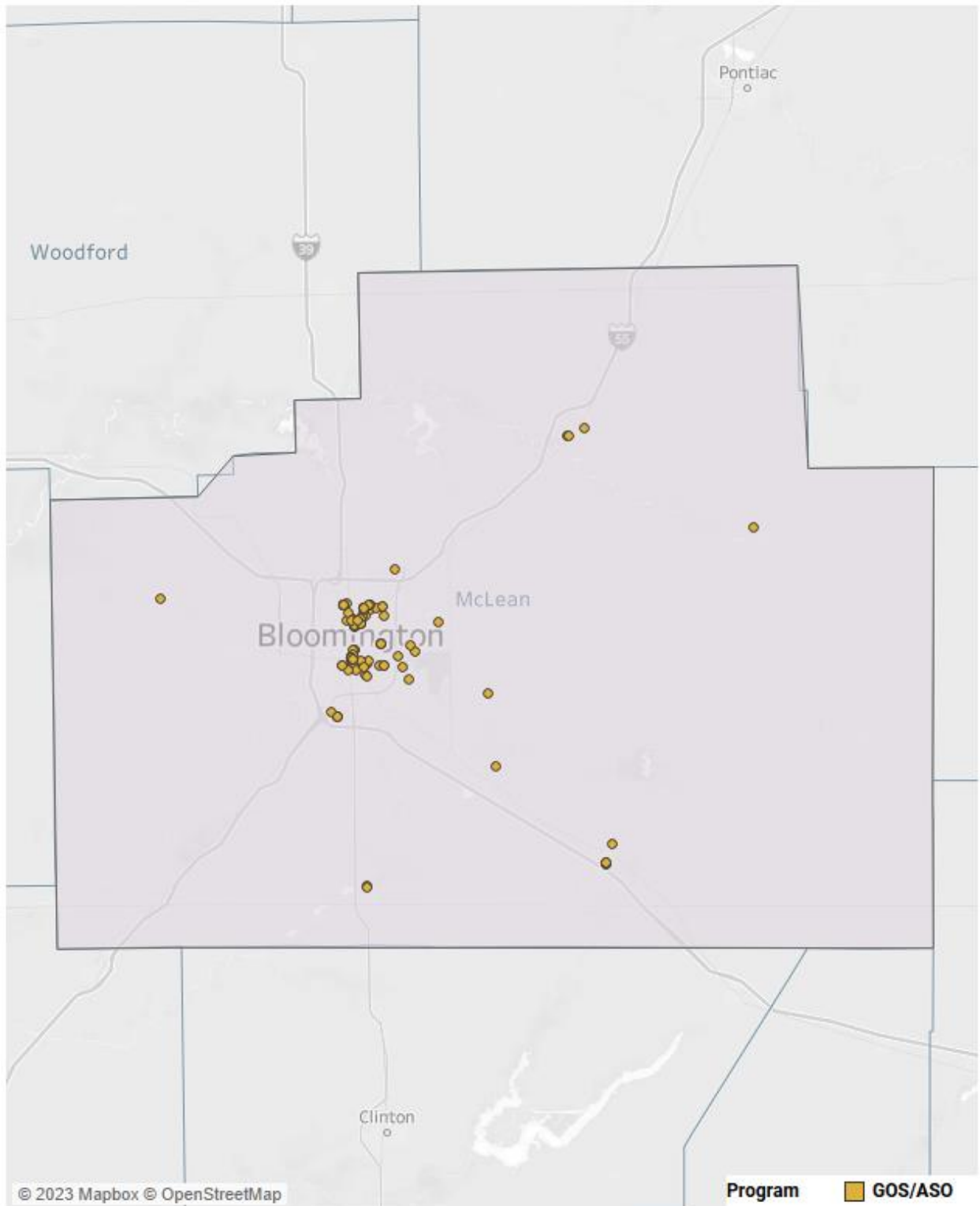
### Counties Not Reached by GOS or Other Support Grants or Activity Locations (FY2016-2022)

Cumberland	Hardin
DeWitt	Jasper
Ford	Lawrence
Gallatin	Putnam
Greene	Scott
Hamilton	Wayne

**Figure 23: Champaign County GOS Grants and Activity Locations (FY2016-2022)**

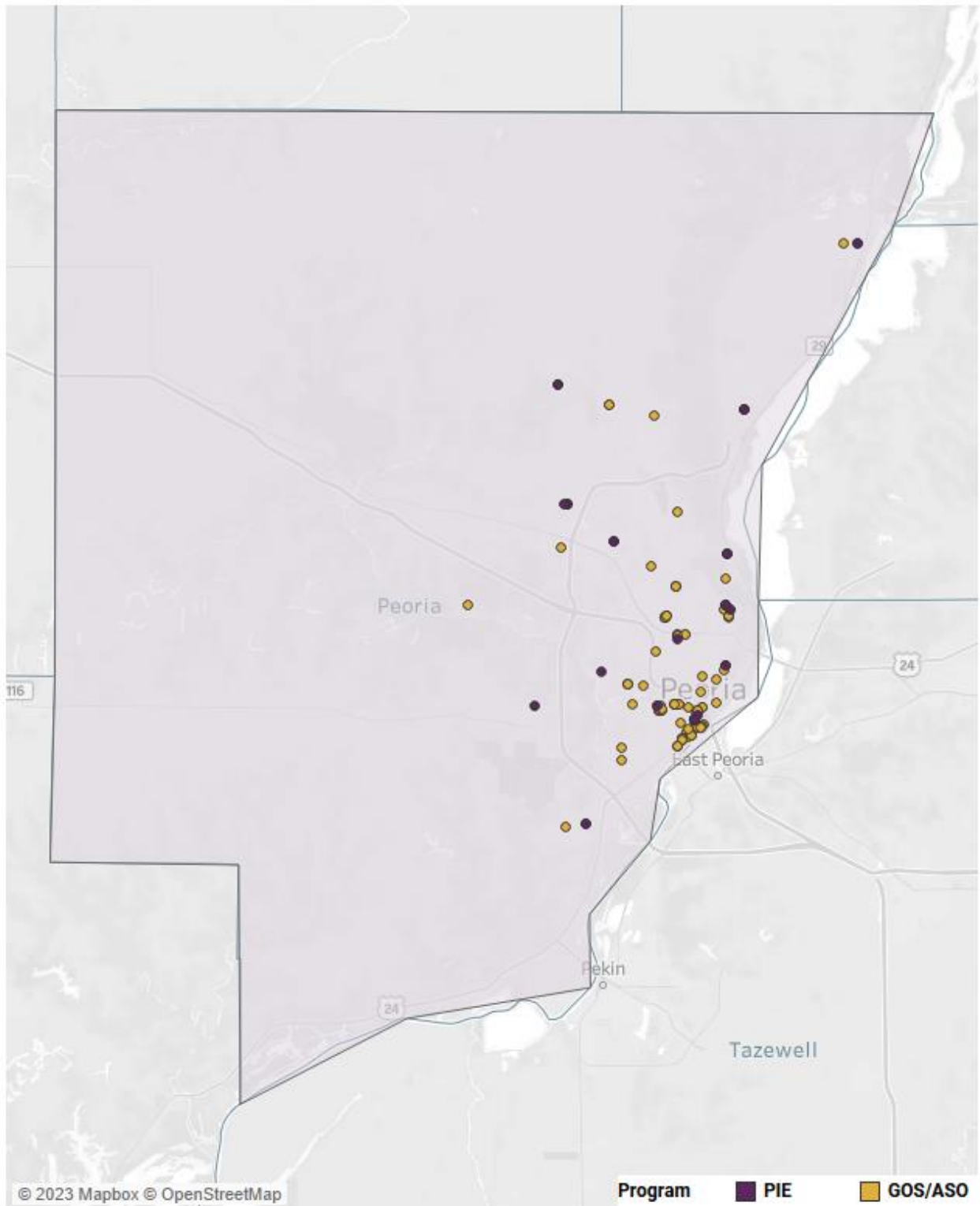


**Figure 24: McLean County GOS Grants and Activity Locations (FY2016-2022)**

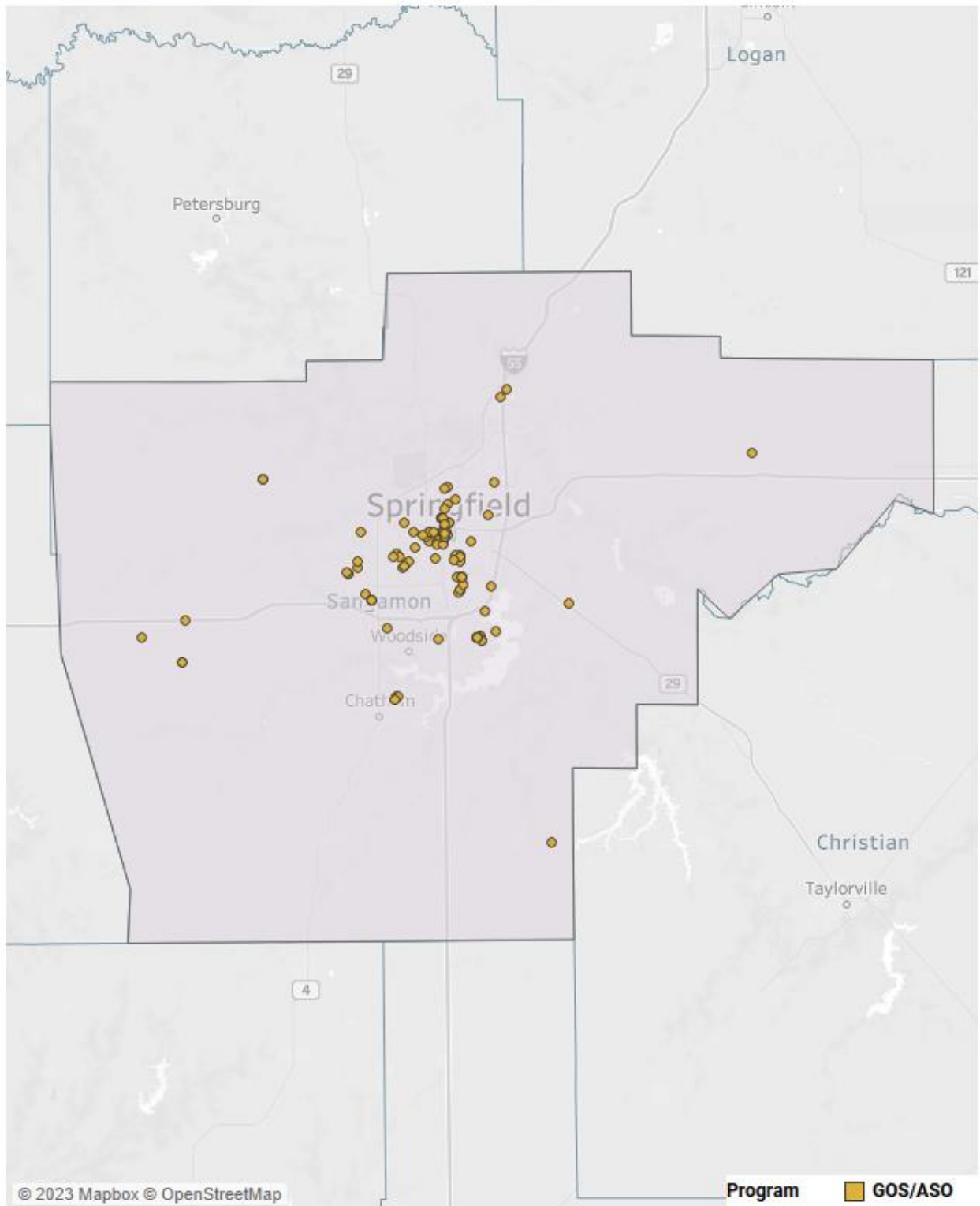




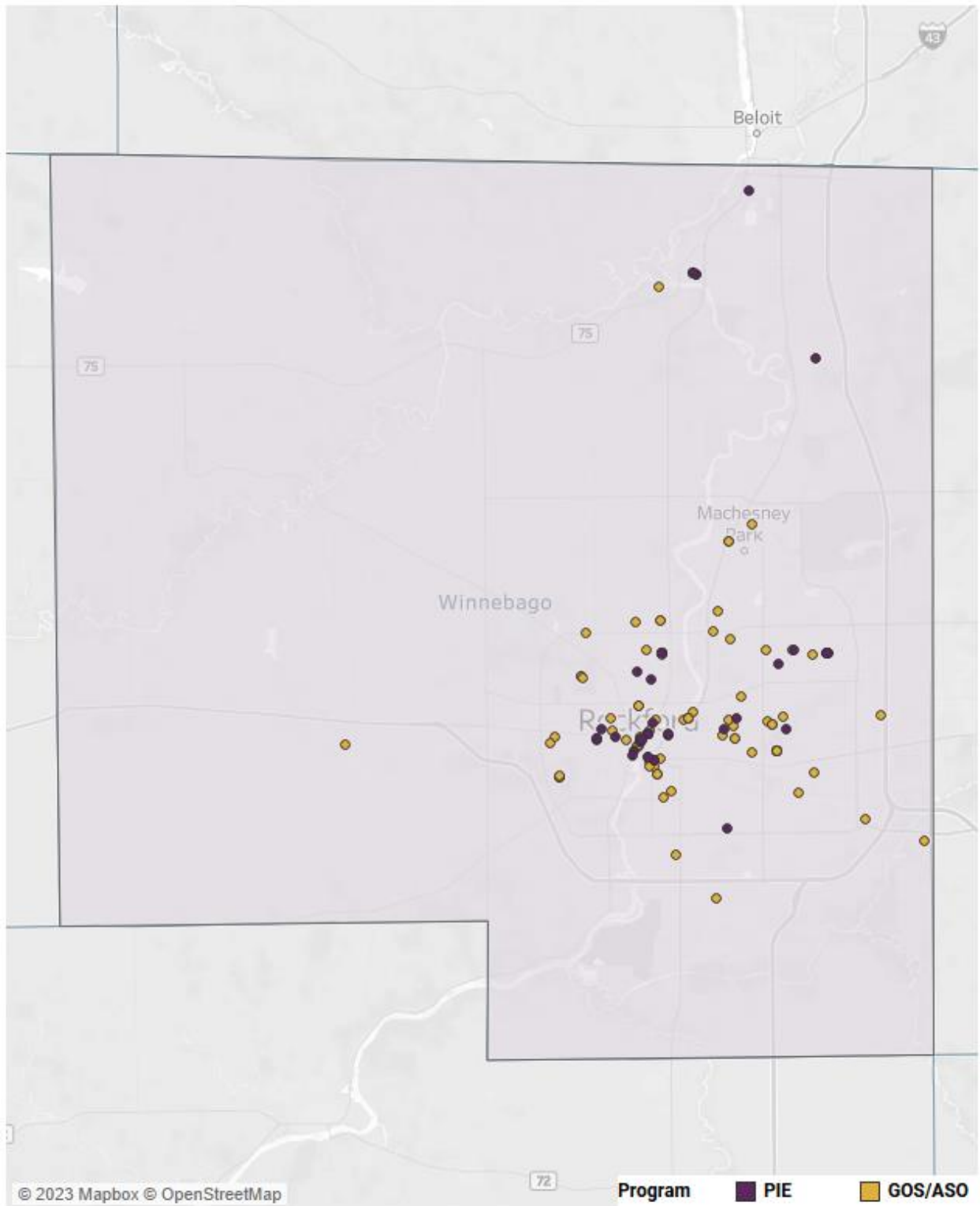
**Figure 25: Peoria County GOS Grants and Activity Locations (FY2016-2022)**



**Figure 26: Sangamon County GOS Grants (FY2016-2022)**



**Figure 27: Winnebago County GOS Grants and Activity Locations (FY2016-2022)**



**Table 42: Top Counties, by Fiscal Year**

<b>FY</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>GOS Dollars Awarded</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>No. of GOS Grants</b>	<b>Percent</b>
2016	Cook	\$ 2,528,185	66.7%	377	63.3%
2016	DuPage	\$ 161,355	4.3%	37	6.2%
2016	Champaign	\$ 129,085	3.4%	21	3.5%
2016	Peoria	\$ 111,480	2.9%	16	2.7%
2016	Kane	\$ 85,185	2.2%	15	2.5%
2016	Lake	\$ 109,685	2.9%	14	2.3%
2016	McLean	\$ 58,500	1.5%	10	1.7%
2016	Rock Island	\$ 64,565	1.7%	9	1.5%
2016	Sangamon	\$ 52,100	1.4%	9	1.5%
2016	Winnebago	\$ 103,125	2.7%	9	1.5%
<b>FY</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>GOS Dollars Awarded</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>No. of GOS Grants</b>	<b>Percent</b>
2017	Cook	\$ 3,533,600	69.3%	300	64.8%
2017	DuPage	\$ 241,400	4.7%	28	6.0%
2017	Champaign	\$ 116,000	2.3%	16	3.5%
2017	Kane	\$ 144,800	2.8%	14	3.0%
2017	Lake	\$ 140,000	2.7%	11	2.4%
2017	Peoria	\$ 161,000	3.2%	10	2.2%
2017	McLean	\$ 59,000	1.2%	8	1.7%
2017	Sangamon	\$ 71,000	1.4%	7	1.5%
2017	McHenry	\$ 37,600	0.7%	6	1.3%
2017	Rock Island	\$ 88,000	1.7%	6	1.3%
<b>FY</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>GOS Dollars Awarded</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>No. of GOS Grants</b>	<b>Percent</b>
2018	Cook	\$ 133,300	54.0%	46	60.5%
2018	DuPage	\$ 10,500	4.3%	6	7.9%
2018	Champaign	\$ 41,600	16.9%	5	6.6%
2018	Lake	\$ 16,200	6.6%	4	5.3%
2018	McDonough	\$ 7,700	3.1%	2	2.6%
2018	Vermilion	\$ 2,300	0.9%	2	2.6%
2018	DeKalb	\$ 700	0.3%	1	1.3%
2018	Jackson	\$ 7,300	3.0%	1	1.3%
2018	Kankakee	\$ 500	0.2%	1	1.3%
2018	Knox	\$ 3,300	1.3%	1	1.3%
<b>FY</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>GOS Dollars Awarded</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>No. of GOS Grants</b>	<b>Percent</b>
2019	Cook	\$ 5,254,000	67.8%	405	66.0%
2019	DuPage	\$ 367,900	4.7%	36	5.9%
2019	Champaign	\$ 226,200	2.9%	23	3.7%
2019	Lake	\$ 238,000	3.1%	16	2.6%
2019	Kane	\$ 169,000	2.2%	12	2.0%

2019	Peoria	\$ 226,300	2.9%	12	2.0%
2019	Winnebago	\$ 211,600	2.7%	10	1.6%
2019	Rock Island	\$ 148,800	1.9%	9	1.5%
2019	Sangamon	\$ 103,600	1.3%	9	1.5%
2019	McLean	\$ 87,200	1.1%	8	1.3%
<b>FY</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>GOS Dollars Awarded</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>No. of GOS Grants</b>	<b>Percent</b>
2020	Cook	\$ 5,234,825	67.6%	421	66.7%
2020	DuPage	\$ 375,800	4.9%	35	5.5%
2020	Champaign	\$ 251,000	3.2%	23	3.6%
2020	Lake	\$ 261,200	3.4%	18	2.9%
2020	Kane	\$ 178,100	2.3%	15	2.4%
2020	Peoria	\$ 217,900	2.8%	13	2.1%
2020	Winnebago	\$ 191,400	2.5%	9	1.4%
2020	McLean	\$ 88,900	1.1%	8	1.3%
2020	Sangamon	\$ 89,600	1.2%	8	1.3%
2020	Rock Island	\$ 115,000	1.5%	6	1.0%
<b>FY</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>GOS Dollars Awarded</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>No. of GOS Grants</b>	<b>Percent</b>
2021	Cook	\$ 5,151,450	67.2%	460	65.5%
2021	DuPage	\$ 382,400	5.0%	41	5.8%
2021	Champaign	\$ 252,900	3.3%	24	3.4%
2021	Lake	\$ 231,600	3.0%	18	2.6%
2021	Kane	\$ 177,100	2.3%	17	2.4%
2021	Peoria	\$ 192,400	2.5%	14	2.0%
2021	Rock Island	\$ 131,700	1.7%	10	1.4%
2021	Winnebago	\$ 192,400	2.5%	10	1.4%
2021	Sangamon	\$ 94,700	1.2%	9	1.3%
2021	Will	\$ 61,600	0.8%	9	1.3%
<b>FY</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>GOS Dollars Awarded</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>No. of GOS Grants</b>	<b>Percent</b>
2022	Cook	\$ 5,225,150	67.4%	487	66.4%
2022	DuPage	\$ 339,350	4.4%	35	4.8%
2022	Champaign	\$ 247,400	3.2%	26	3.5%
2022	Lake	\$ 228,000	2.9%	19	2.6%
2022	Peoria	\$ 230,050	3.0%	16	2.2%
2022	Kane	\$ 162,300	2.1%	15	2.0%
2022	Rock Island	\$ 152,750	2.0%	12	1.6%
2022	Will	\$ 92,450	1.2%	12	1.6%
2022	Winnebago	\$ 176,150	2.3%	10	1.4%
2022	McLean	\$ 84,600	1.1%	9	1.2%