



# Illinois State Association of Counties

## POSITION STATEMENT

JANUARY 6, 2022

### **ENHANCE PROCUREMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN AND MINORITIES**

**SUPPORT**

The State of Illinois and local governments have an interest in contributing to societal equity by increasing opportunities for firms owned and/or operated by women, minorities and the disabled seeking to secure contracts for goods and services.

#### **Current Law:**

The Illinois Counties Code does not have clear language authorizing the establishment of goals for the procurement of goods and services that promote and encourage the participation of minority-owned and operated businesses, women-owned and operated businesses and businesses owned and operated by persons with disabilities. The lack of such language creates uncertainty over whether a county can establish these goals within their procurement policies.

#### **Proposed Change:**

Provide counties with clear authority to establish procurement processes that could favor contracting with minority-owned and operated businesses, women-owned and operated businesses and businesses owned and operated by persons with disabilities. Additionally, provide clear authority for counties to establish procurement goals involving businesses located within the county.

**CLARIFY THAT ALL COUNTIES CAN ESTABLISH PROCUREMENT GOALS THAT ENHANCE SOCIETAL EQUITY.**