



ILLINOIS. MILE AFTER MAGNIFICENT MILE.

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NEW WEB SITE OFFERS ONE-STOP RESOURCE FOR PLANNING MEETINGS AND CONVENTIONS IN ILLINOIS

www.meetinillinois.com offers comprehensive information on venues, accommodations, activities and attractions statewide

CHICAGO – The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, Bureau of Tourism today unveiled a new Illinois Meetings and Conventions Web site—**www.meetinillinois.com**—that provides the information organizations need to plan a professional meeting or convention in Illinois.

In addition to Chicago, one of the nation's top cities for business travel with 25.7 million business visitors in 2004 alone, Illinois is home to a vast number of other locations with meeting and event capabilities.

"Illinois offers organizations a wealth of options both in facilities and settings, making it the perfect destination for any gathering," said Jack Lavin, director of the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity. "With the introduction of [meetinillinois.com](http://www.meetinillinois.com), organizations have the resource they need to efficiently research and plan their next event or meeting in Illinois – and the insight to help make it a success."

The Illinois Meetings and Conventions Web site provides tools for the planning of meetings and events throughout the state that appeal to various audiences, including:

- an up-to-date, detailed listing of more than 700 Illinois facilities;
- a Request for Proposal (RFP) feature that enables planners to receive proposals from multiple convention and visitor bureaus based on the event specifications submitted through the Web site; and
- a link to **www.enjoyillinois.com**, which features information on dining, events and attractions throughout Illinois.

Free copies of the *Illinois Meetings Destination Guide*, which contains information on Illinois' seven regions, contact information for convention and visitors bureaus throughout the state, vital statistics on facilities, transportation information, and dining and attraction options, can also be obtained through the site or by calling **312-814-2349**. In addition, the Illinois Bureau of Tourism offers free travel resources featuring seasonal information statewide that is available at **1-800-2CONNECT** or by visiting the bureau's Web site at **www.enjoyillinois.com**.

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The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, Bureau of Tourism manages industry efforts that result in sustainable and significant economic and quality-of-life benefits for Illinois residents.

Governor Rod R. Blagojevich
Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, Bureau of Tourism