



**Part III Statement of Program Service Accomplishments**

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part III

**1** Briefly describe the organization's mission

THE ILLINOIS OPPORTUNITY PROJECT IS AN ORGANIZATION THAT PARTICIPATES IN PUBLIC POLICY BY IDENTIFYING POLICIES DRIVEN BY LIBERTY AND FREE ENTERPRISE AND THEN EDUCATING THE PUBLIC ABOUT THOSE POLICY CHOICES AND ADVOCATING FOR THOSE POLICY CHOICES

**2** Did the organization undertake any significant program services during the year which were not listed on the prior Form 990 or 990-EZ?  Yes  No

If "Yes," describe these new services on Schedule O

**3** Did the organization cease conducting, or make significant changes in how it conducts, any program services?  Yes  No

If "Yes," describe these changes on Schedule O

**4** Describe the organization's program service accomplishments for each of its three largest program services, as measured by expenses Section 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations are required to report the amount of grants and allocations to others, the total expenses, and revenue, if any, for each program service reported

**4a** (Code ) (Expenses \$ 1,091,166 including grants of \$ ) (Revenue \$ )

PARTICIPATION IN PUBLIC POLICY BY IDENTIFYING POLICIES DRIVEN BY LIBERTY AND FREE ENTERPRISE AND THEN EDUCATING THE PUBLIC ABOUT THOSE POLICY CHOICES AND ADVOCATING FOR THOSE POLICY CHOICES, INCLUDING ADVOCACY CAMPAIGNS USED TO EDUCATE INDIVIDUALS AS WELL AS URGING THEM TO TAKE ACTION BY CONTACTING THEIR LEGISLATOR















**4b** (Code ) (Expenses \$ including grants of \$ ) (Revenue \$ )

**4c** (Code ) (Expenses \$ including grants of \$ ) (Revenue \$ )

**4d** Other program services (Describe in Schedule O )  
(Expenses \$ including grants of \$ ) (Revenue \$ )

**4e** Total program service expenses ▶ 1,091,166

**Part IV Checklist of Required Schedules**

		Yes	No
<b>1</b>	Is the organization described in section 501(c)(3) or 4947(a)(1) (other than a private foundation)? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule A</i> . . . . .		No
<b>2</b>	Is the organization required to complete <i>Schedule B, Schedule of Contributors</i> (see instructions)?  . . . . .	Yes	
<b>3</b>	Did the organization engage in direct or indirect political campaign activities on behalf of or in opposition to candidates for public office? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part I</i> . . . . .		No
<b>4</b>	<b>Section 501(c)(3) organizations.</b> Did the organization engage in lobbying activities, or have a section 501(h) election in effect during the tax year? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part II</i> . . . . .		
<b>5</b>	Is the organization a section 501(c)(4), 501(c)(5), or 501(c)(6) organization that receives membership dues, assessments, or similar amounts as defined in Revenue Procedure 98-19? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part III</i> . . . . .		No
<b>6</b>	Did the organization maintain any donor advised funds or any similar funds or accounts for which donors have the right to provide advice on the distribution or investment of amounts in such funds or accounts? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part I</i>  . . . . .		No
<b>7</b>	Did the organization receive or hold a conservation easement, including easements to preserve open space, the environment, historic land areas, or historic structures? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part II</i>  . . . . .		No
<b>8</b>	Did the organization maintain collections of works of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part III</i>  . . . . .		No
<b>9</b>	Did the organization report an amount in Part X, line 21 for escrow or custodial account liability, serve as a custodian for amounts not listed in Part X, or provide credit counseling, debt management, credit repair, or debt negotiation services? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part IV</i>  . . . . .		No
<b>10</b>	Did the organization, directly or through a related organization, hold assets in temporarily restricted endowments, permanent endowments, or quasi-endowments? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part V</i>  . . . . .		No
<b>11</b>	If the organization's answer to any of the following questions is "Yes," then complete Schedule D, Parts VI, VII, VIII, IX, or X as applicable		
<b>a</b>	Did the organization report an amount for land, buildings, and equipment in Part X, line 10? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part VI</i>  . . . . .	Yes	
<b>b</b>	Did the organization report an amount for investments—other securities in Part X, line 12 that is 5% or more of its total assets reported in Part X, line 16? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part VII</i>  . . . . .		No
<b>c</b>	Did the organization report an amount for investments—program related in Part X, line 13 that is 5% or more of its total assets reported in Part X, line 16? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part VIII</i>  . . . . .		No
<b>d</b>	Did the organization report an amount for other assets in Part X, line 15 that is 5% or more of its total assets reported in Part X, line 16? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part IX</i>  . . . . .	Yes	
<b>e</b>	Did the organization report an amount for other liabilities in Part X, line 25? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part X</i>  . . . . .		No
<b>f</b>	Did the organization's separate or consolidated financial statements for the tax year include a footnote that addresses the organization's liability for uncertain tax positions under FIN 48 (ASC 740)? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part X</i>  . . . . .		No
<b>12a</b>	Did the organization obtain separate, independent audited financial statements for the tax year? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Parts XI and XII</i>  . . . . .		No
<b>b</b>	Was the organization included in consolidated, independent audited financial statements for the tax year? <i>If "Yes," and if the organization answered "No" to line 12a, then completing Schedule D, Parts XI and XII is optional</i>  . . . . .		No
<b>13</b>	Is the organization a school described in section 170(b)(1)(A)(ii)? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule E</i> . . . . .		No
<b>14a</b>	Did the organization maintain an office, employees, or agents outside of the United States? . . . . .		No
<b>b</b>	Did the organization have aggregate revenues or expenses of more than \$10,000 from grantmaking, fundraising, business, investment, and program service activities outside the United States, or aggregate foreign investments valued at \$100,000 or more? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule F, Parts I and IV</i> . . . . .		No
<b>15</b>	Did the organization report on Part IX, column (A), line 3, more than \$5,000 of grants or other assistance to or for any foreign organization? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule F, Parts II and IV</i> . . . . .		No
<b>16</b>	Did the organization report on Part IX, column (A), line 3, more than \$5,000 of aggregate grants or other assistance to or for foreign individuals? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule F, Parts III and IV</i> . . . . .		No
<b>17</b>	Did the organization report a total of more than \$15,000 of expenses for professional fundraising services on Part IX, column (A), lines 6 and 11e? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule G, Part I</i> (see instructions) . . . . .		No
<b>18</b>	Did the organization report more than \$15,000 total of fundraising event gross income and contributions on Part VIII, lines 1c and 8a? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule G, Part II</i> . . . . .		No
<b>19</b>	Did the organization report more than \$15,000 of gross income from gaming activities on Part VIII, line 9a? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule G, Part III</i> . . . . .		No
<b>20a</b>	Did the organization operate one or more hospital facilities? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule H</i> . . . . .		No
<b>b</b>	If "Yes" to line 20a, did the organization attach a copy of its audited financial statements to this return?		

Part IV Checklist of Required Schedules (continued)

Table with 3 columns: Question ID, Question Text, and Answer. Rows include questions 21 through 38 regarding organizational reporting, compensation, and tax-exempt status.

Part V Statements Regarding Other IRS Filings and Tax Compliance

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part V

Table with columns for question ID, question text, sub-questions (1a-13c), and Yes/No columns. Includes sections for backup withholding, employee reporting, foreign accounts, prohibited tax shelter transactions, deductible contributions, and 501(c)(7), (12), and (29) organizations.

**Part VI Governance, Management, and Disclosure**

For each "Yes" response to lines 2 through 7b below, and for a "No" response to lines 8a, 8b, or 10b below, describe the circumstances, processes, or changes in Schedule O. See instructions.

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part VI

**Section A. Governing Body and Management**

		Yes	No
<b>1a</b>	Enter the number of voting members of the governing body at the end of the tax year If there are material differences in voting rights among members of the governing body, or if the governing body delegated broad authority to an executive committee or similar committee, explain in Schedule O		
<b>1b</b>	Enter the number of voting members included in line 1a, above, who are independent		
<b>2</b>	Did any officer, director, trustee, or key employee have a family relationship or a business relationship with any other officer, director, trustee, or key employee?		No
<b>3</b>	Did the organization delegate control over management duties customarily performed by or under the direct supervision of officers, directors or trustees, or key employees to a management company or other person?		No
<b>4</b>	Did the organization make any significant changes to its governing documents since the prior Form 990 was filed?		No
<b>5</b>	Did the organization become aware during the year of a significant diversion of the organization's assets?		No
<b>6</b>	Did the organization have members or stockholders?		No
<b>7a</b>	Did the organization have members, stockholders, or other persons who had the power to elect or appoint one or more members of the governing body?		No
<b>7b</b>	Are any governance decisions of the organization reserved to (or subject to approval by) members, stockholders, or persons other than the governing body?		No
<b>8</b>	Did the organization contemporaneously document the meetings held or written actions undertaken during the year by the following		
<b>8a</b>	The governing body?	Yes	
<b>8b</b>	Each committee with authority to act on behalf of the governing body?	Yes	
<b>9</b>	Is there any officer, director, trustee, or key employee listed in Part VII, Section A, who cannot be reached at the organization's mailing address? If "Yes," provide the names and addresses in Schedule O		No

**Section B. Policies** (This Section B requests information about policies not required by the Internal Revenue Code.)

		Yes	No
<b>10a</b>	Did the organization have local chapters, branches, or affiliates?		No
<b>10b</b>	If "Yes," did the organization have written policies and procedures governing the activities of such chapters, affiliates, and branches to ensure their operations are consistent with the organization's exempt purposes?		
<b>11a</b>	Has the organization provided a complete copy of this Form 990 to all members of its governing body before filing the form?	Yes	
<b>11b</b>	Describe in Schedule O the process, if any, used by the organization to review this Form 990		
<b>12a</b>	Did the organization have a written conflict of interest policy? If "No," go to line 13	Yes	
<b>12b</b>	Were officers, directors, or trustees, and key employees required to disclose annually interests that could give rise to conflicts?	Yes	
<b>12c</b>	Did the organization regularly and consistently monitor and enforce compliance with the policy? If "Yes," describe in Schedule O how this was done	Yes	
<b>13</b>	Did the organization have a written whistleblower policy?	Yes	
<b>14</b>	Did the organization have a written document retention and destruction policy?	Yes	
<b>15</b>	Did the process for determining compensation of the following persons include a review and approval by independent persons, comparability data, and contemporaneous substantiation of the deliberation and decision?		
<b>15a</b>	The organization's CEO, Executive Director, or top management official	Yes	
<b>15b</b>	Other officers or key employees of the organization	Yes	
	If "Yes" to line 15a or 15b, describe the process in Schedule O (see instructions)		
<b>16a</b>	Did the organization invest in, contribute assets to, or participate in a joint venture or similar arrangement with a taxable entity during the year?		No
<b>16b</b>	If "Yes," did the organization follow a written policy or procedure requiring the organization to evaluate its participation in joint venture arrangements under applicable federal tax law, and take steps to safeguard the organization's exempt status with respect to such arrangements?		

**Section C. Disclosure**

- 17** List the States with which a copy of this Form 990 is required to be filed ▶

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- 18** Section 6104 requires an organization to make its Form 1023 (or 1024 if applicable), 990, and 990-T (501(c)(3)s only) available for public inspection. Indicate how you made these available. Check all that apply.  
 Own website    Another's website    Upon request    Other (explain in Schedule O)
- 19** Describe in Schedule O whether (and if so, how) the organization made its governing documents, conflict of interest policy, and financial statements available to the public during the tax year
- 20** State the name, address, and telephone number of the person who possesses the organization's books and records  
 ▶ MATTHEW BESLER 208 S LASALLE STREET SUITE 1670 CHICAGO, IL 60604 (773) 294-4747





**Part VIII Statement of Revenue**

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part VIII

		(A) Total revenue	(B) Related or exempt function revenue	(C) Unrelated business revenue	(D) Revenue excluded from tax under sections 512-514	
<b>Contributions, Gifts, Grants and Other Similar Amounts</b>	<b>1a</b> Federated campaigns . . . . . <b>1a</b> _____					
	<b>b</b> Membership dues . . . . . <b>1b</b> _____					
	<b>c</b> Fundraising events . . . . . <b>1c</b> _____					
	<b>d</b> Related organizations . . . . . <b>1d</b> _____					
	<b>e</b> Government grants (contributions) <b>1e</b> _____					
	<b>f</b> All other contributions, gifts, grants, and similar amounts not included above <b>1f</b> _____ 1,573,064					
	<b>g</b> Noncash contributions included in lines 1a-1f \$ _____					
	<b>h Total.</b> Add lines 1a-1f . . . . . ▶	1,573,064				
<b>Program Service Revenue</b>	<b>2a</b> _____ Business Code _____					
	<b>b</b> _____					
	<b>c</b> _____					
	<b>d</b> _____					
	<b>e</b> _____					
	<b>f</b> All other program service revenue					
	<b>g Total.</b> Add lines 2a-2f . . . . . ▶					
<b>Other Revenue</b>	<b>3</b> Investment income (including dividends, interest, and other similar amounts) . . . . . ▶					
	<b>4</b> Income from investment of tax-exempt bond proceeds . . . . . ▶					
	<b>5</b> Royalties . . . . . ▶					
	<b>6a</b> Gross rents	(i) Real				
		(ii) Personal				
		<b>b</b> Less rental expenses				
		<b>c</b> Rental income or (loss)				
	<b>d</b> Net rental income or (loss) . . . . . ▶					
	<b>7a</b> Gross amount from sales of assets other than inventory	(i) Securities				
		(ii) Other				
		<b>b</b> Less cost or other basis and sales expenses				
		<b>c</b> Gain or (loss)				
	<b>d</b> Net gain or (loss) . . . . . ▶					
	<b>8a</b> Gross income from fundraising events (not including \$ _____ of contributions reported on line 1c) See Part IV, line 18 . . . . . <b>a</b> _____					
		<b>b</b> Less direct expenses . . . . . <b>b</b> _____				
		<b>c</b> Net income or (loss) from fundraising events . . . . . ▶				
	<b>9a</b> Gross income from gaming activities See Part IV, line 19 . . . . . <b>a</b> _____					
		<b>b</b> Less direct expenses . . . . . <b>b</b> _____				
		<b>c</b> Net income or (loss) from gaming activities . . . . . ▶				
	<b>10a</b> Gross sales of inventory, less returns and allowances . . . . . <b>a</b> _____					
<b>b</b> Less cost of goods sold . . . . . <b>b</b> _____						
<b>c</b> Net income or (loss) from sales of inventory . . . . . ▶						
Miscellaneous Revenue	Business Code					
<b>11a</b> _____						
<b>b</b> _____						
<b>c</b> _____						
<b>d</b> All other revenue . . . . .						
<b>e Total.</b> Add lines 11a-11d . . . . . ▶						
<b>12 Total revenue.</b> See Instructions . . . . . ▶	1,573,064	0	0	0		

**Part IX Statement of Functional Expenses**

Section 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations must complete all columns. All other organizations must complete column (A)

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part IX

Do not include amounts reported on lines 6b, 7b, 8b, 9b, and 10b of Part VIII.		(A) Total expenses	(B) Program service expenses	(C) Management and general expenses	(D) Fundraising expenses
<b>1</b>	Grants and other assistance to domestic organizations and domestic governments See Part IV, line 21 . . . . .				
<b>2</b>	Grants and other assistance to domestic individuals See Part IV, line 22 . . . . .				
<b>3</b>	Grants and other assistance to foreign organizations, foreign governments, and foreign individuals See Part IV, lines 15 and 16 . . . . .				
<b>4</b>	Benefits paid to or for members . . . . .				
<b>5</b>	Compensation of current officers, directors, trustees, and key employees . . . . .	212,360	138,034	74,326	
<b>6</b>	Compensation not included above, to disqualified persons (as defined under section 4958(f)(1)) and persons described in section 4958(c)(3)(B) . . . . .				
<b>7</b>	Other salaries and wages . . . . .	229,402	184,189	45,213	
<b>8</b>	Pension plan accruals and contributions (include section 401(k) and 403(b) employer contributions) . . . . .				
<b>9</b>	Other employee benefits . . . . .	22,668	16,534	6,134	
<b>10</b>	Payroll taxes . . . . .	32,617	23,791	8,826	
<b>11</b>	Fees for services (non-employees)				
<b>a</b>	Management . . . . .				
<b>b</b>	Legal . . . . .	27,435	27,435		
<b>c</b>	Accounting . . . . .	11,810	11,810		
<b>d</b>	Lobbying . . . . .				
<b>e</b>	Professional fundraising services See Part IV, line 17				
<b>f</b>	Investment management fees . . . . .				
<b>g</b>	Other (If line 11g amount exceeds 10% of line 25, column (A) amount, list line 11g expenses on Schedule O) . . . . .				
<b>12</b>	Advertising and promotion . . . . .	12,573	12,573		
<b>13</b>	Office expenses . . . . .	889		889	
<b>14</b>	Information technology . . . . .	89,558	86,634	2,924	
<b>15</b>	Royalties . . . . .				
<b>16</b>	Occupancy . . . . .	34,758	4,500	30,258	
<b>17</b>	Travel . . . . .	20,737	20,737		
<b>18</b>	Payments of travel or entertainment expenses for any federal, state, or local public officials . . . . .				
<b>19</b>	Conferences, conventions, and meetings . . . . .	17,514	17,514		
<b>20</b>	Interest . . . . .				
<b>21</b>	Payments to affiliates . . . . .				
<b>22</b>	Depreciation, depletion, and amortization . . . . .	892		892	
<b>23</b>	Insurance . . . . .	5,960		5,960	
<b>24</b>	Other expenses Itemize expenses not covered above (List miscellaneous expenses in line 24e. If line 24e amount exceeds 10% of line 25, column (A) amount, list line 24e expenses on Schedule O )				
<b>a</b>	CONTRIBUTIONS	251,308	251,308		
<b>b</b>	CONSULTING	204,809	164,609	40,200	
<b>c</b>	TRAINING	49,715	49,715		
<b>d</b>	AUTO EXPENSES	32,834	22,233	10,601	
<b>e</b>	All other expenses	103,918	59,550	44,368	
<b>25</b>	<b>Total functional expenses.</b> Add lines 1 through 24e	1,361,757	1,091,166	270,591	0
<b>26</b>	<b>Joint costs.</b> Complete this line only if the organization reported in column (B) joint costs from a combined educational campaign and fundraising solicitation. Check here <input type="checkbox"/> if following SOP 98-2 (ASC 958-720)				

**Part X Balance Sheet**

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part X

		(A)		(B)
		Beginning of year		End of year
<b>Assets</b>	<b>1</b> Cash—non-interest-bearing . . . . .	10,443	<b>1</b>	187,642
	<b>2</b> Savings and temporary cash investments . . . . .		<b>2</b>	
	<b>3</b> Pledges and grants receivable, net . . . . .		<b>3</b>	
	<b>4</b> Accounts receivable, net . . . . .		<b>4</b>	
	<b>5</b> Loans and other receivables from current and former officers, directors, trustees, key employees, and highest compensated employees Complete Part II of Schedule L . . . . .		<b>5</b>	
	<b>6</b> Loans and other receivables from other disqualified persons (as defined under section 4958(f)(1)), persons described in section 4958(c)(3)(B), and contributing employers and sponsoring organizations of section 501(c)(9) voluntary employees' beneficiary organizations (see instructions) Complete Part II of Schedule L . . . . .		<b>6</b>	
	<b>7</b> Notes and loans receivable, net . . . . .		<b>7</b>	
	<b>8</b> Inventories for sale or use . . . . .		<b>8</b>	
	<b>9</b> Prepaid expenses and deferred charges . . . . .		<b>9</b>	
	<b>10a</b> Land, buildings, and equipment cost or other basis Complete Part VI of Schedule D	<b>10a</b> 4,671		
	<b>b</b> Less accumulated depreciation . . . . .	<b>10b</b> 3,335	2,228	<b>10c</b> 1,336
	<b>11</b> Investments—publicly traded securities . . . . .		<b>11</b>	
	<b>12</b> Investments—other securities See Part IV, line 11 . . . . .		<b>12</b>	
	<b>13</b> Investments—program-related See Part IV, line 11 . . . . .		<b>13</b>	
	<b>14</b> Intangible assets . . . . .		<b>14</b>	
	<b>15</b> Other assets See Part IV, line 11 . . . . .		2,324	<b>15</b> 37,324
<b>16</b> <b>Total assets.</b> Add lines 1 through 15 (must equal line 34) . . . . .		14,995	<b>16</b> 226,302	
<b>Liabilities</b>	<b>17</b> Accounts payable and accrued expenses . . . . .		<b>17</b>	
	<b>18</b> Grants payable . . . . .		<b>18</b>	
	<b>19</b> Deferred revenue . . . . .		<b>19</b>	
	<b>20</b> Tax-exempt bond liabilities . . . . .		<b>20</b>	
	<b>21</b> Escrow or custodial account liability Complete Part IV of Schedule D . . . . .		<b>21</b>	
	<b>22</b> Loans and other payables to current and former officers, directors, trustees, key employees, highest compensated employees, and disqualified persons Complete Part II of Schedule L . . . . .		<b>22</b>	
	<b>23</b> Secured mortgages and notes payable to unrelated third parties . . . . .		<b>23</b>	
	<b>24</b> Unsecured notes and loans payable to unrelated third parties . . . . .		<b>24</b>	
	<b>25</b> Other liabilities (including federal income tax, payables to related third parties, and other liabilities not included on lines 17-24) Complete Part X of Schedule D . . . . .		<b>25</b>	
	<b>26</b> <b>Total liabilities.</b> Add lines 17 through 25 . . . . .		0	<b>26</b> 0
<b>Net Assets or Fund Balances</b>	<b>Organizations that follow SFAS 117 (ASC 958), check here <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> and complete lines 27 through 29, and lines 33 and 34.</b>			
	<b>27</b> Unrestricted net assets . . . . .	14,995	<b>27</b>	226,302
	<b>28</b> Temporarily restricted net assets . . . . .		<b>28</b>	
	<b>29</b> Permanently restricted net assets . . . . .		<b>29</b>	
	<b>Organizations that do not follow SFAS 117 (ASC 958), check here <input type="checkbox"/> and complete lines 30 through 34.</b>			
	<b>30</b> Capital stock or trust principal, or current funds . . . . .		<b>30</b>	
	<b>31</b> Paid-in or capital surplus, or land, building or equipment fund . . . . .		<b>31</b>	
	<b>32</b> Retained earnings, endowment, accumulated income, or other funds . . . . .		<b>32</b>	
<b>33</b> Total net assets or fund balances . . . . .	14,995	<b>33</b>	226,302	
<b>34</b> Total liabilities and net assets/fund balances . . . . .	14,995	<b>34</b>	226,302	

**Part XI Reconciliation of Net Assets**

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part XI

<b>1</b>	Total revenue (must equal Part VIII, column (A), line 12)	<b>1</b>	1,573,064
<b>2</b>	Total expenses (must equal Part IX, column (A), line 25)	<b>2</b>	1,361,757
<b>3</b>	Revenue less expenses Subtract line 2 from line 1	<b>3</b>	211,307
<b>4</b>	Net assets or fund balances at beginning of year (must equal Part X, line 33, column (A))	<b>4</b>	14,995
<b>5</b>	Net unrealized gains (losses) on investments	<b>5</b>	
<b>6</b>	Donated services and use of facilities	<b>6</b>	
<b>7</b>	Investment expenses	<b>7</b>	
<b>8</b>	Prior period adjustments	<b>8</b>	
<b>9</b>	Other changes in net assets or fund balances (explain in Schedule O)	<b>9</b>	0
<b>10</b>	Net assets or fund balances at end of year Combine lines 3 through 9 (must equal Part X, line 33, column (B))	<b>10</b>	226,302

**Part XII Financial Statements and Reporting**

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part XII

		Yes	No
<b>1</b>	Accounting method used to prepare the Form 990 <input type="checkbox"/> Cash <input type="checkbox"/> Accrual <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other <u>MODIFIED CASH</u> If the organization changed its method of accounting from a prior year or checked "Other," explain in Schedule O		
<b>2a</b>	Were the organization's financial statements compiled or reviewed by an independent accountant? If "Yes," check a box below to indicate whether the financial statements for the year were compiled or reviewed on a separate basis, consolidated basis, or both <input type="checkbox"/> Separate basis <input type="checkbox"/> Consolidated basis <input type="checkbox"/> Both consolidated and separate basis		No
<b>b</b>	Were the organization's financial statements audited by an independent accountant? If "Yes," check a box below to indicate whether the financial statements for the year were audited on a separate basis, consolidated basis, or both <input type="checkbox"/> Separate basis <input type="checkbox"/> Consolidated basis <input type="checkbox"/> Both consolidated and separate basis		No
<b>c</b>	If "Yes," to line 2a or 2b, does the organization have a committee that assumes responsibility for oversight of the audit, review, or compilation of its financial statements and selection of an independent accountant? If the organization changed either its oversight process or selection process during the tax year, explain in Schedule O		
<b>3a</b>	As a result of a federal award, was the organization required to undergo an audit or audits as set forth in the Single Audit Act and OMB Circular A-133?		No
<b>b</b>	If "Yes," did the organization undergo the required audit or audits? If the organization did not undergo the required audit or audits, explain why in Schedule O and describe any steps taken to undergo such audits		

**SCHEDULE D**  
(Form 990)

**Supplemental Financial Statements**

OMB No 1545-0047  
**2015**  
Open to Public Inspection

▶ Complete if the organization answered "Yes," on Form 990, Part IV, line 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11a, 11b, 11c, 11d, 11e, 11f, 12a, or 12b.  
▶ Attach to Form 990.

Information about Schedule D (Form 990) and its instructions is at [www.irs.gov/form990](http://www.irs.gov/form990).

Department of the Treasury  
Internal Revenue Service

**Name of the organization**  
ILLINOIS OPPORTUNITY PROJECT  
C/O MATTHEW BESLER

**Employer identification number**  
27-3627386

**Part I Organizations Maintaining Donor Advised Funds or Other Similar Funds or Accounts.**

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 6.

	(a) Donor advised funds	(b) Funds and other accounts
1	Total number at end of year	
2	Aggregate value of contributions to (during year)	
3	Aggregate value of grants from (during year)	
4	Aggregate value at end of year	
5	Did the organization inform all donors and donor advisors in writing that the assets held in donor advised funds are the organization's property, subject to the organization's exclusive legal control?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
6	Did the organization inform all grantees, donors, and donor advisors in writing that grant funds can be used only for charitable purposes and not for the benefit of the donor or donor advisor, or for any other purpose conferring impermissible private benefit?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

**Part II Conservation Easements.** Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 7.

1 Purpose(s) of conservation easements held by the organization (check all that apply)

Preservation of land for public use (e.g., recreation or education)  Preservation of an historically important land area

Protection of natural habitat  Preservation of a certified historic structure

Preservation of open space

2 Complete lines 2a through 2d if the organization held a qualified conservation contribution in the form of a conservation easement on the last day of the tax year

	Held at the End of the Year
a	Total number of conservation easements
b	Total acreage restricted by conservation easements
c	Number of conservation easements on a certified historic structure included in (a)
d	Number of conservation easements included in (c) acquired after 8/17/06, and not on a historic structure listed in the National Register

3 Number of conservation easements modified, transferred, released, extinguished, or terminated by the organization during the tax year ▶ \_\_\_\_\_

4 Number of states where property subject to conservation easement is located ▶ \_\_\_\_\_

5 Does the organization have a written policy regarding the periodic monitoring, inspection, handling of violations, and enforcement of the conservation easements it holds?  Yes  No

6 Staff and volunteer hours devoted to monitoring, inspecting, handling of violations, and enforcing conservation easements during the year  
▶ \_\_\_\_\_

7 Amount of expenses incurred in monitoring, inspecting, handling of violations, and enforcing conservation easements during the year  
▶ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

8 Does each conservation easement reported on line 2(d) above satisfy the requirements of section 170(h)(4) (B)(i) and section 170(h)(4)(B)(ii)?  Yes  No

9 In Part XIII, describe how the organization reports conservation easements in its revenue and expense statement, and balance sheet, and include, if applicable, the text of the footnote to the organization's financial statements that describes the organization's accounting for conservation easements

**Part III Organizations Maintaining Collections of Art, Historical Treasures, or Other Similar Assets.** Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 8.

1a If the organization elected, as permitted under SFAS 116 (ASC 958), not to report in its revenue statement and balance sheet works of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets held for public exhibition, education, or research in furtherance of public service, provide, in Part XIII, the text of the footnote to its financial statements that describes these items

b If the organization elected, as permitted under SFAS 116 (ASC 958), to report in its revenue statement and balance sheet works of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets held for public exhibition, education, or research in furtherance of public service, provide the following amounts relating to these items

(i) Revenue included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 1 ▶ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(ii) Assets included in Form 990, Part X ▶ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

2 If the organization received or held works of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets for financial gain, provide the following amounts required to be reported under SFAS 116 (ASC 958) relating to these items

a Revenue included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 1 ▶ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

b Assets included in Form 990, Part X ▶ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Part III Organizations Maintaining Collections of Art, Historical Treasures, or Other Similar Assets**  
(continued)

- 3** Using the organization's acquisition, accession, and other records, check any of the following that are a significant use of its collection items (check all that apply)
- a**  Public exhibition
  - b**  Scholarly research
  - c**  Preservation for future generations
  - d**  Loan or exchange programs
  - e**  Other
- 4** Provide a description of the organization's collections and explain how they further the organization's exempt purpose in Part XIII
- 5** During the year, did the organization solicit or receive donations of art, historical treasures or other similar assets to be sold to raise funds rather than to be maintained as part of the organization's collection?  Yes  No

**Part IV Escrow and Custodial Arrangements.**  
Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 9, or reported an amount on Form 990, Part X, line 21.

- 1a** Is the organization an agent, trustee, custodian or other intermediary for contributions or other assets not included on Form 990, Part X?  Yes  No

**b** If "Yes," explain the arrangement in Part XIII and complete the following table

	Amount
<b>c</b> Beginning balance	<b>1c</b>
<b>d</b> Additions during the year	<b>1d</b>
<b>e</b> Distributions during the year	<b>1e</b>
<b>f</b> Ending balance	<b>1f</b>

- 2a** Did the organization include an amount on Form 990, Part X, line 21, for escrow or custodial account liability?  Yes  No

- b** If "Yes," explain the arrangement in Part XIII. Check here if the explanation has been provided in Part XIII . . . . .

**Part V Endowment Funds.** Complete if the organization answered "Yes" to Form 990, Part IV, line 10.

	(a) Current year	(b) Prior year	b (c) Two years back	(d) Three years back	(e) Four years back
<b>1a</b> Beginning of year balance . . . . .					
<b>b</b> Contributions . . . . .					
<b>c</b> Net investment earnings, gains, and losses					
<b>d</b> Grants or scholarships . . . . .					
<b>e</b> Other expenditures for facilities and programs . . . . .					
<b>f</b> Administrative expenses . . . . .					
<b>g</b> End of year balance . . . . .					

- 2** Provide the estimated percentage of the current year end balance (line 1g, column (a)) held as

- a** Board designated or quasi-endowment ▶
  - b** Permanent endowment ▶
  - c** Temporarily restricted endowment ▶
- The percentages on lines 2a, 2b, and 2c should equal 100%

- 3a** Are there endowment funds not in the possession of the organization that are held and administered for the organization by
- |  | Yes           | No |
|--|---------------|----|
| <b>(i)</b> unrelated organizations . . . . .   | <b>3a(i)</b>  |    |
| <b>(ii)</b> related organizations . . . . .  | <b>3a(ii)</b> |    |
| <b>b</b> If "Yes" on 3a(ii), are the related organizations listed as required on Schedule R? . . . . . | <b>3b</b>     |    |

- 4** Describe in Part XIII the intended uses of the organization's endowment funds

**Part VI Land, Buildings, and Equipment.**

Complete if the organization answered 'Yes' to Form 990, Part IV, line 11a. See Form 990, Part X, line 10.

Description of property	(a) Cost or other basis (investment)	(b) Cost or other basis (other)	(c) Accumulated depreciation	(d) Book value
<b>1a</b> Land . . . . .				
<b>b</b> Buildings . . . . .				
<b>c</b> Leasehold improvements . . . . .				
<b>d</b> Equipment . . . . .				
<b>e</b> Other . . . . .		4,671	3,335	1,336
<b>Total.</b> Add lines 1a through 1e (Column (d) must equal Form 990, Part X, column (B), line 10(c) . . . . . ▶				1,336



**Part XI Reconciliation of Revenue per Audited Financial Statements With Revenue per Return**

Complete if the organization answered 'Yes' on Form 990, Part IV, line 12a.

<b>1</b>	Total revenue, gains, and other support per audited financial statements . . . . .		<b>1</b>	
<b>2</b>	Amounts included on line 1 but not on Form 990, Part VIII, line 12			
<b>a</b>	Net unrealized gains (losses) on investments . . . . .	<b>2a</b>		
<b>b</b>	Donated services and use of facilities . . . . .	<b>2b</b>		
<b>c</b>	Recoveries of prior year grants . . . . .	<b>2c</b>		
<b>d</b>	Other (Describe in Part XIII ) . . . . .	<b>2d</b>		
<b>e</b>	Add lines <b>2a</b> through <b>2d</b> . . . . .		<b>2e</b>	
<b>3</b>	Subtract line <b>2e</b> from line <b>1</b> . . . . .		<b>3</b>	
<b>4</b>	Amounts included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 12, but not on line <b>1</b>			
<b>a</b>	Investment expenses not included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 7b . . . . .	<b>4a</b>		
<b>b</b>	Other (Describe in Part XIII ) . . . . .	<b>4b</b>		
<b>c</b>	Add lines <b>4a</b> and <b>4b</b> . . . . .		<b>4c</b>	
<b>5</b>	Total revenue Add lines <b>3</b> and <b>4c</b> . (This must equal Form 990, Part I, line 12 ) . . . . .		<b>5</b>	

**Part XII Reconciliation of Expenses per Audited Financial Statements With Expenses per Return.**

Complete if the organization answered 'Yes' on Form 990, Part IV, line 12a.

<b>1</b>	Total expenses and losses per audited financial statements . . . . .		<b>1</b>	
<b>2</b>	Amounts included on line 1 but not on Form 990, Part IX, line 25			
<b>a</b>	Donated services and use of facilities . . . . .	<b>2a</b>		
<b>b</b>	Prior year adjustments . . . . .	<b>2b</b>		
<b>c</b>	Other losses . . . . .	<b>2c</b>		
<b>d</b>	Other (Describe in Part XIII ) . . . . .	<b>2d</b>		
<b>e</b>	Add lines <b>2a</b> through <b>2d</b> . . . . .		<b>2e</b>	
<b>3</b>	Subtract line <b>2e</b> from line <b>1</b> . . . . .		<b>3</b>	
<b>4</b>	Amounts included on Form 990, Part IX, line 25, but not on line <b>1</b> :			
<b>a</b>	Investment expenses not included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 7b . . . . .	<b>4a</b>		
<b>b</b>	Other (Describe in Part XIII ) . . . . .	<b>4b</b>		
<b>c</b>	Add lines <b>4a</b> and <b>4b</b> . . . . .		<b>4c</b>	
<b>5</b>	Total expenses Add lines <b>3</b> and <b>4c</b> . (This must equal Form 990, Part I, line 18 ) . . . . .		<b>5</b>	

**Part XIII Supplemental Information**

Provide the descriptions required for Part II, lines 3, 5, and 9, Part III, lines 1a and 4, Part IV, lines 1b and 2b, Part V, line 4, Part X, line 2, Part XI, lines 2d and 4b, and Part XII, lines 2d and 4b Also complete this part to provide any additional information

Return Reference	Explanation

**Part XIII** Supplemental Information *(continued)*

Return Reference	Explanation

**Schedule J**  
**(Form 990)**

Department of the Treasury  
Internal Revenue Service

**Compensation Information**

OMB No 1545-0047

**For certain Officers, Directors, Trustees, Key Employees, and Highest Compensated Employees**  
 ▶ **Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 23.**  
 ▶ **Attach to Form 990.**

**2015**  
**Open to Public Inspection**

▶ **Information about Schedule J (Form 990) and its instructions is at [www.irs.gov/form990](http://www.irs.gov/form990).**

Name of the organization  
ILLINOIS OPPORTUNITY PROJECT  
C/O MATTHEW BESLER

**Employer identification number**  
27-3627386

**Part I Questions Regarding Compensation**

	Yes	No
<p><b>1a</b> Check the appropriate box(es) if the organization provided any of the following to or for a person listed on Form 990, Part VII, Section A, line 1a. Complete Part III to provide any relevant information regarding these items.</p> <p> <input type="checkbox"/> First-class or charter travel                      <input type="checkbox"/> Housing allowance or residence for personal use  <input type="checkbox"/> Travel for companions                                      <input type="checkbox"/> Payments for business use of personal residence  <input type="checkbox"/> Tax indemnification and gross-up payments                      <input type="checkbox"/> Health or social club dues or initiation fees  <input type="checkbox"/> Discretionary spending account                      <input type="checkbox"/> Personal services (e.g., maid, chauffeur, chef)                 </p>		
<p><b>b</b> If any of the boxes in line 1a are checked, did the organization follow a written policy regarding payment or reimbursement or provision of all of the expenses described above? If "No," complete Part III to explain.</p>	<b>1b</b>	
<p><b>2</b> Did the organization require substantiation prior to reimbursing or allowing expenses incurred by all directors, trustees, officers, including the CEO/Executive Director, regarding the items checked in line 1a?</p>	<b>2</b>	
<p><b>3</b> Indicate which, if any, of the following the filing organization used to establish the compensation of the organization's CEO/Executive Director. Check all that apply. Do not check any boxes for methods used by a related organization to establish compensation of the CEO/Executive Director, but explain in Part III.</p> <p> <input type="checkbox"/> Compensation committee                      <input type="checkbox"/> Written employment contract  <input type="checkbox"/> Independent compensation consultant                      <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Compensation survey or study  <input type="checkbox"/> Form 990 of other organizations                      <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approval by the board or compensation committee                 </p>		
<p><b>4</b> During the year, did any person listed on Form 990, Part VII, Section A, line 1a with respect to the filing organization or a related organization:</p> <p><b>a</b> Receive a severance payment or change-of-control payment?</p>	<b>4a</b>	No
<p><b>b</b> Participate in, or receive payment from, a supplemental nonqualified retirement plan?</p>	<b>4b</b>	No
<p><b>c</b> Participate in, or receive payment from, an equity-based compensation arrangement?</p> <p>If "Yes" to any of lines 4a-c, list the persons and provide the applicable amounts for each item in Part III.</p>	<b>4c</b>	No
<p><b>Only 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4), and 501(c)(29) organizations must complete lines 5-9.</b></p>		
<p><b>5</b> For persons listed on Form 990, Part VII, Section A, line 1a, did the organization pay or accrue any compensation contingent on the revenues of:</p> <p><b>a</b> The organization?</p>	<b>5a</b>	No
<p><b>b</b> Any related organization?</p> <p>If "Yes," on line 5a or 5b, describe in Part III.</p>	<b>5b</b>	No
<p><b>6</b> For persons listed on Form 990, Part VII, Section A, line 1a, did the organization pay or accrue any compensation contingent on the net earnings of:</p> <p><b>a</b> The organization?</p>	<b>6a</b>	No
<p><b>b</b> Any related organization?</p> <p>If "Yes," on line 6a or 6b, describe in Part III.</p>	<b>6b</b>	No
<p><b>7</b> For persons listed on Form 990, Part VII, Section A, line 1a, did the organization provide any non-fixed payments not described in lines 5 and 6? If "Yes," describe in Part III.</p>	<b>7</b>	No
<p><b>8</b> Were any amounts reported on Form 990, Part VII, paid or accrued pursuant to a contract that was subject to the initial contract exception described in Regulations section 53.4958-4(a)(3)? If "Yes," describe in Part III.</p>	<b>8</b>	No
<p><b>9</b> If "Yes" on line 8, did the organization also follow the rebuttable presumption procedure described in Regulations section 53.4958-6(c)?</p>	<b>9</b>	

**Part II Officers, Directors, Trustees, Key Employees, and Highest Compensated Employees.** Use duplicate copies if additional space is needed.

For each individual whose compensation must be reported on Schedule J, report compensation from the organization on row (i) and from related organizations, described in the instructions, on row (ii). Do not list any individuals that are not listed on Form 990, Part VII.

**Note.** The sum of columns (B)(i)-(iii) for each listed individual must equal the total amount of Form 990, Part VII, Section A, line 1a, applicable column (D) and (E) amounts for that individual.

(A) Name and Title		(B) Breakdown of W-2 and/or 1099-MISC compensation			(C) Retirement and other deferred compensation	(D) Nontaxable benefits	(E) Total of columns (B)(i)-(D)	(F) Compensation in column (B) reported as deferred on prior Form 990
		(i) Base compensation	(ii) Bonus & incentive compensation	(iii) Other reportable compensation				
1 MATT BESLER DIRECTOR AND PRESIDENT	(i)	205,990 -----	0 -----	0 -----	6,371 -----	6,493 -----	218,854 -----	0 -----
	(ii)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

**Part III** **Supplemental Information**

Provide the information, explanation, or descriptions required for Part I, lines 1a, 1b, 3, 4a, 4b, 4c, 5a, 5b, 6a, 6b, 7, and 8, and for Part II. Also complete this part for any additional information.

Return Reference	Explanation
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**SCHEDULE O  
(Form 990 or  
990-EZ)**Department of the  
Treasury  
Internal Revenue  
Service**Supplemental Information to Form 990 or 990-EZ**Complete to provide information for responses to specific questions on  
Form 990 or 990-EZ or to provide any additional information.

▶ Attach to Form 990 or 990-EZ.

▶ Information about Schedule O (Form 990 or 990-EZ) and its instructions is at  
[www.irs.gov/form990](http://www.irs.gov/form990).**2015****Open to Public  
Inspection**Name of the organization  
ILLINOIS OPPORTUNITY PROJECT  
C/O MATTHEW BESLER**Employer identification number**

27-3627386

**990 Schedule O, Supplemental Information**

Return Reference	Explanation
FORM 990, PART III, LINE 4D	OTHER PROGRAM SERVICES INCLUDE ADVOCACY CAMPAIGNS AND OTHER METHODS USED TO EDUCATE INDIVIDUALS ABOUT PUBLIC POLICY CHOICES
FORM 990, PART VI, SECTION B, LINE 11	PRIOR TO SUBMISSION TO THE IRS, FORM 990 IS PROVIDED TO THE PRINCIPAL OFFICER AND GOVERNING BODY OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR REVIEW

**990 Schedule O, Supplemental Information**

Return Reference	Explanation
FORM 990, PART VI, SECTION B, LINE 11	PRIOR TO SUBMISSION TO THE IRS, FORM 990 IS PROVIDED TO THE BOARD FOR REVIEW
FORM 990, PART VI, SECTION B, LINE 12C	ALL ARE REQUIRED TO SIGN AN AGREEMENT TO BE BOUND BY THE PROVISIONS OF THE CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY FOR THE DURATION, AND INFORM THE ORGANIZATION OF ANY REPORTABLE CHANGES AS SOON AS THEY OCCUR IN ADDITION, THE ORGANIZATION MONITORS ALL TRANSACTIONS, CONTRACTS AND AGREEMENTS BY THE BOARD

**990 Schedule O, Supplemental Information**

Return Reference	Explanation
FORM 990, PART VI, SECTION B, LINE 15	COMPENSATION OF CEO IS DETERMINED BY AN EXAMINATION OF COMPARABLE DATE FOR OTHER CEO'S IN THE INDUSTRY COUNTRY WIDE AND IN THE CHICAGO LAND AREA THE INFORMATION FROM THAT RESEARCH IS SHARED WITH THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS WHO THEN APPROVE COMPENSATION FOR THE CEO NOTE THAT AN INDEPENDENT CONSULTANT IS NOT UTILIZED IN THE PROCESS FOR OTHER OFFICERS AND KEY EMPLOYEES, THE COMPENSATION PROCESS IS THE SAME WITH THE CEO HAVING FULL DISCRETION AS DELEGATED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
FORM 990, PART VI, SECTION C, LINE 19	ALL GOVERNING DOCUMENTS, POLICIES, AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS ARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

**990 Schedule O, Supplemental Information**

<b>Return Reference</b>	<b>Explanation</b>
FORM 990, PART XII, LINE 1	OTHER METHOD OF ACCOUNTING THE ORGANIZATION USES THE MODIFIED CASH BASIS OF ACCOUNTING CERTAIN EXPENSES ARE RECOGNIZED WHEN RECEIVED RATHER THAN WHEN EARNED AND CERTAIN EXPENSES ARE RECOGNIZED WHEN PAID RATHER THAN WHEN THE OBLIGATION IS INCURRED
FORM 990, PART XII, LINE 2C	THERE HAS BEEN NO CHANGE IN THE PROCESS SINCE THE PRIOR YEAR