



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Illinois Finance Authority Ranked Top Issuer in Midwest First Half 2007

CHICAGO, Ill. — The Illinois Finance Authority (IFA) issued more than \$1.3 billion in municipal bonds during the first half of calendar year 2007 to achieve the ranking of largest municipal issuer in the Midwest region, according to the *Midwest Midyear Review* published in *The Bond Buyer*, the daily financial newspaper covering public finance. The IFA also earned a top rank in leading Midwest issuers for calendar year 2006.

Top Issuers: First Half 2007, Midwest Region

Rank	Issuer	Amount (in millions)
1	Illinois Finance Authority	\$1,326.1
2	Chicago	1,307.8
3	Ohio	993.2
4	Wisconsin	962.7
5	Indiana Finance Authority	937.4
6	Illinois (state)	637.0
7	Michigan Municipal Bond Authority	596.5
8	Central Plains Energy NE	529.1
9	Public Power Generation Agency, Nebraska	504.7
10	Kent Hospital Finance Authority, MI	425.8

The Midwest region includes Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota and Wisconsin. Bond rankings are based on issues maturing in 13 months or more. Private placements, remarketings, and issues not meeting Thomson Financial's 'T+5' policy rule are excluded. Source: Thomson Financial (7/14/07).

“The Illinois Finance Authority has been very successful throughout the state by utilizing a number of financing tools -- from venture capital, loans and guarantees, to very complex bonds. While we have reached top rank with a number of large bond projects, IFA continues to develop and expand programs targeted at small businesses, rural areas outside the collar counties, and underdeveloped and low income areas of our cities,” said Executive Director Kym M. Hubbard.

With approximately \$16 billion in new project approvals since its legislative inception in January 2004, nearly half of IFA’s 750 projects approved to date have been for small operators in amounts less than \$500,000, and less than five percent of approved projects have been in amounts greater than \$150 Million.

The Illinois Finance Authority is a self-funded, state authority that fosters economic development and job growth by providing access to affordable capital for Illinois businesses and institutions. IFA works with organizations in a variety of sectors, including manufacturing, local government, healthcare, not-for-profits, education and agriculture. Offices are located in Chicago, Mt. Vernon, Peoria and Springfield.