State of Illinois
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency

Drycleaner Environmental Response Trust Fund

2026 REPORT

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September 2026

Executive Summary

Section 25(h) of the Drycleaner Environmental Response Trust ("DERT") Fund Act (415 ILCS 135) directs the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA) to prepare a report as deemed necessary after 2022 reflecting the status of the DERT Fund ("the Fund"), identifying administrative expenses incurred by the Agency in its administration of the Fund, identifying amounts from the Fund that have been applied toward remedial action and insurance claims under the Act, and identifying drycleaning facilities within the state that are eligible for reimbursement from the Fund that have completed remedial action. For a background of the program, please review previous DERT Fund reports.

DERT Fund Overview

As of July 1, 2026, the Fund had a balance of $928,127.10. During State Fiscal Year 2026, the Fund generated $1,056,576.24 of revenue. Two categories of costs are paid from the Fund: administrative expenses for the Illinois EPA's oversight of the Fund and reimbursement of remediation claims.[1] Section 10(f) of the DERT Fund Act limits the Illinois EPA's administrative expenses to no more than $600,000 per State Fiscal Year. During State Fiscal Year 2026, the Illinois EPA incurred $406,212.63 of such expenses. This included salaries and fringe benefits of employees whose responsibilities included reviewing license applications, remedial action applications, requests for payment, and other submissions related to the Illinois EPA's administration of the Fund. In addition, the Illinois EPA approved and paid $502,388.48 of remedial action claims from the DERT Fund in State Fiscal Year 2026. In total, the Illinois EPA approved 21 reimbursement request claims for 15 sites.

The latest count of licensed drycleaners for 2026 is 387 facilities. The DERT Fund issued 123 insurance policies with policy dates starting July 1, 2025 up to June 31, 2026. 55 of the 77 drycleaner sites currently enrolled in the Site Remediation Program are not currently actively operating or licensed as a drycleaner. Licensed operators enrolled in the Site Remediation Program must maintain continuous insurance to remain eligible for reimbursement. Inactive drycleaning sites enrolled in the Site Remediation Program must pay an annual $3,000.00 administrative assessment due February 1 of each year to remain eligible for reimbursement.

Sites Eligible for Reimbursement [1]

During the transition of the administration of the Fund, the Illinois EPA received records reflecting outstanding approved remedial actions from the Council. The Illinois EPA reviewed those records to confirm the roster of sites that previously submitted approvable budgets and work plans for cleanup work necessary to address drycleaning-related releases; in addition, the Illinois EPA reviewed current program records to update the list of sites in the previous DERT Fund Reports.

As of July 31, 2026, there are 30 drycleaning facilities currently eligible for reimbursement from the DERT Fund for approved remedial actions activities. Those sites are:

Drycleaning Facility	Facility Address	City	Zip
All Cleaners	730 Butterfield Rd	Aurora	60542
A Plus Quality Cleaners	833 Greenbay Rd	Wilmette	60091
Clean Clean Dry Cleaners	6417 W Archer Ave	Chicago	60638
Delaney Heald Cleaners	10555 S Western Ave	Chicago	60643
Diversey Cleaners	3209-11 W Diversey Ave	Chicago	60647
Douglas Cleaners	1538 W Ogden Ave	Downers Grove	60515
Eagle Cleaners	8341 S Pulaski Rd	Chicago	60652
Elite Cleaners	165 E 147th St	Harvey	60426
Finess Cleaners	5135 W Diversey Ave	Chicago	60639
First Cleaners of Barrington	722 S Northwest Hwy	Barrington	60010
First Street Cleaners	1106-1110 N First St	DeKalb	60115
JYS Heritage Cleaners	324 W Liberty Dr	Wheaton	60187
Kenny the Kleener	3358 Dempster St	Skokie	60076
KustomKleen	1008 N Wilke Rd	Arlington Heights	60004
Lim's Cleaners	2416 W 69th St	Chicago	60629
Manteno Laundry	388 N Oak	Manteno	60950
M B Cleaners	2226 West Ogden Ave	Chicago	60504
Modernway Cleaners	14642 S Pulaski	Midlothian	60445
Morton Cleaners	5932 W Irving Park Rd	Chicago	60634
Mystic Craft Cleaners	5330 N Cumberland Ave	Chicago	60506
New Poly Cleaners	600 Madison St	Oak Park	60302
New Spring Cleaners	1142 Hill Grove Ave	Western Springs	60558
North Harlem CK Cleaners	7107-7109 W North Ave	Oak Park	60302
North Suburban Cleaners	7620 Dempster St	Morton Grove	60053
Olympic Cleaners	6729 W Ogden Ave	Berwyn	60402
Russell's Cleaners	41 W Jefferson Ave	Naperville	60540

[1] For the purposes of this report, "remediation claims" covers both remedial action claims for releases that occurred earlier than 2006 and insurance claims for all subsequent releases.

Sam Cleaners Inc	5234 N Nagle	Chicago	60630
Tailorite Clothing & Repair Company	8459 S Cottage Grove Ave	Chicago	60619
The Cleaners	751 W Dundee Rd	Wheeling	60090
The Norman Laundry & Dry Cleaning	145 E Decatur St	Decatur	62521

It should be noted that facilities not found on these lists may become eligible by making payments towards overdue license fees, insurance premiums, or administrative assessments. Drycleaners that have not submitted a claim may also become eligible upon enrolling in the Site Remediation Program.

In accordance with 35 Ill. Admin. Code 1501.440, the Illinois EPA recognizes that there are not sufficient funds immediately available in the DERT Fund to pay all claimants the remaining amount of their insurance coverage benefits. The Agency has been assigning priority for payment based on the date order the payments are approved, per this section of the regulations.

Insurance coverage payments prioritized under Section 1501.440 must take precedence over approved payments prioritized under Section 1501.340. The following drycleaner claims were determined to fall under Section 1501.440 based on the release being discovered after July 1, 2006, as contemplated under Sections 1501.310(b) and 1501.310(c)(1):

Drycleaning Facility	**Facility Address**	**Amount remaining**	**Date of release/ SRP enrollment**
Olympic Cleaners	6729 W Ogden Ave	$ 470,412.43	2008
Mystic Craft	5330 N Cumberland	$ 449,605.00	2025
North Harlem CK	7107 W North Ave	$ 500,000.00	2024
Morton Cleaners	5932 W Irving Park Rd	$ 455,251.72	2025
Finess Cleaners	5135 W Diversey Ave	$ 500,000.00	2026
Kenny the Kleener	3358 Dempster St	$ 500,000.00	2026
	TOTAL ELIGIBLE	$ 2,875,269.15	

The DERT Fund is releasing up to $155,000.00 for the current fiscal year to each of these prioritized sites. Expected income to the Fund through 2030 will make available approximately $500,000.00 total to the remaining claims that maintain compliance. A review of data from DERT Fund claims found that the average drycleaner claim requested reimbursements of less than $100,000.00 to complete all remedial activities. This indicates

that the majority of remaining claims could be issued their No Further Remediation letter with minimal or no need for out-of-pocket payments.

In accordance with Section 1501.340(a), the Illinois EPA is beginning the process of considering site specific information to determine the final approved reimbursement claims prioritization list to be posted on https://epa.illinois.gov/topics/cleanup-programs/drycleaners.html.

Budget plans must be approved prior to submittal of reimbursement requests. Budget plans that have been approved will be paid in the date order the payments are approved. Reimbursement requests may be held until funds are available. *The Illinois EPA reminds covered and eligible claimants that they must conduct remedial action and may be subject to enforcement action and cost recovery for failure to obtain a final No Further Remediation Letter from the Site Remediation Program.*

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