Created in 1942, the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC) provides diverse services for 25 electric distribution cooperatives and five generation and transmission cooperatives. Eight telephone cooperatives are also members of the AIEC.

Over 250,000 consumer-owners, located in 90 of the state's 102 counties, receive electric service from these cooperatives. Member households encompass more than 600,000 citizens who benefit directly from these tax-paying businesses.

Among the AIEC departments providing value-added services to Illinois electric and telephone cooperatives are Administrative, Communications, Engineering and Support Services. Its Legal and Government Relations Department represents the cooperatives' interests in legislative and regulatory matters.

Each year the AIEC presents the IEC Public Service Award to members of the Illinois General Assembly and U.S. Congress for service to the rural electrification program. The importance of the legislative process is also recognized by the AIEC in its publication of the “Legislative Roster of the Illinois General Assembly and U.S. Congress,” regarded by legislators and others interested in the legislative process as a valuable guide to the Illinois legislative branch.