



COVID-19:

Emergency Resources for Businesses

For up to the minute updates from the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, please follow us on our social channels:



State of Illinois COVID-19 Response

[Stay up-to-date on all things Illinois COVID-19.](#) Protecting the health, safety, and wellbeing of Illinoisans is Governor Pritzker's top priority. The administration continues to work closely with local health departments, county officials and federal partners to put systems in place to respond to COVID-19. This website will provide the latest news releases related to coronavirus, resources, FAQs, video archives of press conferences and tips from leading experts to keep you and your family safe.



Emergency Resources Available to Businesses and Communities

- P.2 - Small Business Administration (SBA) Disaster Loans**
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Is your Business affected by the “Stay at Home Executive Order”?
Not sure if you are an Essential Business?

Review this essential check list for more information:

Link: <https://www2.illinois.gov/dceo/SmallBizAssistance/Documents/Essential%20Business%20Checklist3-22.pdf>

Small Business Administration (SBA) Disaster Loans

The State of Illinois has received its statewide Economic Injury Declaration which means small businesses in all 102 Illinois counties may be eligible for low-interest, economic injury disaster loans up to \$2M per business. For more information, click here: <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela/>

Hospitality Emergency Grant Program

To help hospitality businesses make ends meet in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, DCEO is launching the Hospitality Emergency Grant Program with \$14 million drawn from funds originally budgeted for job training, tourism promotion, and other purposes. Grant funds are available to support working capital like payroll and rent, as well as job training, retraining, and technology to support shifts in operations, like increased pick-up and delivery. Bars and restaurants that generated between \$500K and \$1M in revenue in 2019 are eligible for up to \$25,000, and bars and restaurants that generated less than \$500K in revenue in 2019 are eligible for up to \$10,000. Hotels that generated less than \$8M in revenue in 2019 are eligible for up to \$50,000.

Who is eligible?

Bars and restaurants with a valid license to serve food or liquor and who generated revenues of less than \$1 million in 2019. Hotels with a valid license (hotels, motels other lodging establishments) and who generated revenues of less than \$8 million in 2019.

What can grant funds be used for?

For bars and restaurants, based on the businesses needs identified in the grant application, funds can be used to support working capital (rent, payroll, and other accounts payable), job training (such as new practices related to take out, delivery and sanitation) and technology enabling new operations as well as other costs to implement that technology.

For hotels, funds can be used as working capital to support the retention of employees.

How do businesses apply?

Businesses can submit an application online here:



[Hospitality Emergency Grant Program](#)



[English Application](#)



[Spanish Application](#)

Applications for awards will be accepted until 5:00pm on April 1st, and winners will be chosen via a lottery, therefore, there is no benefit to submitting an application first as long as a valid, complete application is received by the deadline.

How much money is available?

\$14 million is available under this program.

- Bars and restaurants that generated less than \$500,000 in annual revenue last year will be eligible for up to \$10,000.
- Bars and restaurants that generated between \$500,000 and \$1M in annual revenue last year will be eligible for up to \$25,000.
- Hotels that generated less than \$8 million in annual revenue last year will be eligible for up to \$50,000.



How soon will businesses receive funds?

Accion will notify businesses on April 4th if they have received an award. Accion and DCEO are striving to make funds available to awarded businesses within two days of receiving the necessary bank information from an awarded grantee.

Illinois Small Business Emergency Loan Fund

DCEO and the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation (IDFPR) are establishing the Illinois Small Business Emergency Loan Fund to offer small businesses low interest loans of up to \$50,000.

Businesses located outside of the City of Chicago with fewer than 50 workers and less than \$3 million in revenue in 2019 will be eligible to apply. Successful applicants will owe nothing for six months and will then begin making fixed payments at a below market interest rate for the remainder of a five-year loan term. [For more information, click here.](#)

Who is eligible?

Small businesses located outside of the City of Chicago with fewer than 50 workers and less than \$3 million in revenue in 2019 can apply. Small businesses within the City of Chicago can apply to a similar loan program [here](#).

What can loan funds be used for?

Loans can be used to support working capital.

How do businesses apply?



Illinois Small Business Emergency Loan Fund

Businesses will be able to complete an interest form at the link above.

How much money is available?

Businesses can receive a low interest loan of up to \$50,000 with a 5 year repayment period with no payments due for the first six months.

How soon will businesses receive funds?

Eligible businesses will be invited to submit a full application beginning on March 31. Once submitted, we will strive to make a loan decision within 10 days, and make funds available within two days of receiving bank information from a business.

Downstate Small Business Stabilization Program

To support small businesses in downstate and rural counties across Illinois, DCEO is repurposing \$20 million in CDBG funds to stand up the Downstate Small Business Stabilization Program. This Fund will offer small businesses of up to 50 employees the opportunity to partner with their local governments to obtain grants of up to \$25,000 in working capital. These grants will be offered on a rolling basis.

Who is eligible?

Local governments can apply on behalf of businesses with 50 employees or less. Only cities, villages, and counties that are not a HUD direct entitlement community or located in an urban county that receives “entitlement” funds are eligible to apply.

Communities receiving an annual allocation directly from HUD on an entitlement (formula) basis are not eligible to apply for the State’s CDBG funding. Businesses located in the following counties and municipalities are therefore NOT ELIGIBLE for this program.

Urban Counties

Cook County	Madison County	DuPage County	McHenry County
Kane County	St. Clair County	Lake County	Will County

Metropolitan Cities

Arlington Heights	DeKalb	Naperville	Rock Island
Aurora	Des Plaines	Normal	Schaumburg
Berwyn	Elgin	Oak Lawn	Skokie
Bloomington	Evanston	Oak Park	Springfield
Champaign	Hoffman Estates	Palatine	Urbana
Chicago	Joliet	Pekin	Waukegan
Cicero	Kankakee	Peoria	
Danville	Moline	Rantoul	
Decatur	Mount Prospect	Rockford	

What can grants be used for?

Grants can be used to support working capital.

How do businesses apply?

Businesses in the eligible areas should work with their local governments to submit applications.



[Downstate Small Business Stabilization Application](#)

How much money is available?

Grants of up to \$25,000 per business will be available.

How soon will businesses receive funds?

DCEO's goal is to execute grants within 30 days of application receipt, after which funds will be accessible.

Technical Assistance, Information & Other Relief

Business Licenses

- Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation (IDFPR) Licensing (IDFPR) IDFPR is providing relief from professional licensing requirements, including extensions for licenses due March through July and waivers from certain continuing education requirements.

 [IDFPR Covid-19 2020 Press Release.pdf](#)

Tax Relief

- The Illinois Department of Revenue has provided contact info for taxpayer resources while taxpayer assistance offices and phone lines are shut down.

Link: <https://www2.illinois.gov/rev/Pages/Taxpayer-Resources-during-COVID-19-%28Coronavirus%29-Outbreak.aspx>

- Penalties and interest for late payment of sales taxes owed from February through April will be waived for eating and drinking establishments that incurred a sales tax responsibility of less than \$75,000 in CY2019.

 [Relief from Penalties for Late Sales Tax Payments COVID-19.pdf](#)

Unemployment Insurance

IDES has assembled FAQs about Unemployment Insurance and the COVID emergency

- Workers laid off due to COVID qualify for UI so long as they are prepared to return to work.
- Workers sent home due to COVID illness or quarantine, or are caring for an affected family member, are also eligible for UI coverage.
- IDES is waiving the standard 1 week wait to be eligible for UI coverage.

Link: <https://www2.illinois.gov/ides/Pages/COVID-19-and-Unemployment-Benefits.aspx>

Contact Information for DCEO Offices

Small Business Development Center Program

- Provides technical assistance and support for Illinois' small businesses

Link: <https://www2.illinois.gov/dceo/SmallBizAssistance/BeginHere/pages/sbdc.aspx>

Regional Economic Development

- Provides technical assistance and outreach to businesses across Illinois:

Email: TeamREDInquiries@Illinois.gov

Minority Economic Empowerment

- Promotes opportunities for all **minority business communities including women, veterans, or persons with disabilities** across the state through targeted programs, resources and advocates CEO.OMEE@illinois.gov

Tourism

- Promotes tourism: CEO.Tourism@illinois.gov

Employment & Training

- Provides workforce skills training to assist workers and companies: <https://www.illinoisworknet.com/>

Film

- Promotes and supports the film industry in Illinois: CEO.film@illinois.gov

For general business inquiries: 1-800-252-2923 or CEO.support@illinois.gov