



Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity

JB Pritzker, Governor

Northeast Region Weekly Update September 13, 2020

I hope you are doing well. DCEO continues to update guidance related to the Governor's Restore Illinois plan. The FAQ's that have been developed for Phase 4 have been updated with answers to more questions this week. You can find this information on our website [here](#). Please stay safe and wear your mask. We're All in Illinois!

Local CURE Support Program

Local Coronavirus Urgent Remediation Emergency (Local CURE) Support Program: Through this program, the State will take steps to deploy \$250 million to local governments in the coming months to help local governments secure reimbursement on eligible costs associated with the emergency response to the ongoing COVID-19 crisis. DCEO has posted information on our website [here](#). **DCEO has reopened the application period for eligible units of local government for Allotment C outside of Kane, Cook, Will, Lake and DuPage Counties not including municipalities, counties, or public health departments. The application can be found [here](#).**

We are hosting a webinar this week to provide information regarding this program and examples of expenditures that are reimbursable under this program. Please use the link to register for the webinar to attend. Please feel free to share this information with others. We want to ensure that the units of local government in non-entitlement areas are aware of this program and can take advantage of this funding opportunity.

Subject: Coronavirus Urgent Remediation Emergency Support Program

When: Tuesday September 15, 2020, 4:00 pm Central Time.

Where:

<https://illinois.webex.com/illinois/onstage/g.php?MTID=e81c6ed70d87ca9a2c95721590dc62193>

State of Illinois Certification Workshop: *Business Enterprise Program*

The Illinois Department of Central Management Services (CMS) and the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) are collaborating to provide assistance with the certification process and information on the benefits and advantages of becoming BEP certified. Two workshops will be held in the upcoming weeks. The links are provided below for the workshops.

WHEN: September 28th, 2020 3:00PM CST

WHERE: To register click [here](#)

WHEN: October 5th, 2020 3:00PM CST

WHERE: To register click [HERE](#)

Restore Illinois

Please remain vigilant to follow the guidelines. Guidance documents and tool kits for Phase 4 mitigation can be found on our website [here](#). The Illinois Department of Public Health also has numerous guidance documents and other information on their website at <http://dph.illinois.gov/covid19> including guidance for places of worship, funeral homes, and swimming facility guidelines. Additionally, the Illinois Department of Finance and Professional Regulation has information and guidance for industries regulated by that office. You can access their website [here](#). If you or anyone in your community has questions on these guidance documents or wants clarification on the guidelines, please don't hesitate to reach out to the Department.

If you want to receive updates from the Department as we send out information, you can fill out this [form](#) and you'll be added to our Department contact list. This will include additional information on the new COVID-19 relief programs as well as other important information. I also encourage you to follow us on our social media channels for real time updates.

For additional information or questions, you can contact me by phone at 217-836-4513 or by email at joseph.mckeown@illinois.gov. I will respond to your message as quickly as I can. Additionally, if you have upcoming meetings or events and would like DCEO to participate, please reach out to me. One of our goals is to ensure information about our programs and activities is getting out to the communities and we're happy to participate.

Coronavirus Response:

DCEO Programs

Business Interruption Grant Program

The first round of the **Business Interruption Grant** program recipients was recently announced. This round released \$46 million in small business grants to 2,655 small businesses located in over 400 individual cities and spread across 78 counties. The grants are being awarded to a diversity of businesses, as well as business communities hit hardest by COVID-19 related closures. View the list of grant recipients online [here](#). **The next round of the Business Interruption Grant Program is anticipated to be released in mid-September.**

Downstate Small Business Stabilization Program

We continue to accept applications under this program. This program will offer small businesses with at least one employee (not including the owner) and up to 50 employees the opportunity to partner with their local governments to obtain grants of up to \$25,000 for 60 days of working capital. Grant applicants should use the most current Guidebook for this program (4/14/20 version) as well as streamlined the GATA budget form for this program. Both documents can be found on our website [here](#). A recording of the webinar from April 3, 2020 is available on our website. You can link to the webinar recording [here](#). We also conducted a webinar focused to local governments. The recording of that webinar may also be found on the website. If you have questions about

this program, do not hesitate to reach out to me or two the Office of Community Development grant manager for your county. Their contact information may be found [here](#). Applications that have been submitted are under review and we will continue to make announcements.

Local Coronavirus Urgent Remediation Emergency (Local CURE) Support Program

Through the Local Coronavirus Urgent Remediation Emergency (Local CURE) Support Program, the State will take steps to deploy \$250 million to local governments in the coming months. The additional state relief funds will help local governments secure reimbursement on eligible costs associated with the emergency response to the ongoing COVID-19 crisis. In the coming weeks, DCEO will administer funds from the Local CURE program to reimburse units of local governments in counties across the state outside of Cook, Lake, Will, Kane, and DuPage Counties. These counties have received funding directly through the federal CARES Act. In rules filed with the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules, DCEO has developed a per capita and needs-based formula for allocating the Local CURE funding.

DCEO has posted updated information on this program on our [website](#) including the recording of the July 29, 2020 and August 12, 2020 webinars and presentation slides. Crowe is our administrator partner on this program. The Reimbursement Process Training Manual is also located on the website. The portal is now open to accept reimbursement requests. Again, the application for Allotment C is also open at this time. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have questions or need assistance with this program.

Small Business Administration (SBA) Programs

Economic Injury Disaster Loan Program (EIDL)e

All Illinois small businesses can again apply for the EIDL. The SBA is offering low-interest federal disaster loans for working capital to small businesses and non-profit organizations that are suffering substantial economic injury as a result of COVID-19. While the EIDL Advance is no longer available, businesses can still apply for the EIDL loan.

- These loans may be used to pay debts, payroll, accounts payable and other bills that can't be paid because of the disaster's impact, and that are not already covered by a Paycheck Protection Program loan. The interest rate is 3.75% for small businesses and 2.75% for non-profits. The first payment is deferred for one year.
- EIDL applications that have already been submitted continue to be processed.

Other DCEO Programs

Get Hired Illinois

DCEO in conjunction with IDES launched the Get Hired Illinois. This is a new portal designed to connect workers with available job and career training opportunities across the state. Governor Pritzker also announced that beginning in June, Illinois residents will have free access to online workforce development courses via a partnership with Coursera. Residents and employers may access Get Hired at www.illinois.gov/gethired. This portal blends IDES and DCEO resources to provide a one-stop-shop for both job seekers and employers – providing information on job opportunities as well as unemployment resources. The portal is designed to be user-friendly for job seekers of all levels and backgrounds and allows employers to upload jobs, virtual career fairs and training opportunities. Please check this out whether you are a job seeker or an employer.

Rebuild Illinois Opportunities

Regional Economic Development: Local governments, economic development organizations, non-profit organizations, and private companies will be eligible to apply for grants of up to \$2 million on a rolling basis. Funds can be used to support a range of activities including architectural planning and engineering design, land and building acquisition, demolition, costs related to site selection and preparation, utility work, and new construction, among other uses. Applicants will be asked to frame how their proposed projects align with any regional economic plans as well as the [Governor's Five-Year Economic Plan](#). Successful applicants will be able to demonstrate strong regional support for their projects and lay out a clear vision for job creation by the proposed investment. DCEO will accept applications for regional economic development on a rolling basis. For additional information on these funds, prospective applicants can visit DCEO's website [here](#). This link will take you to DCEO's website where you will find the guidebook and Q&A documents for this program. Interested parties can send questions to ceo.oed@illinois.gov.

Shovel-Ready Sites: Local governments, economic development organizations, non-profit organizations, and private companies will be eligible to apply for grants of up to \$2 million for most projects and \$1 million for brownfield rehabilitation on a rolling basis. These funds will support investment in sites with great economic development potential that require additional investment in order to become shovel-ready, which includes costs such as site acquisition, environmental site assessment, architectural planning and engineering design, demolition, utility work, and other construction work related to site preparation and improvement. DCEO will seek strong grounding of proposed projects in the [Governor's Five-Year Economic Plan](#) along with any regional economic plans or site-specific plans available. DCEO will accept applications for shovel ready sites on a rolling basis. For additional information on these funds, prospective applicants can visit DCEO's website [here](#). This link will take you to DCEO's website where you will find the guidebook and Q&A documents for this program. Interested parties can send questions to ceo.oed@illinois.gov.

Community Development Block Grant Program

Information regarding the 2020 Community Development Block Grant program is now available on the DCEO website. The 2020 Guidebook, application information, and workshop presentations can be found [here](#).

UPDATE: The application deadline for the Public Infrastructure and Housing Rehabilitation programs has been extended to Wednesday, September 30, 2020.

Other News and Notes:

Illinois Department of Transportation

The Illinois Department of Transportation has opened the application period for the Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP). Project proposals will be accepted through November 2, 2020. Projects eligible for ITEP funding include biking and walking paths, trails, streetscape beautification work and other improvements designed to encourage safe travel across the various modes of transportation at the local level. Applicants can include local governments and regional planning commissions. Nonprofit and private entities that apply must have a public sponsor. The maximum award is \$2 million. To ensure communities with the greatest needs can

participate, 25% will be set aside for disadvantaged and economically distressed communities. For more information, visit the [Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program](#) page.

Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) and other donations

If businesses have personal protection equipment (PPE) that they would like to **donate**, they can send an email to the State of Illinois' Covid-19 Donation Intake Team (ppe.donations@illinois.gov). Please note that all items should be in the manufacturer's original packaging and unopened, as they cannot accept open products or homemade items. For non-PPE related donations, businesses may reach out to businessdonations@illinois.gov.

If businesses have PPE that they are interested in **selling** to the state, they can send an email to the State of Illinois' Covid-19 PPE Procurement Team (covid.procurement@illinois.gov). In the email, they should indicate the following:

- What PPE is for sale
- The quantity of these items
- The price of these items
- The location of these items

If businesses have a facility and are capable of **manufacturing PPE** or are able to quickly make the switch to manufacture PPE, they should reach out to the Illinois Manufacturing Excellence Center [here](#). If businesses are manufacturers of PPE **looking for a supplier**, they should reach out to the Illinois Manufacturing Excellence Center [here](#). For **additional information** regarding PPE and donations, more information can be found [here](#).

Economic Development Administration

Economic Adjustment Assistance Program (EAA): The EAA program provides a wide range of technical, planning, and public works and infrastructure assistance in regions experiencing adverse economic changes that may occur suddenly or over time. The EAA can assist state and local entities through strategy grants and implementation grants. The CARES Act made \$225 million available through the EDA Chicago Regional Office, which includes Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin. Applications under this program became available on May 7th and will be accepted on a rolling basis until funds run out. The minimum project amount is \$100,000.

If you are interested in this opportunity, please feel free to reach out to me. EDA also encourages applicants to consult with the EDA representative for Illinois to discuss whether their project is in alignment with the program goals and requirements. For examples of successful EDA projects, visit <http://www.eda.gov/annual-reports/>. The Federal Funding Opportunity (FFO) is available at <http://www.eda.gov/funding-opportunities/index.htm>.