



What is the Cook County Community Recovery Initiative?

Led by the Bureau of Economic Development, the initiative was created to provide equitable and comprehensive financial relief and critical support services to help suburban Cook County residents and businesses rebound stronger than ever from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Which businesses are most affected by COVID-19? Small and women-owned businesses have been particularly vulnerable to the financial impacts of the pandemic. Businesses with fewer than 500 employees slashed 16.4% of jobs between February and April vs. 14.1% drop in employment at companies with 500 or more workers.

How has the initiative made progress in supporting businesses so far? With \$82M in funding from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act and public, private, and philanthropic resources of several critical partners, the Bureau is helping Cook County businesses stay open and workers find jobs. Below is an overview of the business support programs and their progress to date:

\$82M CARES COVID-19 RELIEF FUND OVERVIEW



HOUSING

- Rental assistance
- Mortgage assistance



SMALL BUSINESS

- Grants and loans
- Business support services
- Support for manufacturers



SUPPORTIVE SERVICES

- Homeless sheltering, legal aid, housing counseling, foreclosure mediation
- Food assistance
- Direct financial assistance



WORKFORCE

- Job search and placement services
- Free training available for over 40 occupations

Business Support Programs

PROGRAM COMPONENTS	PROGRESS
<p>\$22.6 MILLION small business grant and loan program</p>	<p>7000+ loan and grant applications under review</p>
<p>Focus on businesses with 20 or less employees</p>	<p>76% of grant applications are minority-owned businesses</p>
<p>\$4 MILLION to support a business advising network of over 40 partners including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accion • Berwyn Development Corporation • Chicago Community Loan Fund • Chicago Community Trust • Chicago Neighborhood Initiative • Chicago TREND • Chicago Urban League • Cook County Black Chamber of Commerce • Illinois Business Immigration Coalition • Illinois Hispanic Chamber of Commerce • Illinois Manufacturing Excellence Center • Illinois Restaurant Association • National Partnership for New Americans • Southland Development Authority • Women's Business Development Center 	<p>Majority of applicants have less than 5 employees & 4+ years in business</p>
<p>\$4 MILLION to provide job training and placement services to dislocated workers</p>	<p>5800+ businesses have received support with federal loan applications, advising and guidances</p>
<p>\$4 MILLION to provide job training and placement services to dislocated workers</p>	<p>10,000+ non-profits, small businesses, and independent contractors attended webinars</p>
<p>\$4 MILLION to provide job training and placement services to dislocated workers</p>	<p>30+ webinars on resources for small businesses, resiliency, recovery planning, best practices for operations, etc.</p>

As the need for relief continues to evolve, the County will expand its efforts to provide strategic, coordinated and critical resources for businesses and residents.

Learn more at www.cookcountyil.gov/recovery



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How has COVID-19 impacted our community? Overall, 8 million people have slipped into poverty since May as federal aid has dried up. The pandemic has exacerbated the inequities Black and Brown communities face in terms of disinvestment, access to health care, food insecurity, lack of economic opportunity, language barriers, and other forms of inequity.

How has the initiative made progress in supporting residents so far? With \$82M in funding from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act and public, private, and philanthropic resources of several critical partners, the Bureau is helping Cook County residents stay in their homes and meet essential needs. Below is an overview of the community support programs and their progress to date:

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Community Support Programs

PROGRAMS	PROGRESS
\$20 MILLION in rental assistance	5000+ residents submitted applications for rent and mortgage assistance
\$20 MILLION in mortgage assistance	1358 residents have received 130K nights & 391K meals through the shelter assistance program since March
\$1 MILLION in housing stability assistance	We will be expanding capacity for 6 homeless service centers
\$1 MILLION in food security assistance	
\$5 MILLION in homeless shelter assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BEDS Plus • Connections for the Homeless • Housing Forward • JOURNEYS • Respond Now • South Suburban PADS
\$4.2 MILLION in critical supports including cash assistance for basic needs	

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