



## Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity

JB Pritzker, Governor

### Northeast Region Weekly Update August 15, 2020

I hope this update finds you safe and well. This week, DCEO has updated our [FAQ document](#) for Phase 4 with additional information. Please continue to check our website as we are frequently updating information. All of the Phase 4 guidance can be found [here](#).

The next webinar for the Local CURE program was held on Wednesday, August 12<sup>th</sup>. A recording of the webinar and the presentation slides are on our website. The question document from this webinar will be added as well as soon as it is complete. Crowe is our administrator partner on this program. DCEO has begun to send out certification documents to the units of local government (ULG). The ULG's will receive information regarding the Local CURE Portal that will be used to submit reimbursement requests. This portal will open for user registration on August 19<sup>th</sup> and will begin accepting reimbursement requests on August 26<sup>th</sup>. You can access the information on this program on our website [here](#). Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have questions or need assistance with this program.

On Monday, August 10, 2020, applications began to be accepted for the Illinois Housing Development Authority's (IHDA) Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERA). The application portal will run through August 21, 2020. However, due to the anticipated high volume, the application window may close early. The ERA has been developed to support Illinois tenants unable to pay their rent due to a COVID-19 related loss of income. Tenants whose application is approved will receive a one-time grant of \$5,000 paid directly to their landlord to cover missed rent payments beginning March 2020 and prepay payments through December 2020, or until the \$5,000 is exhausted, whichever comes first. Applications must be completed on-line. If tenants need assistance, IHDA has partnered with 62 Community and Outreach Assistance organizations around the state to provide assistance. Information on this program including the list of organizations providing assistance can be found [here](#).

The state of Illinois is celebrating August's [National Black Business Month](#) by teaming up with Groupon to host a series of workshops for Black-owned businesses across the state. The Chicago-based company and the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) will host two more virtual panel discussions for businesses and entrepreneurs during the month of August. Business workshops are FREE to attend and will bring together an all-star line-up of government officials, business industry groups, and Black business community leaders. That list includes: **Lt. Governor Juliana Stratton, Illinois Treasurer Michael Frerichs, Groupon's Interim CEO Aaron Cooper, DCEO Acting Director Michael Negron, Marc Morial, President, of the National Urban League, and local Small Business Administration (SBA) officials.** More information on these events and other events hosted by DCEO's Office of Minority Economic Empowerment (OMEE) is below.

## Restore Illinois

With the new 11 region format, the Central Economic Development region is now within two Restore Illinois regions. However, all regions are currently in Phase 4 of the Restore Illinois Plan. Please remain vigilant to keep us at this phase as we have seen the numbers start to rise across the state. Guidance documents and tool kits for Phase 4 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.

### Program Updates:

- The **Downstate Small Business Stabilization Grant Program** is still accepting applications and funding is still available. DCEO has released the second round of grant awards for this program totaling \$1.94 million that will help an additional 93 businesses across the state. We are continuing to review applications that have been submitted and will be making additional announcements soon.
- **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 updated information on our website [here](#). The recording and presentation slides from the webinar that was held on July 29, 2020 and August 12, 2020 are now on the website as well.
- The first round of the **Business Interruption Grant** program recipients was announced this week. 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](#). To ensure ongoing support for Illinois small businesses, the State of Illinois has planned future rounds of funding. Details on the future rounds will be released when they become available.

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 312-497-1823 or by email at [Joseph.mckeown@illinois.gov](mailto: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:

#### **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. Additional information on this program will be sent out in the upcoming couple of weeks.

Costs eligible for reimbursement are defined by the [US Treasury](#) and are those incurred due to the public health emergency response to the COVID-19 pandemic. These costs include public safety, public health, PPE materials, and more. Examples of eligible and ineligible costs are outlined on our website. To prepare for this program, you can do the following:

- Make sure your unit of local government is registered with SAM.gov.
- Review the program's administrative rules
- Start collecting receipts for COVID-19 related expenses & digitize them; the department will seek PDFs and other electronic forms of back-up for reimbursements.
  - In addition, carefully consider descriptions and rationale on how expenditures were necessary in the local government's response to the COVID-19 public health emergency.
- Begin organizing year to date expenditures into the categories listed in the "eligible for reimbursement" section.

## **Small Business Administration (SBA) Programs**

### **Economic Injury Disaster Loan Program (EIDL)**

**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

### Office of Minority Economic Empowerment (OMEE)

The Office of Minority Economic Empowerment focuses and promotes opportunities for all minority communities across the state through targeted programs, resources and advocates. The goal is to ensure minority enterprises, including African American, Latinx, women, and veteran owned businesses, have an equal opportunity to contribute to the growth of the Illinois economy and serve as an advocate for businesses, entrepreneurs and start-ups in traditionally economically-disadvantaged groups.

OMEE will host a series of webinars to celebrate **National Black Business Month** beginning August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020. We have partnered with **Groupon** and many other organizations and businesses to facilitate panels discussions to address issues facing Black Owned businesses in Illinois. These events will take place **Every Monday at 2pm, Wednesday at 10am, and Thursday at 2pm**. Please register below.

**"National Black Business Month 2020"** – *celebrating entrepreneurship and self determination*

- **August 17: Access to Capital** – A conversation on business finance, and how entrepreneurs – from start-ups experienced business owners – can put themselves in position to tap into capital markets. [Click Here to Register](#)
- **August 19: "Leveling up your marketing and operations for success during COVID"** This Webinar is for Black Women who want to learn how to market their business and improve operations for success during a pandemic. [Click Here to Register](#)
- **August 20<sup>th</sup> - Black Business Lending: Access to Capital & Tax incentives: How Black Businesses can access financial resources and tax incentives to scale and grow a sustainable business that increases overall economic opportunity and growth in communities of color.** [Click Here to Register](#)
- **August 24: Strength in Numbers** - Discussing the need for collaboration in business development, and how unity brings success and facilitates growth. Will also touch on the reality that we cannot do it alone. [Click Here to Register](#)
- **August 26: OMEE & Illinois SBDC Presents: ADME** Each month we will offer a dynamic discussion on a business topic and highlight one of OMEE's focus communities. This month the discussion is marketing and the highlight is National Black Business Month! [Click Here to Register](#)
- **August, 27<sup>th</sup>** - Federal and State Financial Resources for Black Businesses amidst COVID-19 and Civil Unrest: How Black Businesses can take advantage of federal/state COVID-19 grant/loan relief programs and rebuild damaged businesses post Civil Unrest. [Click Here to Register](#)

- **August 31: A Vision for Your Brand** – A conversation on branding and ensuring that entrepreneurs understand how to present and position their company in the best way possible. [Click Here to Register](#)

## 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](http://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

**Fast Track Public Infrastructure:** Applications submitted under this program are currently under review.

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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.**

## **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 7<sup>th</sup> 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>.

## **Other News and Notes:**

### **Illinois Broadband**

The Illinois Office of Broadband has issued the first edition of **Illinois Broadband Connections**, a bi-weekly newsletter of broadband news and events specific to Illinois. This is a collaboration between the Illinois Office of Broadband and the Evanston-based Benton Institute for Broadband & Society. [Please follow this link to subscribe – and feel free to help us spread the word.](#)

## **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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](#).