



Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity

JB Pritzker, Governor

Northeast Region Weekly Update September 28, 2020

I hope you are doing well and are staying safe! We're All in Illinois! Things are still busy with the Business Interruption Grant program, the kickoff of National Hispanic Heritage Month, and getting ready for Manufacturing Month and Women's Small Business month, both in October. Please see below for updates on all of these and more. Please stay safe and wear your mask.

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. I will respond to your message as quickly as I can. 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

Business Interruption Grant Program

Applications for a second round of funding are now being accepted and can be found [here](#). A total of \$220 million will be made available for small businesses **of all types** in Illinois. Grants will be awarded and funded on a rolling basis until funding is depleted. The grant size will be equivalent to two months of expenses.

The BIG program is open to **all eligible** businesses (for profit and nonprofit) with \$20 million or less in annual revenue in 2019 and experienced losses due to COVID-19. Of the total funding, \$70 million will be invested in Disproportionately Impacted Areas (DIAs) and \$60 million in heavily impacted industries. A map of the DIAs and the eligibility guidelines can be found on our [website](#). The heavily impacted industries are defined as having annual revenues of \$10 million or less and have been close or operating at a very diminished capacity since mid-March and are likely to continue to do so until Phase 5 of the Restore Illinois Plan. These industries include the following:

- Event spaces
- Music venues
- Performing arts venues
- Indoor recreation
- Amusement parks
- Movie theaters
- Museums
- Charter/shuttle buses

DCEO will be hosting numerous webinars regarding this program. You can register for the webinars that I will be hosting next week by using the links below:

- September 30, 9:30am-10:30am. To register, please use this link:
<https://illinois.webex.com/illinois/onstage/g.php?MTID=ee94b00d843ec9aab65c49acc33d41942>
- September 30, 2:00pm – 3:00pm. To register, please use this link:
<https://illinois.webex.com/illinois/onstage/g.php?MTID=e23486213ba906b4f0c15c3363e4f2829>

If these times do not work for you, please check our website for a list of the webinars being hosted by other DCEO staff and our partners on this program. We have a [FAQ document](#) that can help answer some questions. If you still have questions, please feel free to reach out to me or you can submit a question via the following question submission form in either [English](#) or [Spanish](#).

Manufacturing Month in October

The Illinois Department of Commerce is organizing a handful of virtual events in order to share modern manufacturing careers opportunities and stories with students, parents, teacher and community leaders. The department would like to encourage participation, please help us get the word out to students and recent graduates. And, if your organization is hosting an event, register your event <https://creatorswanted.org/register-event/> and share the details with your team RED member.

Wednesday, October 7, 2020 at 2:00p.m., “Latinas in Manufacturing” – Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month, National Women Business Month, and Manufacturing Month, this webinar will discuss how Latinas in manufacturing got into the business, pivoted, and expanded into leadership roles. **To register please visit:** <https://illinois.webex.com/illinois/onstage/g.php?MTID=e0b15756d98d9c637b79c2c7a0dc9d0cb> Hosted by DCEO-OMEE, DCEO-OET and Hispanic Alliance for Career Enhancement (HACE)

Wednesday, October 14, 2020 10:00a.m. - Boss Talk: Manufacturers Round Table Discussion - The Illinois Regional Economic Development Team and Office of Minority Economic Empowerment host a panel discussion to celebrate National Manufacturing Month. Industry leaders share insights and best practices to inform aspiring entrepreneurs. [Click here to register](#)

<https://illinois.webex.com/illinois/onstage/g.php?MTID=e353fd1ea6004bb14ef9ac245e90684>

SBA Veterans Business Outreach Center – VBOC@WWBIC

The VBOC@WWBIC and Prairie State College are hosting the 2nd annual Veteran Certification & Resource Summit. Come learn from various local, state, and federal procurement experts on how to access and leverage certification so that you can get your business entity positioned for government prime and sub-contracting work. The event will be held on Friday, October 16, 2020 from 8:00am – 3:00pm. To register, go to <http://bit.ly/vbocsummit> . For more information, please contact vboc@wwbic.com .

Restore Illinois

With the new 11 region format, the Central Economic Development region is now within two Restore Illinois regions. However, both 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 FAQ's that have been developed for Phase 4 have been updated with answers to more questions. You can find this information 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.

Coronavirus Response:

DCEO Programs

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 (units not including municipalities, counties, or public health department).** The application can be found [here](#). The website also has some good Q&A documents that can help with determining if an expense is eligible for reimbursement. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out. You can also submit questions to LocalCURE@crowe.com and we will get back to you.

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.

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

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.

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](#)

OMEE

National Hispanic Heritage Month – Mes Nacional de la Herencia Hispana

Between September 15th and October 15th, we celebrate the accomplishments and the cultures of Hispanics. DCEO-OMEE will be hosting a series of events to celebrate the month. Below are the events DCEO will be hosting in either English or Spanish: If you have any questions regarding any of the events, please email Diana Alfaro, Latino Business Development Manager, at diana.alfaro@illinois.gov.

- Wednesday, September 23, 2020 at 10:00 a.m., (Spanish Webinar), "SBDC Assistance & Best Practices for Business Owners" – Free assistance for business owners and discussion on best practices for businesses. To register please visit: <https://illinois.webex.com/illinois/onstage/g.php?MTID=ec44db572a4e019d8cf5c6f02dca41a53>
- Tuesday, September 29, 2020 at 3:00 p.m., "OMEE Grant: Best Practices" – We will be discussing best practices for applying for state grants, specifically, OMEE grant. To register please visit: <https://illinois.webex.com/illinois/onstage/g.php?MTID=eeee454aec05b5a5ea612ef491fb86752>

- Wednesday, September 30, 2020 at 4:00 p.m., "Equity in Film: Latinx Perspectives" – We will be discussing equity in film. To register please visit: <https://illinois.webex.com/illinois/onstage/g.php?MTID=e2f9a0ed3b4b16fef0845c55b6322ff94>
- Thursday, October 1, 2020 at 2:00 – 3:30 p.m., "The Brank of U & How to Work It" - from you as an individual, as an entrepreneur, a business person that works for a company, & how to utilize tech to be your best friend & 24/7 employee. Today's Covid 19 environment has caused many challenges, but it has also caused amazing miracle opportunities. We will discuss the "unique" approaches for pivoting, working your brand while sleeping, & how to capitalize your brand for elevated recognition. Learn directly from the disruptors & consider this time well spent on yourself & "UR Life, UR Way." To register please visit: gr.pn/brandofu. Hosted by DCEO, Groupon and LULAC - Latina Entrepreneurs NOW, in partnership with Latina Executive and Entrepreneur Network (L.E.E.N.), Mujeres Latinas en Accion and Chicago Latina Moms
- Tuesday, October 6, 2020 at 2:00 – 3:30 p.m., "Regulations, Workforce, and Finances" – Come here how to obtain applicable business licenses from IDFPR, how to hire and expand workforce, and business finances. To register please visit: <https://illinois.webex.com/illinois/onstage/g.php?MTID=eaa1b61a1805868a0632fd8820084f4c5> Hosted by DCEO-OMEE and DCEO-OET in partnership with the Greater Peoria Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and Northwest Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
- Wednesday, October 7, 2020 at 2:00 – 3:30 p.m., "Latinas in Manufacturing" – Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month, National Women Business Month, and Manufacturing Month, this webinar will discuss how Latinas in manufacturing got into the business, pivoted, and expanded into leadership roles. To register please visit: <https://illinois.webex.com/illinois/onstage/g.php?MTID=e0b15756d98d9c637b79c2c7a0dc9d0cb> Hosted by DCEO-OMEE, DCEO-OET and Hispanic Alliance for Career Enhancement (HACE)
- Tuesday, October 13, 2020 at 10:00 a.m., "Certification and Government Contracting" – come here about how to get your business certified and expand into government contracting. To register please visit: <https://illinois.webex.com/illinois/onstage/g.php?MTID=ec5e4abb62381a2edf8f299a07bc6b771> Hosted by DCEO-OMEE, Illinois Legislative Latino Caucus, Illinois Hispanic Chamber of Commerce in partnership with CMS-BEP, Aurora Regional Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
- (Spanish Webinar) Thursday, October 15, 2020 at 2:00 p.m., "Certification and Government Contracting" – come hear about how to get your business certified and expand into government contracting. To register please visit: gr.pn/herencia-hispana Hosted by DCEO-OMEE, Groupon, Illinois Legislative Latino Caucus, Illinois Hispanic Chamber of Commerce in partnership with CMS-BEP, Aurora Regional Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, and Mujeres Latinas en Accion.

National Women's Small Business Month

In honor of Women's Small Business Month and Manufacturing Month, The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity will be hosting a series of webinars geared towards women owned business owners to learn how to utilize national resources through government and the private /public business sector in order to succeed amidst a pandemic.

"Brand of U & How to Work it"

Thursday, October 1, 2020 at 2pm: DCEO - OMEE, Groupon, LULAC - Latina Entrepreneurs NOW, Latina Executive and Entrepreneur Network (L.E.E.N.), Mujeres Latinas en Accion and Chicago Latina Moms will host a workshop on branding in today's COVID-19 environment. The workshop will cover how entrepreneurs can brand and leverage technology to pivot their business to work for them during COVID-19 and will feature opening remarks from Deputy

Governor Sol Flores. Learn from business 'disruptors' on how to capitalize using innovative approaches to position your business for success. Register [HERE](#)

"All in for Women: BIG Webinar "

Description: Join Ibie Hart, the women's business development manager, to learn about the Business Interruption Grant Program (BIG). In this webinar, women owned businesses will learn about eligibility, program details, and the application process. Technical assistance support will also be provided for the last 30 minutes of every session.

- Tuesday, October 6, 2020 2:00 p.m. Register [HERE](#)
- Saturday, October 10, 2020 10:00 a.m. Register [HERE](#)
- Tuesday, October 20, 2020 2:00 p.m. Register [HERE](#)
- Tuesday, October 27, 2:00 p.m. Register [HERE](#)

"Empowering Her with Resources during COVID-19 and Civil Unrest"

Thursday, October 8, 2020 at 2pm: Groupon and DCEO present "Empowering Her with Resources during COVID-19 & Civil Unrest". We will discuss fostering an inclusive business environment that uplifts Women owned business with resources through government and the private/public sector so that they may succeed amidst a pandemic. This conversation will feature opening remarks from MK Pritzker and a keynote from Andrea Zopp, CEO of World Business Chicago. Panelists include: Marianna Markowitz, CEO of the First Women's Bank, Charity Marcus, CEO of Black Women Business Owners of America, and Margot Dorfman, CEO of the U.S. Women's Chamber of Commerce, and more. You don't want to miss this! Register [HERE](#)

Moderator: Ibie Hart, Women's Business Development Manager, DCEO

"Women Get Involved in Manufacturing"

Thursday, October 22, 2020 at 2pm: In honor of Women's Small Business Month and Manufacturing Month, this webinar will uplift women in the manufacturing industry through leaders sharing their insights and best practices. The hope is that students and community stakeholders will get a closer look at what it takes to enter the industry. Register [HERE](#)

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.ocd@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.ocd@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](#).