



## Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity

JB Pritzker, Governor

### Weekly Update April 24, 2020

I hope you and your family are well and safe during this challenging time. At the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, we are doing everything we can to protect the people and businesses of Illinois. Yesterday, the Governor announced that a modified stay at home order will be signed and go into effect on May 1 to continue the life-saving progress made over the last month while also some modifications in the safest way possible. The Governor's press release may be found [here](#). At this time, we do not have guidance related to the modifications including the safety guidelines for golf. I will share those and updated FAQs as soon as they are available.

Last week, as a collaborative effort involving ISBE, IBHE, ICCB, and Illinois public libraries, the Illinois Office of Broadband just launched an interactive map of 'drive-up Wi-Fi hotspots' available to students and others needing broadband access for remote learning and other productive uses. Data was collected in partnership with the organizations listed above, and this is an ongoing effort. The map is live and posted to the Connect Illinois website and can be accessed through this link: [www.ildceo.net/wifi](http://www.ildceo.net/wifi).

The Governor launched the All In Illinois campaign, to remind residents of our state to stay home, stay safe and stay healthy. On our [All In Illinois website](#), you will find a tool kit of key messaging, social profile templates and downloadable posters for you and your family, neighbors, employees, members and constituents. Please share this toolkit with your email lists and share through social channels so that we get this message to as many people as possible. Numerous videos from people who are All In for Illinois are on the site. Check it out.

As information regarding this challenging time is changing frequently, DCEO is keeping you informed. Please visit our website dedicated to COVID-19 [here](#) for more information. On that website, you can sign up to receive alerts from DCEO. For additional information or questions, you can contact me by phone at 217-836-4513 or by email at [Alyson.grady2@illinois.gov](mailto:Alyson.grady2@illinois.gov). I will respond to your message as quickly as I can. I also encourage you to follow us on our social media channels for real time updates.



#### **Coronavirus Response:**

##### **SBA Programs – Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) and Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL) Update from SBA**

The SBA has processed more than 14 years' worth of loans in less than 14 days. The Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) is saving millions of jobs and helping America's small businesses make it through this challenging time. The

EIDL program is also providing much-needed relief to sustain businesses and their employees. By law, the SBA will not be able to issue new loan approvals once the programs experience a lapse in appropriations. SBA and Treasury urge Congress to appropriate additional funds for the Paycheck Protection Program—a critical and overwhelmingly bipartisan program—at which point SBA will once again be able to process loan applications, issue loan numbers, and protect millions more paychecks. The high demand we have seen underscores the need for hardworking Americans to have access to relief as soon as possible. We want every eligible small business to participate and get the resources they need.

Due to limited appropriations funding, the application portal for the EIDL–COVID-19 assistance program (EIDL loans and EIDL Advances) is temporarily closed. Applicants who have already submitted their applications will continue to be processed on a first-come, first-served basis. SBA is processing EIDL applications as quickly as possible. SBA will provide those whose applications are approved with loans that will cover the business's short-term working capital needs. This is in addition to the EIDL Advance that small businesses and non-profits are eligible to receive as a result of the CARES Act.

With the additional funding moving through Congress at this time, please monitor the SBA website at <https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/disaster-assistance> and communicate with lending institutions for updates on these programs. We expect PPP program will be accepting applications as soon as Monday, so please monitor for updates.

### **DCEO Programs**

**Illinois Small Business Emergency Loan Fund**: DCEO and our lending partners are continuing to review the large number of submitted loan applications we have received. To allow us to process received applications as quickly as possible, we are temporarily suspending the acceptance of applications from businesses.

**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 with at least one employee (not including the owner) up to 50 employees the opportunity to partner with their local governments to obtain grants of up to \$25,000 in working capital. Local governments can apply on behalf of businesses with 50 employees or less. Only units of local government recognized by the Illinois Constitution are eligible to apply for this grant funding. Municipalities must not be a HUD direct Entitlement community or be located in an urban county that receives "entitlement" funds. **This includes Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry, Will, Madison and St. Clair Counties and the municipalities listed on the DCEO website [here](#).**

**We have updated the Guidebook again (4/14/20 version) as well as streamlined the GATA budget form for this program. Both documents can be found on our website [here](#).** If you have already submitted applications with the older versions, that is fine. We're continuing to work to make this program easier for both businesses and the local municipalities.

**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](#).

## **COVID-19 and Unemployment Benefits**

Unemployment benefits may be available to some individuals whose unemployment is attributable to COVID-19. For more information please visit the [IDES website](#). Regarding the federal CARES Act, IDES is actively working to implement the recently enacted federal stimulus package as it relates to unemployment benefits. IDES has provided updated [information](#) as well on their website.

## **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](#).

## **Rebuild Illinois Opportunities**

**Opportunity Zones (\$12 million).** DCEO has released a \$12 million program to help spur investment in the 327 federally certified Opportunity Zones spread throughout the state. The State of Illinois has a vested economic interest in attracting investment to Opportunity Zones throughout the state as these investments will provide a boost to underserved and economically distressed communities. Opportunity Zone investments bring with them higher property values, new jobs, and beget additional investments. The Department recognizes a need to help encourage Opportunity Zone investments throughout Illinois and to provide local communities with the means to attract these investments. To that end, this NOFO will support the following:

- Provide matching funds for infrastructure, utility, remediation and site preparedness related costs for private real estate investments in Opportunity Zones.

- Provide matching funds for municipal infrastructure investments in an Opportunity Zones, such as utility work, broadband expansion/upgrades, and other site readiness type activities.

Here is the link to our Opportunity Zone webpage: <https://www2.illinois.gov/dceo/Pages/OppZn.aspx> and the link to the Notice of Funding Opportunity: <https://www2.illinois.gov/dceo/AboutDCEO/GATA/Pages/2367-1334.aspx>  
**Applications are due by 5pm on May 7, 2020.**

**I will be conducting a webinar on April 30, 2020 at 1:30 pm to provide an overview on the three Rebuild Illinois programs listed below. If you are interested in attending the webinar, please register [here](#).**

**Public infrastructure (\$50 million).** Units of local government are eligible to apply for public infrastructure grants of up to \$5 million by June 30th. Funds can be used to support investment in publicly-owned infrastructure such as water and sewer main replacement, improvements to rail, air, or water ports; repair, or extension; gas and utility extensions; improving publicly owned industrial and commercial sites; upgrading water purification and waste disposal systems; water tower maintenance; and dredging waterways, among other public uses. Applicants will be required to identify the jobs and economic development impacts of their projects and how they align with the [Governor's Five-Year Economic Plan](#). As required under state law, local governments that commit funding as part of a match of requested state funds must conduct a public hearing prior to submitting an application.

**Applications for public infrastructure grants must be submitted by June 30th, 2020.** 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 this program. Interested parties can send questions to [ceo.ocd@illinois.gov](mailto:ceo.ocd@illinois.gov) or call 217-785-6174.

**Regional Economic Development (\$16.5 million).** 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](mailto:ceo.ocd@illinois.gov) or call 217-785-6174.

**Shovel-Ready Sites (\$13 million).** 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](mailto:ceo.ocd@illinois.gov) or call 217-785-6174.

## **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](#).

### **Training Information:**

Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA) training: The first step in applying for grants from DCEO or any other state agency requires the potential grantee to be prequalified through GATA. If you need information on this process or would like me to conduct a virtual training, please contact me.