



## Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity

JB Pritzker, Governor

### Central Region Weekly Update May 29, 2020

I hope this update finds you safe and well. As of today, the region has moved into Phase 3 of the Restore Illinois Plan. DCEO is committed to providing you updated information and guidance as it relates to the changes in Phase 3. Today, the Governor issued a new Executive Order (Executive Order 2020-38). You can reference the Executive Order [here](#). We have recently updated our main website along with our website dedicated COVID-19 to make it easier for you to find information. You can visit our website dedicated to COVID-19 [here](#) and sign up to receive alerts from DCEO. Phase 3 guidance information and the business toolkits can be found here: <https://www2.illinois.gov/dceo/Pages/RestoreILP3.aspx>. The Illinois Department of Public Health has numerous guidance documents and other information on their website at <http://dph.illinois.gov/covid19>.

The Rebuild Illinois Programs and the Downstate Small Business Stabilization Grant program are still accepting applications. Please see below for more information on those programs. 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.



### **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.

### **Coronavirus Response:**

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

[SBA program website](#) contains information on funding opportunities through the SBA. At this time, the Paycheck Protection Program has resumed accepting applications. As of today, funding is still available in this program. Interested participants should work with their local lending institutions on pursuing this opportunity. If they need

assistance, our Small Business Development Centers (SBDC) can provide assistance. To find the nearest SBDC, click [here](#). SBA continue to issue guidance and FAQ's regarding this program. They have recently released information and the application for the loan forgiveness. Information may be found [here](#).

The Economic Injury Disaster Loan program is now open for agricultural enterprises. Agricultural businesses include those businesses engaged in the production of food and fiber, ranching, and raising of livestock, aquaculture, and all other farming and agricultural related industries (as defined by section 18(b) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 647(b))). Entities may access the application [here](#). SBA's Office of Disaster Assistance continue to process loan applications that have already been submitted. Disaster Customer Service Center at (800) 659-2955 remains the primary point of contact for EIDL inquiries.

### **DCEO Programs**

**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 continue to accept applications under this program.** 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](#).

**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.

### **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. IDES has begun accepting applications for the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) program.

### **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](#).

## **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. The Regional Economic Development Team can also provide a webinar on general information on this program. 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>.

## **Rebuild Illinois Opportunities**

**Fast Track Public Infrastructure: Applications are still being accepted for this program.** The State has allocated \$25,000,000 in Rebuild Illinois funds to the Fast-Track Public Infrastructure (FTPI) component. Applicants may apply for multiple projects, and a grant ceiling of \$5,000,000 per applicant has been established. Grants for less than \$500,000 will not be awarded. The objective of this program is to stimulate the economy in the wake of the COVID-19 health crisis by quickly getting Illinoisans back to work on public infrastructure projects that are valuable to their communities.

Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis. Projects will be funded on a first come, first qualified, first serve basis. Applications will be accepted until Monday, June 15, 2020 or until funds have been exhausted. We have conducted a webinar on this program and has posted the recording on our website along with the program information at:

[https://www2.illinois.gov/dceo/CommunityServices/CommunityInfrastructure/Pages/RebuildIllinois\\_Programs.aspx](https://www2.illinois.gov/dceo/CommunityServices/CommunityInfrastructure/Pages/RebuildIllinois_Programs.aspx)

DCEO conducted a webinar on April 30, 2020 that provided an overview on the three Rebuild Illinois programs listed below. The webinar recording is now posted on the Rebuild Illinois page of our website.

**Public infrastructure:** 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:** 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:** 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](#).

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

## **Broadband**

**NEW OPPORTUNITY:** The Illinois Office of Broadband has recently announced *Illinois Connected Communities* grant program. Per the link below, this is a collaborative effort among our Office of Broadband, the Evanston-based Benton Institute for Broadband & Society, and area philanthropy focused on broadband community planning and capacity building – for infrastructure, digital equity and adoption, etc. Here is the link to the Notice of Funding Opportunity: <https://www2.illinois.gov/dceo/AboutDCEO/GrantOpportunities/Pages/2424-1617.aspx> Applications under this opportunity are due **June 12, 2020**.

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.](#)

Earlier this year, Illinois Extension partnered with the Illinois Office of Broadband to air a 4-part webinar series on the Connect Illinois broadband infrastructure grant program. The [webinars](#) covered the general overview and requirements of the grant, the application packet, the broadband map challenge process, and the budget template. This month, Illinois Extension, the Benton Institute for Broadband & Society, and the Illinois Office of Broadband will offer another 4-part [Developing Broadband Leadership Webinar Series](#) at 11:30am on Wednesdays May 13, May 20, May 27, and June 3. The series is designed to show how communities are addressing short-term broadband connectivity issues while moving forward with longer-term solutions. After an introductory session to set the stage, the series describes the community-driven broadband development process. We then give a “Broadband 101” session before ending the series with an exploration of digital inclusion strategies. [REGISTER 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.