



Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity

JB Pritzker, Governor

Northeast Region Weekly Update October 12, 2020

I hope this day finds you well and you are staying safe! We're All in Illinois! Beyond our kickoff for Manufacturing Month, we have been busy this week with National Women's Small Business Month, ongoing event with National Hispanic Heritage Month, updates to the Local CURE program, release of the NOFO for the Local CURE Economic Support Payments Grant program, and ongoing assistance with the Business Interruption Grant (BIG) program. Please see below for updates on all of these and more.

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. 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.

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 upcoming webinars by using the links below:

- **Date/Time:** Wednesday, October 14, 2020 9:30 am – 10:30 am
Registration link: <https://bit.ly/3kCPSuO>
- **Date/Time:** Wednesday, October 21, 2020 9:30 am – 10:30 am
Registration link: <https://bit.ly/36bF96P>

If your organization would like me to host a webinar for you on this topic, please let me know and we can get something scheduled. We have a [FAQ document](#) that has been recently updated and 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](#).

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. **Additional guidance has been released on Substantially Dedicated Payroll and Claiming the Costs of Implementing CDC Guidance for Public Employees and within Public Spaces or Facilities.** Check out these new documents and other guidance [here](#). 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.

Local CURE Economic Support Payments Grant Program: The Department is happy to release the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the Local CURE Economic Support Payments Grant Program. This program will assist eligible Local Governments with providing economic support payments to qualified businesses within their jurisdictions that have experienced interruption of business attributable to the COVID-19 public health emergency. To learn more about this program, eligibility criteria, requirements, and how to apply, please [click here](#). This page contains the NOFO Supplement and required application documents.

The Department will review complete applications every two weeks according to the application window dates below:

Application Window Open	Application Window Close
September 29, 2020	October 16, 2020
October 17, 2020	October 30, 2020
October 31, 2020	November 13, 2020
November 14, 2020	November 30, 2020
December 1, 2020	December 11, 2020
December 12, 2020	December 28, 2020
December 29, 2020	*January 8, 2021
January 9, 2021	*January 15, 2021

Manufacturing Month in October

Please join the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, in partnership with the Illinois Manufacturers' Association, in celebrating Manufacturing Month in Illinois beginning October 2, 2020. We invite you to recognize Illinois manufacturers, and the next generation of creators, during this monthlong celebration. Manufacturing is vital to Illinois' economy, and we are proud of the work our companies across the state have accomplished, especially in responding to the national demands of the pandemic.

As a leader in next generation manufacturing, we are the fourth largest manufacturing state in the country, employing over 550,000 Illinoisans.

Over the next few weeks, Governor JB Pritzker, Lt. Governor Julianna Stratton, and department officials will be hosting webinars with companies, participating in events, and thanking members of this critical industry for their contributions to the Illinois economy. **We would like for you to assist DCEO by promoting these virtual events to your students and their parents/guardians, recent graduates, employers, communities, and community colleges in the State of Illinois.**

Please also take this opportunity to participate in one of the department's sponsored webinars we are hosting to help students and recent graduates to learn more about career opportunities in the manufacturing industry. We hope you join us in celebrating National Manufacturing Month in Illinois!

Wednesday, October 14, 2020 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Boss Talk: Manufacturers Round Table Discussion

Description: The Illinois Regional Economic Development Team and Office of Minority Economic Empowerment host a panel discussion to celebrate Manufacturing Month. Industry leaders share insights and best practices to inform aspiring entrepreneurs.

Duntai Mathews (DLM Manufacturing – Rockford, IL) and Karen Watson (International Filter Manufacturing, Inc. – Litchfield, IL)

[Click here to register](#)

<https://illinois.webex.com/illinois/onstage/g.php?MTID=e353fdcf1ea6004bb14ef9ac245e90684>

Thursday, October 15 at 1:00 p.m.

Event: COVID-19 "Illinois Manufacturers Respond to the Call.

Description: Highlighting manufacturers AbbVie, ComPac and Pioneer Services, who changed production lines to meet the medical equipment or supplies from around the state. Hosted by IMA, IMEC, DCEO

Registration: <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJApd-Corz8qHNELOH2-A8NqBIZwCXU7fYsc>

Thursday, October 22, 2:00 p.m.

Women Get Involved: Manufacturing Leaders Perspective on How to Enter the Industry

Description: In honor of Manufacturing Month, this webinar will uplift women in manufacturing through industry leaders sharing their insights and best practices. The hope is that students and community stakeholders will get a snapshot of what it's like to be women in the industry.

Registration:

<https://illinois.webex.com/illinois/onstage/g.php?MTID=e7a7563712c1a57edea2618fcf2a34955>

Tuesday, October 27, 10:00 a.m.

Illinois Made: Producing Illinois Products for the World

Description: Illinois manufacturing is a global powerhouse with more than \$62 billion exported to 216 countries last year alone, supporting over 800,000 Illinois jobs. Jobs include the latest technology and opportunity to work in the global supply chain. Hear from public and private industry leaders about Illinois' global footprint and its impact on Illinois workforce.

Speakers:

- Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, Office of Trade and Investment
- Illinois Manufacturers' Association
- Illinois export manufacturers

Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, Office of Employment and Training

Attendees registration link: <https://bit.ly/33FuCOG>

October 29th from 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Manufacturing Apprenticeships in Illinois + ICATT Apprenticeship Program

Celebrating Illinois Manufacturing Month

Description: Join us to learn about the importance of apprenticeship opportunities in the manufacturing industry! This webinar will highlight the ICATT Apprenticeship Program, a nationally awarded 3-year apprenticeship program combining on-the-job training with an associate's degree. ICATT operates [across the state of Illinois](#) and works closely with communities, community colleges, economic development organizations, and employers. You'll have the opportunity to learn about the program and hear success stories from existing ICATT partners, including community colleges, employers, and apprentices.

- ICATT Speaker – Virginia Rounds, Director of the ICATT Apprenticeship Program
- Elgin Community College (Elgin, IL) will be the featured community college.
- Litanía Sports Group (Champaign, IL) and Antolin (Nashville, IL) will be the two featured companies.
- Hear from two apprentices to speak
- DCEO Speaker

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwvduCorD8sHNPZOPNInKnvrEE4n83ZH_ux

Facebook event: <https://www.facebook.com/events/625603688153237>

Creators Wanted website: <https://creatorswanted.org/events/webinar-manufacturing-apprenticeships-in-illinois-icatt-apprenticeship-program/>

Restore Illinois

Please remain vigilant to keep us at this phase as we have seen the Covid 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. **Also, IDPH released guidance on Halloween activities. You can find that guidance [here](#).** 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:

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.

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.

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.

- 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 October's National Women's Small Business Month, the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) will host a series of webinars to support the advancement of women-owned businesses. The discussions scheduled by DCEO and a host of industry partners, including Groupon, will offer support and insights for small businesses to grow, position themselves, and seek out resources that will help them overcome the effects of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

"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.

- 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](#)

Women Webinar Wednesdays

Join Ibie Hart, the women's business development manager, as she partners with the SBA and WBDC to support women owned business owners. We will be providing updates, programs and resources available to empower women as they start, scale, and improve their businesses. This space will be available every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month with the hope that it will be a reliable place to gain information

October 14 at 11am - Phyllis Shelton, SBA

<https://illinois.webex.com/illinois/onstage/g.php?MTID=ecc5d7249639098b0c209861cdef870e1>

October 28 at 11am - Tasha Brown, WBDC

<https://illinois.webex.com/illinois/onstage/g.php?MTID=e08b70c7839c30364a77ea0de5119ebbf>

"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](#)

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.

IL Dept. of Labor – Back to Business Illinois

The Illinois Department of Labor (IDOL) announced this week the launch of Back to Business Illinois, a free, voluntary service to connect small businesses of 250 employees or fewer with consultants who will help them evaluate and address workplace safety and health issues related to COVID-19. The consultants will create a plan for small businesses that promotes a safe, healthy and productive environment for workers and customers. Back to Business Illinois health and safety consultants in IDOL's Workplace Safety and Health Consultation Division will help local small businesses audit their physical operation, identify best practices and find ways to implement them efficiently. Businesses can voluntarily complete a series of online modules and then institute the necessary practices to promote a safe work environment. The online guidance and education program will emphasize areas including basic infection prevention, physical space modification, infectious disease planning, employee monitoring and workplace flexibility.

This is a non-punitive program, and no fines or citations are associated with it. It is designed entirely as a benefit to empower Illinois small businesses to continue operating safely. For more information on the Back to Business Illinois program, visit the official website at: www.illinois.gov/worksafe .

IL Dept. of Agriculture - \$5 Million Business Grant Program for Agriculture Businesses

The Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA) today announced the availability of \$5 million in business recovery funding for livestock producers and small meat and poultry plants suffering interruptions as a result of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Over the past six months meat and poultry plants across the country have been impacted by the pandemic, as reduced sales resulted in a slowdown of processing livestock and forced many Illinois farmers to incur additional costs. The new funding opportunity is part of the state's Business Interruption Grants program (BIG), which leverages federal CARES Act money to help small businesses statewide offset losses incurred in connection to COVID-19. Online applications are available now through October 31, 2020 at <https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/agr/Animals/Pages/Livestock-Management-Facility-Grants.aspx> .

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](#).