

Ongoing funding for Illinois small businesses hardest hit by COVID-19

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BIG

ILLINOIS BUSINESS INTERRUPTIONS GRANT PROGRAM (BIG)

The Business Interruption Grant (BIG) program is multi-million program developed by Governor Pritzker and the Illinois General Assembly to provide economic relief for small businesses hit hardest by COVID-19. BIG leverages federal funding provided by the CARES Act to help offset COVID-19 related losses for Illinois small businesses. Funding may be used to help businesses with working capital expenses, including payroll costs; rent; utilities; and other operational costs.

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 webinars regarding this program. You can register for the webinars by using the links below:

- September 23, 9:30am-10:30am. To register for this time, please click [here](#).
- September 23, 2:30pm – 3:30 pm. To register for this time, please click [here](#).
- September 30, 9:30am-10:30am. To register for this time, please click [here](#).
- For more information, please contact Aly Grady at 217-836-4513 or Alyson.grady2@illinois.gov
- www.illinois.gov/dceo