

## COVID-19 Update: March 30

Reminders: All previous bulletins and other resources listed at [www.gpcovid.com](http://www.gpcovid.com). Resource requests from our community institutions listed at the end of this bulletin. Send any questions to [bizinfo@greaterpeoriaedc.org](mailto:bizinfo@greaterpeoriaedc.org).

### **REMINDER: Illinois Hospitality Emergency Grant Application Due April 1**

The State of Illinois is offering grants of up to \$50,000 for hotels and up to \$25,000 for bars and restaurants. Applicants will be chosen via a lottery, not based on merit. The application is very simple, but only those who have completed an application by April 1 will be entered. Decisions announced on April 4. An FAQ on the program, including a description of the information you will need, can be found [here](#). More information and the application portal can be found [here](#).

### **IMPORTANT: Summary of the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP)**

For small businesses, the most attractive program built into the CARES Act (the federal coronavirus relief package) is the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP). PPP is funded to the tune of \$349 billion through the Small Business Administration (SBA). However, the program differs in significant ways from the currently available Economic Injury Disaster Program. First, businesses will apply through individual banks, not the SBA itself. Second, while technically a loan program, a portion -- and potentially all -- of the loan can be forgiven, making it act more like a grant. Below is a high level summary of PPP:

*Eligibility:* For profit businesses with less than 500 employees (including hotels and food service businesses that have less than 500 employees per location); 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations; veterans organizations; eligible self-employed individuals; independent contractors; sole proprietorships

*Loan amount:* The maximum loan size is equivalent to 250% of the employer's average monthly payroll costs, not to exceed \$10 million. Payroll costs are defined broadly to include wages, salaries, retirement contributions, healthcare benefits, covered leave, and other expenses. Put another way, the size of the loan is equal to the cost of payroll for about 10 weeks.

*Loan terms:* Up to 10 years at 4% with the ability to defer principal and interest payment for between 6 and 12 months. There are no fees, no requirement to secure the debt with collateral, no requirement of a personal guarantee, and no penalty for early payoff.

*Loan forgiveness:* **This is the important part!** A portion of the loan (up to 100%) will be forgiven in an amount equal to how much the business actually paid for payroll costs, salaries, benefits, rent, utilities and mortgage interest during the eight weeks following the loan's disbursement. If employees are laid off or their salaries are reduced there could be a reduction in the amount forgiven. Borrowers will need to apply through their lender for this forgiveness and provide documentation for all costs. Banks will have 60 days to make the determination.

There is a great deal of information available on the internet regarding PPP including articles published by the [Economic Innovation Group](#), [National Law Review](#), [Bench](#) and [Forbes](#).

Business owners interested in PPP should call their banker as soon as possible, ask if they are an approved Small Business Administration 7a lender (most locally are) and request a meeting to discuss this program. Businesses can also get advice from the [Small Business Development Center at Bradley University](#). We will provide more information on this program and other CARES Act provisions as details come available.

### **Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) Checklist**

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce has developed a very helpful checklist and guide for the Paycheck Protection Program [here](#). All business owners should review the information in this guide and other information at [www.gpcovid.com](http://www.gpcovid.com) and contact their bank to start the application process.

### **Childcare Resources**

From [Ready Nation](#): Like schools, most child care programs have been asked to close. But many emergency and essential workers continue to need reliable care for their kids. Thus, the state is in the process of establishing a series of “emergency child care” options – settings that could operate under more flexible-than-usual rules, while still offering kids and families crucial assistance. Existing, interested providers could apply to re-open in this process; other, new providers could explore options for starting-up. See below for more information:

- How to find emergency child care – Call 888-228-1146 or visit [here](#).
- General guidance on establishing emergency-care options, including rules, a license application, list of essential workers, and background-check authorization – [click here](#).
- Related FAQ, including info on the closure of normal child care operations – [click here](#).

### **Reminder: Families First Act Goes Into Effect April 1**

The Families First Act grant emergency paid sick leave to employees of businesses with fewer than 500 employees and expands family and medical leave. It takes effect on April 1, 2020. The US Department of Labor has an FAQ [here](#).

### **DCEO Creates COVID Web Resource Page**

The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) has created a helpful webpage that outlines state assistance for businesses, workers and residents. Access it [here](#).

### **Free Food Composting by Better Earth Logistics**

[Better Earth Logistics](#), a custom food recycling service in the area, is offering their services for free to ANY central IL restaurant, cafe, business or supermarket who have an excess of perishable food (that cannot be donated). Their goal is to divert such food waste from a landfill and turn it into compost. For more information or to schedule a service, email them at [info@bettereearthlogistics.com](mailto:info@bettereearthlogistics.com).

### **Reminder: More SBA Webinars Next Week**

Click one of the dates below to be taken to the registration page for a webinar hosted by Illinois SBA on the Economic Injury Disaster Program:

[Monday, March 30, 11 a.m.](#)

[Monday, March 30, 1 p.m. \(Chinese/Mandarin\)](#)

[Monday, March 30, 3 p.m.](#)

[Tuesday, March 31, 11 a.m.](#)

[Tuesday, March 31, 3 p.m.](#)

### **RESOURCE REQUESTS**

**Community Foundation of Central Illinois:** Requesting monetary donations for the Central Illinois Disaster Recovery Fund. Information <https://communityfoundationci.org/>.

**NEW - UnityPoint Health:** UnityPoint is seeking personal protective equipment (PPE) and other medical supplies. They are also in search of medical personnel to help them prepare in the event that there is an influx of sick patients. Information [here](#).

**OSF Healthcare:** OSF seeking personal protective equipment (PPE), ventilators and other supplies. Information [here](#).

**Peoria Innovation Alliance:** PIA is gathering the maker community to discuss ways individuals and small companies can make supplies like masks. Information [here](#).