

## COVID-19 Update: May 7

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).

### **Updated Guidance for Self-Employed (“1099 Workers”) Filing for Unemployment Benefits**

The Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES) released new instructions for 1099 workers who have lost work due to COVID-19. Workers who believe they may be eligible for new federal benefits under the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) program, **must first apply for regular unemployment insurance** before applying for benefits under PUA when a new application portal opens on May 11, 2020 via the IDES website. If claimants receive an eligibility determination of \$0, they can then appeal that decision by providing verification of wages earned, or they can submit a claim for PUA benefits. Claimants who have already applied for and been denied regular unemployment benefits can submit a claim through the new PUA portal when it opens. **Receiving a denial for regular unemployment benefits is a mandatory first step in determining eligibility for PUA.** More [here](#).

### **City of Pekin Business Grants Round 2**

The City of Pekin opened a second round of its small business grant program on May 6. Applications are due by 11:59 pm on May 13. For-profit businesses with a physical location within the City of Pekin and with fewer than 50 employees and less than \$1 million in annual revenue are eligible. The City will award grants of \$5,000 to businesses that have W2 employees and \$2,000 to self-employed individuals or businesses without W2 employees. More information [here](#). In the first round, Pekin [awarded](#) \$363,000 in grants to 91 different businesses.

### **Village of Peoria Heights Business Grants Now Accepted**

The Village of Peoria Heights announced the availability of \$330,000 for two business assistance grant programs. The “Peoria Heights Business Development District Commercial Lease Grant Program” and the “Peoria Heights COVID-19 Emergency Mortgage Subsidy Grant Program” will each offer applicants up to \$1,500 toward lease or mortgage payments. Grant funds are being awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. Businesses impacted by COVID-19 that were operating on March 16, 2020 within one of the Village’s two Business Development Districts are eligible to apply. More information and a simple application form can be found [here](#).

### **Updated FAQ on Paycheck Protection Program**

Yesterday, the U.S. Treasury updated their Frequently Asked Questions document with new information regarding the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP). To view this document, please click [here](#).

### **First Round of Central Illinois Disaster Recovery Grants Announced**

The Community Foundation of Central Illinois announced that \$112,000 in grants were awarded to 23 different organizations from the Central Illinois Disaster Recovery Fund. A complete list of awards can be found [here](#). The Recovery Fund was built on major donations by [Caterpillar Foundation](#) and [Homefield Energy](#), plus dozens of private donations from individuals. Grants for a second round of funding will be announced within the next few weeks. For information on how to donate to the Recovery Fund, click [here](#).

### **Peoria Area Face Cover Program**

[Enjoy Peoria](#) has partnered with Proforma to create face masks that show our pride in the heart of Illinois and the Peoria Area while staying safe and healthy. A portion of the proceeds will be donated back to Enjoy Peoria to continue supporting the communities they serve. Find more information and order masks [here](#).