

COVID-19 Update: May 7

Reminders: All previous bulletins and other resources listed at www.gpcovid.com. Resource requests from our community institutions listed at the end of this bulletin. Send any questions to 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](#).