

COVID-19 Update: June 2

Reminders: All previous bulletins and other resources listed at www.gpcovid.com. Send any questions to bizinfo@greaterpeoriaedc.org.

Downstate Stabilization Grant Applications Due June 5

Small businesses in Peoria, Tazewell, Woodford, Mason and Logan counties can apply for a grant of up to \$25,000 from the State of Illinois. Businesses with between 1 and 50 employees who were either (1) forced to shut down in April with no ability to work remotely or (2) were a bar/restaurant limited to carryout only can receive the grant to cover up to two months of the cost of working capital like payroll and rent. Businesses that have been able to recently able to reopen are eligible to apply. (The key is the status in April.) Businesses located in the cities of Peoria and Pekin are not eligible for this program due to federal funding rules. Other restrictions apply. Applications must be submitted by 11:59 pm on Friday, June 5. More information and the application can be found at www.gpcovid.com.

Great Lakes COVID-19 Farmer Resilience Initiative Grants Available June 6th

Proceeds from a recent *Farm Aid* performance is funding the COVID-19 Farmer Resilience Initiative that will award \$500 grants to farm families in need. More information [here](#).

Ameren Illinois Offers Hardship Grants to Small Businesses and Non-profit Organizations

Ameren Illinois announced that funding is available for small businesses and nonprofits that have fallen behind on their electric bills. Under the company's COVID-19 Economic Hardship Recovery Program, one-time grants of up to \$500 will be provided on a first-come, first-served basis until June 30, or until the funds are exhausted. To be considered, businesses must have an active, non-residential account, 50 or fewer full-time employees, and a principal office in Illinois. More information [here](#).

Frequently Asked Questions on Phase 3 Guidelines

The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity has posted an FAQ to help answer questions regarding business reopening guidelines [here](#).

Don't Forget to Certify Your Business at RestoreHOI.com

The [Restore HOI](#) website has been developed to provide residents and businesses with guidelines and best practices for each phase of the Restore Illinois plan, as well as a voluntary self-certification process for businesses to certify as COVID-19 compliant. Business owners who are reopening under the Restore Illinois plan can find guidelines from local public health officials to protect their customers' health and safety and self-certify their business as COVID-19 compliant. Residents can find a list of businesses who have publicly committed to following the latest public health guidelines and are dedicated to keeping their customers safe while reopening our region. The website was developed for free by [AdCo](#). Visit the website [here](#).

COVID-19 Reimbursements Available for Local Government, Nonprofits and Houses of Worship

The Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) is working with county emergency managers throughout the state to ensure local governments impacted by COVID-19 have all documents and paperwork necessary to qualify for federal public assistance funding. In addition to local governments, the disaster declaration also provides reimbursement availability for qualifying private non-profit organizations and houses of worship. More information [here](#).

IMA Paycheck Protection Program Forgiveness Webinar

The [Illinois Manufacturers Network](#) recently hosted a webinar on the forgiveness portion of the popular Paycheck Protection Program. A recording of the webinar has been placed on YouTube [here](#).

Ameren Energy Efficiency

Ameren Illinois announced several new energy efficiency offerings to help small businesses and nonprofits to reduce their energy usage and save money. Eligible customers can receive a free lighting assessment, free smart thermostat, and a free energy analysis tool. More information [here](#).