

COVID-19 Update: June 18 5 pm

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

State of Illinois Announces New Business Assistance Programs

On June 17, Governor Pritzker outlined a number of new relief programs for both households and businesses. The full list of programs can be found [here](#). Within that list are two programs targeting businesses: \$540 million in the Business Interruption Grant (BIG) program and \$25 million for the Distressed Capital Program. Please refer to the press release regarding the Distressed Capital Program. The BIG program is further defined below:

DCEO will launch the first BIG round by providing \$60 million to businesses experiencing losses or business interruption as a result of COVID-19 related closures. The BIG Program is available for up to 3,500 businesses that experienced a limited ability to operate due to COVID-19 related closures. DCEO will begin distributing funds to qualifying businesses in early July. The total program funding will amount to at least \$540 million in grants for small businesses, \$270 million of which has been set aside for childcare providers and is funded by the CARES Act. In the first wave of grants, priority will be given to small businesses that have been heavily restricted or completely shut down during the pandemic and are located in "Disproportionately Impacted Areas" (DIA), generally defined as low-income and historically underinvested areas of the state (further definition forthcoming). Businesses eligible for the program must have experienced extreme hardship, demonstrated by eligible costs or losses in excess of the grant amount, since March and may continue to face depressed revenues or closure. Businesses must also have been in operation for at least three months prior to March 2020. An emphasis will also be placed on those businesses that are located in areas that have experienced recent property damage due to civil unrest, exacerbating the economic impacts of COVID-19. DCEO will make the application for BIG available on Monday, June 22nd. Check [here](#) for more details after June 22.

Specifically, the program includes support for:

- *Businesses in DIAs* - \$20 million for businesses that are located in a subset of DIAs that have recently experienced significant property damage, providing 1,000 grants of \$20,000 each
- *Bars and Restaurants* - \$20 million for bars and restaurants unable to offer outside service, providing 1,000 grants of up to \$20,000
- *Barbershops and Salons* - \$10 million for barbershops and salons, providing 1,000 grants of \$10,000 each
- *Gyms and Fitness Centers* - \$10 million for gyms and fitness centers that have lost significant revenue due to COVID-19, providing 500 grants of \$20,000 each

Trio of City of Peoria Assistance Programs Launching

The City of Peoria is launching several programs to provide assistance for COVID-19-related expenses. The programs will provide assistance to public service agencies (launched June 12), small businesses (launching June 22), and households (launching July 6). Information on all programs can be found [here](#) but a summary is below:

- **Small Businesses:** Over \$1 million is dedicated to provide assistance for specific fixed operating expenses such as rent, mortgage, utility payments, internet service, garbage service, insurance and other fixed debt service for small businesses. The application period begins at 8am on June 22 and ends at 3pm on July 2. The maximum award is \$15,000 for small restaurant businesses with 6-50 employees. All other eligible

businesses are eligible for up to \$7,500. A lottery will take place on July 7 to select the order in which businesses receive funding. A list of the lottery order will be available at appreciatepeoria.com. Two training sessions will be held on June 22, at 10am and at 7pm—the link to the GoToMeeting can be found [here](#).

- **Public Service Agencies:** A total of \$300,000 is dedicated to fund public services offered by nonprofits, 501(c)3 organizations and government agencies who serve Peoria residents in low-income households. The funding must be used to prevent, prepare for or respond to COVID-19, with a minimum funding request of \$10,000 and the maximum funding request of \$60,000. The application period began at 8am on June 12 and ends at 3pm on June 26. Agencies will be notified of the funding decision on Wednesday, July 29.
- **Households:** A total of \$300,000 is dedicated to provide up to three months of mortgage or rental assistance up to \$5,000 per household. This program will offer assistance to residents who are delinquent on their rent, mortgage or utility payments. The application period begins at 8 am on July 6 and ends at 3 pm on July 17. A lottery will be held at 10 am on Tuesday, July 21. Applicants must be at or below 80% of the median area income by household size. Online training will be posted on July 6 to guide applicants through the entry. For questions, email grants@peoriagov.org.

Ameren Non-Residential Hardship Program

Ameren is offering one time \$500 grants to non-residential account holders. Both businesses and nonprofit organizations (501c3) are eligible. Awarded funds are applied to the applicant's Ameren bill. More information [here](#).

OSHA Releases Guidance on Reopening Non-essential Businesses

From [IMA](#): The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has issued [guidance](#) to assist employers reopening non-essential businesses and their employees returning to work during the evolving coronavirus pandemic. The guidance supplements the U.S. Department of Labor and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' previously developed [Guidance on Preparing Workplaces for COVID-19](#) and provides general principles for updating restrictions originally put in place to slow the spread of the coronavirus.

COVID-19 and the Americans with Disabilities Act

On June 11, 2020 the US Equal Opportunity Employment Commission updated its technical assistance guidelines for businesses who have questions about employee issues regarding COVID-19 and the Americans with Disabilities Act, Rehabilitation Act and other Equal Employment Opportunity laws. You can access the assistance [here](#).

Business Response Tool Launched

Greater Peoria Economic Development Council and [Tada Cognitive Solutions](#) launched the Business Recovery Program. In partnership with regional Chambers of Commerce and regional economic development professionals, the Program creates a coordinated case management system to support local businesses meet their most pressing needs as they begin to reopen. Businesses enter the portal and answer a set of questions about their business and challenges they face, from workforce to finances. All data remains confidential. Businesses are then connected to a local economic development "case manager" who can connect the business with a suite of resources and technical assistance tailored to their needs. More information available [here](#).