

COVID-19 Update: October 22

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

Restaurant Employee Relief Fund Launched

The Illinois Restaurant Association has launched a relief fund to help struggling restaurant workers that qualify with one-time \$500 grants. To qualify for the Restaurant Employee Relief Fund, you must have either: been diagnosed with COVID-19, served as a caregiver for an immediate family member who had COVID-19, or quarantined with a doctor's note; or been out of work for three weeks or more without unemployment benefits. More information [here](#).

Simpler Loan Forgiveness Application for PPP

The U.S. Small Business Administration, in consultation with the Treasury Department, released a simpler loan forgiveness application for Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans of \$50,000 or less. This action streamlines the PPP forgiveness process to provide financial and administrative relief to America's smallest businesses while also ensuring sound stewardship of taxpayer dollars. Click [here](#) to view the instructions for completing the simpler loan forgiveness application. Click [here](#) to view the simpler loan forgiveness application. Businesses should consult with their lender partner regarding this or any forgiveness process.

Second Round of Business Interruption Grant Still Available

Illinois DCEO is still accepting applications for its Business Interruption Grant (BIG) program. This is a very broad program covering a variety of different businesses. Grant amounts will be calculated based on two months of eligible operating expenses for businesses in heavily impacted industries and two months of revenue losses for all other industries (more below) and will range from \$5,000 to \$150,000. A total of \$200 million is available with specific allocations to certain business types. Among the qualified businesses:

- *Highly Impacted Industries:* Event centers, music venue, performing arts venue, indoor recreation (i.e. trampoline parks), amusement park, movie theaters, museums, charter/shuttle bus service
- *Priority Businesses:* Independently-owned retail stores; Restaurants, bars, and taverns; fitness centers; tourism- and travel-related activities (including hotels); support services for arts and events

Additional priority is being given to businesses in these categories that are located in "Disproportionately Impacted Areas" (DIA). Businesses that are not in a DIA are still strongly encouraged to apply for this program. DIAs are determined by zip code. There are no DIAs in Woodford, Mason or Logan counties. In Peoria county the DIA zip codes are: 61603, 61604, 61605 and 61606. In Tazewell county there is one DIA zip code: 61610. More details, as well as the application portal, can be found at DCEO's website [here](#). Applications are being taken, reviewed and awarded on a rolling basis. As more details emerge, GPEDC will provide additional information to businesses and keep www.gpcovid.com updated.

Bradley University Accepting Applications for Senior Consulting Projects

Are you in need of a new marketing strategy? Have you considered a strategic growth plan? Do you need a feasibility study conducted? Do you need assistance in launching a new product? Senior business majors in the Foster College of Business have a graduation requirement to complete a Capstone Class. These faculty-led, semester-long projects (16 weeks), gives the students a real-world experience by allowing the students to apply their skills along with providing

their client strategic improvements and enhancing operational effectiveness at no cost. Spring semester runs Jan 27 - May 12, 2021. Applications due by December 11. More information and application [here](#).