

The following is both an ask, and what we hope is a fairly comprehensive resource (as of April 1, 2020). Please share both as far and as wide as you can with your networks, your members, your colleagues, your communities, and your friends.

First, the ask: If you know anyone who is a contractor, works with concrete, cuts wood or metal, has a paint shop, a nail salon, etc, Illinois NEEDS your help. COVID-19 leads to respiratory distress/failure, this means our front line doctors are doing manual resuscitation, inserting tubes, and much more... all without enough safety gear. Equipment that was once one time use per patient, is now being put into Ziplock bags and reused for days. Plea from the [Illinois Hospital Association](#). [The State's Call for Support](#). Please help get this message out, and ask your members to get this message out.

Now, below you will find compiled resources for your businesses, your members, and your communities. Everything from rapid overviews of the most recent state and federal resources, other grants, business advice and guidance, and finally some quick resources for individuals. Again, feel free to copy and share.

From all of us at the Illinois Economic Development Association, we are all in this together.

Be safe and help one another.

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ILLINOIS RESOURCES FOR BUSINESSES, ORGANIZATIONS, AND COMMUNITIES

- **Official State Information** – See the State's main page [here](#). Gov. Pritzker has daily updates at 2:30: [watch live](#) or listen to [audio-only](#).
- Per IL [Executive Order](#), here is the official guidance on what is an "[essential business](#)" in Illinois.
- **Volunteer Opportunities** – See all current volunteer opportunities, report a need, and more. Serve Illinois [here](#).

Financial Assistance for Businesses

- **Latest Updates from the Small Business Administration** – Sign up for the newsletter [here](#). See their main page [here](#).
- **Paycheck Protection Program** – The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) will provide \$349 billion in loans through the Paycheck Protection Program to small businesses and non-profits. Portions of these loans will be forgiven to the extent that recipients maintain their existing workforce or rehire. Loans can be up to \$10 million and interest rates are maxed at 4% for portions of the loan that do not qualify for loan forgiveness. Learn more [here](#). Federal Information Sheet [here](#). US Chamber checklist [here](#).
- **Economic Injury Disaster Loan** – The program provides small businesses ([SBA size standards](#)) with working capital loans of up to \$2 million that can provide vital economic support to small businesses to help overcome the temporary loss of revenue they are experiencing. Borrowers can request an emergency advance of \$10,000 within 3 days of submitting the application and do not have to repay the advance if they are denied a loan. Learn more [here](#).
- **Subsidy for Current Loan Payments** – The SBA will cover up to 6 months of principal and interest payments that are owed on most existing SBA loans. Learn more [here](#).
- **Training and Advising for Existing Businesses** – Additional funds are provided to SBDCs, Women’s Business Centers, and Minority Business Centers for education, training and advising to small businesses. Small Businesses can take advantage of this now. You may visit [this website](#) to find your local Illinois Small Business Development Center (SBDC). If you are located outside of Illinois, please visit [this website](#) to find your state’s SBDC network.
- **Aid to Midsize Businesses and Nonprofits** – \$454 billion will be available from the U.S. Treasury to provide financial assistance through loan programs established by the Federal Reserve. As part of that, a special fund is dedicated to midsize businesses and nonprofits with 500-10,000 employees to provide financing to banks and other lenders to make direct loans to these entities. The interest rate on those loans would be capped at 2%, with no payments due for the first six months. These loans cannot be forgiven. More information via [Holland & Knight](#)
- **Illinois Small Business Emergency Loan Fund** – Offers small businesses low interest loans of up to \$50,000. Businesses located outside of the City of Chicago with fewer than 50 workers and less than \$3 million in revenue in 2019 will be eligible to apply. Small businesses within the City of Chicago can apply to a similar loan program here. Successful applicants will owe nothing for six months and will then begin making fixed payments at a below market interest rate for the remainder of a five-year loan term. Businesses can express interest and learn more about loan guidelines and eligibility [here](#).
- **Downstate Small Business Stabilization Program** – To support small businesses in downstate and rural counties across Illinois, DCEO is repurposing \$20 million in CDBG funds. This Fund will offer small businesses of up to 50 employees the opportunity to partner with their local governments to obtain grants of up to \$25,000 in working capital. These grants will be offered on a rolling basis. Communities can learn more about the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) and eligibility requirements [here](#).
- **Sales Tax Deferral for Bars and Restaurants** - Eating and drinking establishments that incurred less than \$75,000 in sales tax liabilities last year will not be charged penalties or interest on payments due in March, April or May made late. The Department of Revenue estimates this will give relief to nearly 80% of bars and restaurants in Illinois. Press Release [Here](#).

General Business Resources and Information

- **Reminder: Families First Act Goes Into Effect April 1** – The Families First Act grant emergency paid sick leave to employees of businesses with fewer than 500 employees and expands family and medical leave. It takes effect on April 1, 2020. The US Department of Labor has an FAQ [here](#).
- **Employer Paid Sick Leave** - Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA or Act) requires certain employers to provide their employees with paid sick leave or expanded family and medical leave for specified reasons related to COVID-19. Department of Labor link [here](#).
- **Paid Emergency Leave** - Emergency Paid Leave Mandates with Employer Tax Credits Overview by the Illinois Restaurant's Association [here](#).
- **Tax Filings** – The US Treasury has moved Tax Day from April 15 to July 15. All taxpayers and businesses will have this additional time to file and make payments without interest or penalties. (Illinois Governor Pritzker also extended the state deadline to July 15.) More [here](#). State tax filing guidance from the American Institute of CPAs is [here](#).
- **US Chamber Resources** – Business owner tips [here](#). COVID-19 Resource Page [here](#).
- **Guidance regarding Alcohol and Liquor** – Information compiled by the Illinois Restaurants Association [here](#).
- **Price Gouging and Fraud** – Report to the Illinois Attorney General's Office [here](#). AG Raoul press release [here](#). Chicago press release [here](#).
- **COVID-19 Insurance Implications** - World Business Chicago in partnership with Willis Tower Watson, Hennessy & Roach, P.C. and Jackson Lewis, PC, recently held a webinar: Risk and Insurance Implications of COVID-19. Please click [here](#) to access the recording, and [here](#) for the presentation.
- **Free training for delivery/takeout** – ServSafe is offering free courses for business exploring delivery and takeout during the crisis [here](#).
- **Resources for Manufacturers** – Illinois Manufacturer's Association has compiled an FAQ [here](#). Manufacturing Operational Protocols provided by Rockford Area Economic Development Council [here](#). IMEC Manufacturing Helpline [here](#). 10 Practical Things Manufacturers can do [here](#).
- **OSHA Guidance** – PDF for Preparing Workplaces for COVID-19 [here](#).
- **CDC Guidance** – Guidance for Business [here](#).
- **Pivoting During COVID-19** – For small business survival and restructuring by the Economic Alliance of Kankakee County [here](#).
- **Lease Renegotiation and Rent Reduction** – Considerations from Cushman & Wakefield [here](#).
- **Importance of Supply Chain Disruption Planning** – IMEC released the following checklist that can help your company react and prepare for disruptions [here](#).

Other Grants and Programs Available to Businesses and Organizations

- **Arts for Illinois Relief Fund** - A collaboration between the City of Chicago, the State of Illinois, and private philanthropy to support the arts community during the COVID-19 crisis. See more [here](#).
- **Women's Business Development Center (WBDC)** - Direct Lending Program provides loans up to \$50,000 for established businesses and \$25,000 for startups. Info [here](#).
- **Facebook Grant & Resources** - A \$100 million grant for small businesses impacted by COVID-19 ([here](#)) and launched the Business Resource Hub ([here](#)), which features recommendations to help small businesses stay connected to customers and stay on track.
- **Kabbage** – Hub to help boost sales for U.S small businesses impacted by COVID-19, including a system through which businesses can sell gift cards to consumers for use at a later date. More [here](#).
- **Restaurant Workers Support** – The National Restaurant Association has an Employee Relief Fund ([here](#)). Restaurant Workers Community Foundation formed an Emergency Relief Fund ([here](#)).
- **Mainvest** – A crowdfunding platform, announced its new Main Street Initiative: a \$2,000, zero-interest, 120 day loan for restaurants or other brick and mortars affected by the shutdown, in addition to its normal fundraising offerings. More [here](#).

Chicago Specific

- **Chicago Small Business Resiliency Fund** - A \$100 million Chicago Loan Fund which will help to provide small businesses with emergency cash flow during this immediate health crisis. More [here](#).
- **Chicago Guidance for Businesses and Employers** – Full PDF [here](#).
- **Chicago Business Tax Deferral** – Dues dates for tax payments are extended until April 30, 2020. This includes Bottled Water tax, Checkout Bag tax, Amusement tax, Hotel Accommodation tax, Restaurant tax, & Parking tax. County Taxes and Fines are discussed [here](#). Suspension of debt collection, ticketing, and towing [here](#).
- **Paid Sick Leave (Chicago)** – Frequently Asked Questions from the City of Chicago [here](#).
- **City of Chicago** – More financial resources are available [here](#).
- **Closure of Restaurants and Bars** – City of Chicago FAQ [here](#).

Individual Resources and Individual Financial Support

- **Benefits.gov** - You can find government benefits related to many different items [here](#). For example: unemployment assistance ([here](#)), healthcare ([here](#)), and food and nutrition ([here](#) & [here](#)). You can also take our Benefit Finder to find additional benefits you may be eligible for [here](#).
- **Need Health Insurance?** – You may qualify under a life changing event, find out more at GetCovered.illinois.gov [here](#).
- **Economic Assistance for Illinois Families** – Including Unemployment Benefits can be found [here](#).
- **Utilities** – Most power companies are suspending all disconnections & late fees. [Ameren](#). [ComEd](#). [Nicor Gas](#).
- **Temporary Assistance for Needy Families** – TANF provides financial assistance to help pay for food, shelter, utilities, and expenses (other than medical) for pregnant women and families with one or more dependent children. Find out more [here](#).
- **Local Food Banks** – There are many options across the state, find the closest one [here](#).
- **Emergency Child Care Support** – Illinois' Emergency Childcare Provider Search Tool [here](#).
- **American Express Financial Hardship** — Amex is evaluating accounts on a case-by-case basis under its Financial Hardship Relief program to provide support for cardholders impacted by COVID-19. If approved, your interest rate may be lowered to rates as low as 0%, and you may receive a waiver on late and other account fees. Just note that if you accept the relief, your accounts may be frozen, and you won't be able to use them until paid off. Your Membership Rewards balance will also be frozen, and the issuer may notify the credit bureaus that your account limits were lowered. More [here](#).
- **American Express Working Capital** — Amex business cardholders can enroll with no credit check and get ongoing access to funds used for vendor payments between \$500 and \$150,000 with repayment terms of 30, 60 or 90 days. These charge a fixed fee between 0.6% and 5.25%. More [here](#).
- **Chase** — You can call the number on the back of your card and ask to speak with an account representative about the possibility of relief from fees and interest. Multiple readers have reported success in having interest and late fees waived due to hardship related to COVID-19. More [here](#).
- **Capital One, Citi and Wells Fargo** – have all issued statements indicating that they are willing to work with customers that experience financial difficulties. Citi issued a statement ([here](#)) that for 30 days, small business customers are eligible to have their monthly service fees waived. Capital One info [here](#).
- **Wells Fargo** - donated \$6.25 million in aid to help the public relief effort. The bank encourages customers experiencing financial hardship to contact customer service for assistance. More [here](#).