

COVID-19 Update: August 17

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

Paycheck Protection Program Loan Forgiveness

On August 4 the SBA published additional guidance regarding the forgiveness of Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans. The new FAQs clarify previous SBA guidance, provisions of the CARES Act and the PPP loan forgiveness application. Read the guidance [here](#) and a summary [here](#).

State Mask Mandate Upheld

Earlier this week, the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules (JCAR) failed on a motion to block Governor Pritzker's emergency rules that allow for penalties on businesses that do not enforce mask mandates or do not adhere to capacity limits put into place by previous Executive Orders. Under these new rules which go into effect immediately, businesses that are open to the public that do not enforce mask requirements, or do not adhere to capacity limits (50 people or 50 percent of more of a building's occupancy) are subject to a Class A Misdemeanor as part of a three step process:

1. Written warnings will be issued to businesses and encouraged to comply with public health guidelines.
2. Businesses that do not comply will be ordered to have some or all their patrons leave the premises to come into compliance.
3. Businesses that do not comply could be cited with a Class A misdemeanor and subject to a daily fine of \$75 to \$2,500.

This new rule only applies to businesses open to the public and is directed toward consumer-facing businesses such as restaurants, bars, hotels, and retail stores.

Emergency Rental Assistance Program

Applications are now available (August 10-21) for the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERA). ERA will support Illinois tenants unable to pay their rent due to a COVID-19-related loss of income. Tenants whose applications are approved will receive one-time grants of \$5,000 paid directly to their landlords to cover missed rent payments beginning March 2020 and prepay payments through December 2020, or until the \$5,000 is exhausted, whichever comes first. Tenant eligibility includes:

- Household income before March 1, 2020 was at or below 80 percent of the Area Median Income;
- An adult member of the household must have had a loss of income due to the COVID-19 crisis on or after March 1, 2020; and
- Household has an unpaid rent balance that began on or after March 1, 2020.

Applications available [here](#).

Emergency Mortgage Assistance Program

Applications will become available on August 24, 2020, for the Emergency Mortgage Assistance Program (EMA) that will assist homeowners who have experienced a COVID-19-related loss of

income resulting in past due mortgage balances starting March 2020. Approved applicants will receive up to \$15,000 paid directly to their mortgage servicer. Assistance will cover the homeowner's past due or forbearance balance and their regular mortgage payments through December 30, 2020, or until the funding is exhausted, whichever comes first. Homeowner eligibility includes:

- Household adjusted gross income from 2019 Tax Return was at or below 120 percent of the Area Median Income;
- An adult member of the household has had a loss of income due to the COVID-19 crisis on or after March 1, 2020;
- Homeowner's mortgage was current as of February 29, 2020;
- The mortgage is past due or in forbearance.

Applications will be available [here](#).