

COVID-19 Update: September 18

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

Second Round of Business Interruption Grant Launched

Illinois DCEO released details and the application for the second round of its Business Interruption Grant (BIG) program. This is a very broad program covering a variety of different businesses. We are still seeking some clarification on some aspects, but the awarded grant size will be calculated based on revenue losses and/or expenses over the last two months and will range from \$5,000 to \$150,000. The pot of money available is \$200 million 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.

IDES Lost Wages Assistance Program

The Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES) announced that payments under the Lost Wages Assistance program have started. The first three weeks of benefits have been secured and IDES has applied for funding for week 4. In an effort to continue the funding for weeks to come, the Department is working on applications for additional weeks of funding. Under the Lost Wages Assistance Program, authorized by President Donald Trump through an [executive order](#), certain individuals unemployed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic may be eligible to receive an additional \$300 per week to their weekly benefit amount (WBA).

In addition to announcing the release of funds through the program, the Department also provided [this FAQ](#) that provides important information and answers questions on the program, how long it lasts and who it applies to.

Federal Eviction Moratorium Extended

Most renters who can’t afford to pay rent will be protected from eviction under an order issued by the Trump administration on September 1, a move that comes as state and local bans imposed at the beginning of the pandemic are expiring. More [here](#).