Back to Business (B2B) Grant Program





Back to Business Grant Program



- Program Overview
- Back to Business Program Details
- Technical Assistance



Program Overview



- Back to Business (B2B) Program builds on success of the Business Interruption Grant (BIG) program
- B2B grant program includes:
 - \$5,000-\$150,000 grants totaling \$250M made available by ARPA funds (up to \$250,000 for hotels)
 - User-friendly online application portal
 - Expansive network of Community Navigators to assist businesses in submitting applications



ARPA Requirements



- Funding for B2B is made possible by appropriation of Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery funds awarded from the US Treasury to Illinois.
- Spending from this federal source must abide by the <u>terms & conditions</u> and <u>rules</u> outlined by Treasury.
- General assistance to small businesses must be prioritized for industries most impacted by the COVID-19 public health emergency.
 - Specific mention in guidance of travel, tourism, and hospitality.
 - States may identify other industries based on analysis.
- According to Treasury FAQ, "recipients must design a program that responds to the negative economic impacts of the COVID-19 public health emergency....This can include assistance to:
 - Adopt safer operating procedures,
 - Weather periods of closure, or
 - Mitigate financial hardship resulting from the COVID-19 public health ois emergency."

Eligibility Factors and Key Priorities



- Eligible businesses include any for-profit and nonprofit entities with \$20 million or less in annual revenue in 2019 that experienced losses in 2020 due to COVID-19. (\$20 million cap is annualized for businesses that started after January 2019. \$35 million for hotels.)
- Grant size will range from \$5,000 to \$150,000 (up to \$250,000 for hotels) and will be equal to the difference between 2019 revenues and 2020 revenues, divided by 6, rounded up to nearest multiple of \$5,000 (effectively two months' worth of average year-over-year revenue decline).
- Priority will be given to applicants that:
 - Did not receive emergency relief.
 - Are located in DIAs
 - Have less than \$5 million in annual revenue
 - Are in a priority industry



Set-Aside Funding Allocations



- At least 40% of the funds or \$100 million will go to businesses located in DIAs
- At least \$25 million will go to businesses that applied for BIG but did not receive a grant due to funds running out
- At least \$80 million will go to a set of hard-hit industries continuing to face ongoing hardship
 - \$25 million for hotels
 - \$25 million for restaurants that did not receive a Restaurant Revitalization Fund (RRF) award
 - \$30 million for arts organizations and businesses



Priority Industries



The list of priority industries for Back to Business Grants is as follows. Specific definitions for who is included will be available in an "Eligibility Guidelines" document

- Hotels
- Restaurants that did not receive RRF
- Arts organizations or businesses that did not receive SVOG
- Clothing, accessory, or electronics retail establishments (excluding ecommerce)
- Dry cleaners
- Home health care services
- Childcare providers that have not received CCRG
- Barbershop or salon
- Indoor recreation
- Gym or fitness center
- Tourism or group transportation (excluding taxis, limos, or rideshare)
- Spectator and social event support services
- Museum or movie theater operators that did not receive SVOG

Application



Beginning August 18, the link will be found on the DCEO website: www.illinois.gov/dceo

Additional Resources on the website:

- Application questions and required documents
- Eligibility guidelines, including priority industry definitions
- Certification form and eligible cost list
- Upcoming webinars
- Access to Community Navigators and business assistance

Application



Required documents

- Business Owner ID (driver's license, state ID, passport, or matricular consular card)
- 2019 Federal Tax Return
- 2020 Federal Tax Return
- One business bank statement from between April and December 2020, inclusive, that reflects business expenses
- Most recent business bank statement
- If the above documents do not reflect current business address, a document that does (utility bill, lease/mortgage, credit card statement, or business license)

Application



Features of the application portal:

- Applicants will have designated log-in so they can save their application and return to it
- Applicants will be able to verify their application is received and check on its status
- The portal will handle notifications on application status in more streamlined way throughout program
- Community navigators and DCEO frontline team will have access to application information to assist businesses

Application



- Applicants will receive notifications when:
 - Their account is opened
 - A week has passed since opening account without completing application
 - Application is completed
 - Review results in changed prioritization [appeal available]
 - Review results in ineligibility determination [appeal available]
 - Grant awarded



Some FAQs



Are sole proprietors eligible to apply?

Yes

Are businesses with ITINs eligible to apply?

Yes

Are nonprofits eligible to apply?

 Yes, nonprofits that are 501c3, 501c6, and 501c19 are eligible to apply



Some FAQs



What are eligible and ineligible uses for B2B grant funds?

- Grant funds can be used for a wide range of operational expenses, including rent/mortgage payments, payroll, inventory, insurance, and more.
- Expenses that have been or will be reimbursed under any other program backed by federal funds are not eligible.

Can I apply for and receive a B2B grant if I was open last year but my business is now permanently closed?

No. Businesses that have taken any material steps to dissolve, permanently cease operations, or sell substantially all of their assets prior to receiving an award – even after submitting an application – are not eligible.

Outreach and Technical Assistance is Available



- Community Navigators: 100+ community-based organizations across the state are available to assist businesses in accessing B2B grants. <u>Download the B2B search tool</u> to find your navigator.
- DCEO's First Stop Hotline: 800.252.2923 or at <u>ceo.firststop@illinois.gov</u>
- 42 Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs): <u>Search Here</u>
- DCEO Frontline staff: Offices of Minority Economic Empowerment (OMEE) and Regional Economic Development (Team RED)
- A4CB will have a customer service line and online intake form for questions about applications.

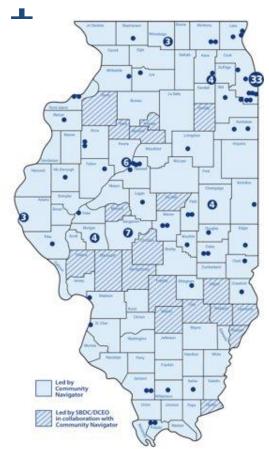


Community Navigators +

Statewide Coverage

Businesses can receive the following services:

- 1-on-1 technical assistance to learn about eligibility and how to apply for economic support
- Services in 30 different languages
- Referrals to SBDCs, DCEO, and other business support opportunities
- Documentation review and preparation
- Additional business assistance





Questions?

Thank You!

