

***BUSINESS  
INTERRUPTION GRANT  
(BIG) PROGRAM  
Round 2***





# BIG Program



- Governor Pritzker and the General Assembly established the BIG program to provide relief to small businesses hit hard by the pandemic.
- \$540 million in grants are being awarded in funding rounds to small businesses to reimburse costs incurred due to COVID-19.
  - \$270 million specifically for childcare & early learning providers.
- \$49 million in grants awarded to 2,800 businesses in Round 1.
  - Round 1 focused on restaurants, personal services, gym and fitness, and businesses in severe disproportionately impacted areas.
- Equity-framework ensures business in communities disproportionately impacted by COVID, and historically marginalized, receive significant share of support



# BIG Program

## Round 2 – Overview



- \$200 million of the remaining funds will be available to all small businesses statewide that experienced losses due to the pandemic.
  - More than half of funds are earmarked for businesses downstate
    - “Downstate” includes all counties outside those that received direct support from the federal Coronavirus Relief Fund (Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, and Will).
  - \$70 million will be invested in disproportionately impacted areas (DIAs)
    - A map of DIA’s is [here](#).
  - \$60 million set aside for heavily impacted industries
  - Remaining funds will be available to any small business meeting [eligibility factors](#).
  - DCEO’s grant administration partner for Round 2 is Accion.



# BIG Program

## *Round 2 – Eligibility Factors and Key Priorities*



- **Eligible businesses include for-profit and nonprofit entities with \$20 million or less in annual revenue in 2019 (annualized for businesses that started after January 2019) and experienced losses due to COVID-19.**
- 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.
- Priority will be given to applicants that:
  - Did not receive PPP or other forms of emergency aid from the CARES Act or other governments
  - Are located in DIAs
  - Are subject to regional mitigation measures due to COVID resurgence
  - Have less than \$5 million in annual revenue



# BIG Program

## Round 2 – Heavily Impacted Industries



- \$60 million will be set aside for businesses in a set of [Heavily Distressed Industries](#). Businesses in these industries have been closed or operating at very diminished capacity since mid-March and are likely to continue to do so until Phase 5.
- [These industries include the following:](#)
  - Event spaces
  - Music venues
  - Performing arts venues
  - Indoor recreation
  - Amusement parks
  - Movie theaters
  - Museums
  - Charter/shuttle buses



# BIG Program

## *Round 2 – Additional Priority Industries*



- For the remaining \$140 million in funds this round, any business or nonprofit with under \$20 million in annual revenue that experienced losses due to COVID may apply.
- For these remaining funds, the following industries that are experiencing ongoing dramatic losses industrywide due to the economic fallout from COVID will be prioritized:
  - Independently-owned retail
  - Restaurants and bars
  - Fitness centers
  - Tourism-related industries, including lodging and accommodations
  - Support services for arts or events



# BIG Program

## *Round 2 – Required Documents*



- 2019 Tax Return
- July 2019 Bank Statement
- August 2019 Bank Statement
- July 2020 Bank Statement
- August 2020 Bank Statement
- Signed W-9
- Business Owner ID



# BIG Program

## *Key Do's & Don'ts*



- **Do**: Take time to ensure your application is complete and accurate in advance of submitting.
- **Do**: Ask for assistance from the Help Desk in either [English](#) or [Spanish](#) if needed. [FAQs](#) are posted on DCEO's BIG webpage.
- **Do**: Save your answers in a separate document in case you experience any technical delays.





# BIG Program

## *Key Do's & Don'ts*



- **Don't**: Forget to double check your answers prior to submitting.
- **Don't**: Choose a heavily impacted industry, priority industry or DIA zip code if that is not applicable for your business. This will delay and negatively impact your consideration for a grant.
- **Don't**: Use an automatic form filling feature on your browser, it may populate incorrect information into your application.



# BIG Program

## *Round 2 – Outreach and Technical Assistance*



- DCEO has partnered with Illinois nonprofits to assist hard-to-reach African American, Latino, and immigrant owned businesses in accessing resources to assist their business through COVID-19, including with access to BIG grants.
- DCEO's FirstStop Hotline, Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs), the Office of Minority Economic Empowerment (OMEE), and the Office of Regional Economic Development (Team RED) are also ready to assist.
- Contact information for our network of more than 60 technical assistance partners is available on the [DCEO BIG webpage](#).



# BIG Program

## *Round 2 -Timeline*



**September 17** – begin accepting applications

**Grants will be awarded and funded on a rolling basis**

All application support materials are available now at the BIG website.

For assistance with your application, please submit a question to Accion via the following question submission form in either [English](#) or [Spanish](#).

# Questions?

# Thank You!

## Contact Information:

Agnes Masnik: 312-882-6840 or [agnes.masnik@illinois.gov](mailto:agnes.masnik@illinois.gov)

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