



**BRIDGET DEGNEN**  
**COOK COUNTY COMMISSIONER OF COOK COUNTY**  
**12<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT**

## **County Government Resources**

### **Small Business**

- Cook County Community Recovery Fund- A zero-interest loan program targeted at suburban small businesses and gig workers. It will provide immediate relief in the form of loans of up to \$20,000 each to small businesses and \$10,000 each to gig workers. Applications will not be accepted until the week of April 13. Businesses can complete an “interest form” on the [county’s website](#) to receive updates.
  - The loans will be available to businesses with fewer than 25 employees that take in less than \$3 million in annual revenue.
  - Gig workers can apply for the loans if they earn less than \$100,000 annually and prove they earn at least half their income from contract work.
  - Loans will be administered by the nonprofit Chicago community Loan Fund. County leaders “seeded” the fund with \$10 million payment from county corporate funds and federal grants but are hoping to grow the fund through private philanthropic donations.
- Cook County is partnering with the [American Business Immigration Coalition](#) (“ABIC”), the [Illinois Restaurant Association](#) and the [National Partnership for New Americans](#) to catalyze access to the SBA’s Payroll Protection Program (“PPP”).
  - Economic development organizations, such as Chamber’s of Commerce, Community Development Financial Institutions, and local lending institutions are activated to assist small businesses, non-profits and independent contractors.
- Delayed Tax Payments – The County will put off collecting sales taxes on gasoline, cigarettes, alcohol, and hotels until May 1. Officials will also stop mailing invoices for building and zoning violations in unincorporated Cook county, “except for violations deemed dangerous and hazardous.”
- Extended Filing Dates – The County is extending the filing date for home rule taxes, such as the Parking Lot and Garage Operations Tax to May 1<sup>st</sup> for the February and March 2020 tax periods. No penalties or interest will be applied during the extension period.
- Suspension of Inspections – All routine annual business inspections for commercial, industrial and solid-waste facilities in suburban cook County will be suspended through April 30, 2020. Mailing invoices for all annual inspections will be suspended.
- Waiver of Fees – Waivers for removal fees for asbestos and demolitions will last through April 30<sup>th</sup>. Late fees on any invoices will not be imposed until after April 30, 2020.

- Suburban Cook County – Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle accounted a new effort combining the \$377 Billion CARES Act, a federal stimulus bill, with a variety of lending resources and technical assistance to ensure suburban business owners, non-profits, and independent contractors are connected to opportunities for emergency relief during the COVID-19 pandemic. This initiative assists small businesses apply for the forgivable loan program (Payroll Protection Program). For more information about how to connect to this program and for important updates, visit the Bureau of Economic Development’s website for COVID-19 Resources: [www.cookcountyil.gov/service/covid-19-economic-relief](http://www.cookcountyil.gov/service/covid-19-economic-relief).
  - The Payroll Protection Program has:
    - Is up to 100% forgivable as long as employers keep paying their workers
    - Employers can borrow up to 250% of their average monthly payroll (max. of \$10M)
    - Eligible if you are: sole proprietor, partnership, C-Corp, S-Corp, LLC, Independent contractor, self-employed individual, 501(c)(3) non-profit, 501(c)(19) veteran organization, tribal business of SBA.
- Businesses with a minority, women, veteran or service disability certification will automatically have their certification renewal date extended an additional 6 months.

### **Tenant/Proper Owner Resources**

- Tenants who are at risk of eviction and/or homelessness may apply for emergency financial assistance by calling the Homelessness Prevention Call Center, where staff will evaluate their eligibility for financial assistance and other community resources. Tenants living in the City of Chicago can access this resource by Calling 3-1-1 or 312-744-5000 and asking for “Short-Term Help.” The Call center is open from 8:30 a.m. -4:30 p.m. Monday- Thursday. Tenants in suburban Cook County can access this resource by calling 1-877-426-6515.
- Tenants may immediately [apply for unemployment online](#) if they have lost their job.
- To review a full list of financial resources from Chicago Apartment Authority’s Industry Partners, Preservation Compact and the Community Investment Corporation (CIC), [please click here](#).
- Property Taxes: Commissioner Bridget Degnen sponsored a bill that delays the interest accrual date for late payments on property taxes in Cook County.
  - Second installment bills are due August 3, 2020
  - For payments made after that date: interest accrual will not begin until October 1, 2020
  - Any payments made before October 1 shall be deemed timely, with no late penalties or fees
  - No application is needed
- Cook County Assessor Fritz Kaegi is reassessing ALL properties in Cook County with COVID impact in mind. In 2020, the South/Western suburbs are scheduled to be reassessed. Those who have not yet been assessed for 2020 will receive assessments that reflect the economic impact of COVID-19 on property values. Properties that have already been assessed in south suburbs, and properties in the North suburbs and Chicago will have their property values reviewed again with COVID impact taken into consideration. These reassessments will be sent after the appeal period. These changes would be reflected in the 2021 second installment bills.

## **Housing/Shelters**

- Cook County Government is providing additional funding for six suburban Cook County emergency shelters to help them meet new, enhanced guidelines to stop the spread of COVID-19 in their spaces. Shelters are not putting people up in costly hotels and apartments to prevent transmission. The additional \$150,000 is from Community Development Block Grant funds and further funds are expected to provide supplementary emergency grants to shelters as the federal COVID-19 stimulus package is distributed.
- The County is under contract with four hotels, which will provide approximately 400 rooms to serve as quarantine spaces for those that tested positive for COVID-19 but do not need to be in the hospital. First Responders and homeless or housing insecure individuals are given first priority. Hospital administrators from 20 suburban Cook County hospitals are invited to take advantage of the program and request a room for any patient who “may not be able to adequately self-isolate.”

## **Service Workers/Tipped Workers**

- Tenants who are service workers or tipped workers who have lost their job may be eligible to apply for emergency assistance through One Fair Wage's [Emergency Coronavirus Tipped and Service Worker Support Fund](#)

## **Business “Needs” Survey**

- The Cook County Bureau of Economic Development wants to prioritize resources to assist businesses recover from impacts related to COVID-19. We are actively developing financial tools, assistance programs and partnerships to help businesses during this time. Please complete the [survey](#) and share with your network.

## **Administrative Hearings**

- All Cook County Administrative hearings have been deferred until April 15.

## **Cook County Hospitals**

- Provident Hospital has temporarily suspended services to redeploy personnel to other areas of need as a result of COVID-19. As of April 20, 2020, all services are reopened.

## **Volunteer/Donations**

- Cook County has a donation program to accept unused personal protective equipment (PPE) for first responders and medical staff. Donated equipment will be distributed to municipalities, first responders, and healthcare workers based on priority and need. Cook County is accepting eye protection such as face shields and goggles, nitrile (non-latex) gloves, surgical face masks, non-contact (infrared) thermometers, disinfecting wipes and hand sanitizer and infection control kits. The County will also accept Tyvek or Tychem coveralls, shoes and boot coverings and gowns including surgical, isolation and personal

protection. All PPE should be in the manufacturer's original packaging and unopened. Anyone who would like to donate PPE or has any questions, should email [donate@cookcountyil.gov](mailto:donate@cookcountyil.gov).

- Nursing and Medical Volunteers needed - The Chicago Medical Corps needs nursing and medical providers and other non-medical volunteers to volunteer to help protect Chicago during the COVID-19 public health emergency. The City and State are looking for any and all health care workers, including nursing and medical students and retirees. Find more information and sign up at [www.illinoishelps.net](http://www.illinoishelps.net)
- City of Chicago: [How to Help: Donate to Emergency Relief Funds and connect with organizations who are leading response efforts for essential needs.](#)
- [Here's How You Can Buy Lunch For Weiss Hospital's Frontline Workers Battling The Coronavirus](#) (Block Club)
- [Got Any Health Care Experience? The City Wants You To Help Battle Coronavirus — Now](#) (Block Club)
- [Englewood Soup Kitchen Carries On During Pandemic, But Needs Help](#) (Block Club)
- [Chicago's Indie Music Venues Need Help. Here's A List Of Fundraisers](#) (Block Club)
- [Rogers Park Residents Form Hotline, Huge Volunteer Team To Help Neighbors During Outbreak](#) (Block Club)
- [6 Immigrant Groups Protecting Vulnerable From Coronavirus — Here's How You Can Help](#) (Borderless)
- [Need Help In Logan Square? Volunteers Launch Neighborhood Network To Connect People In Need](#) (Block Club)
- [Want To Help, Don't Know Where To Start? Here's A List Of Chicago Groups That Need Donations Right Now](#) (Block Club)
- [Chicago Mutual Aid Network Connects Those In Need With Helpers Across The City](#) (Block Club)
- [Volunteer Opportunities With Serve Illinois](#) (State of Illinois)
- [Want To Help Seniors In Your Area? My Block, My Hood, My City Signing Up Volunteers For Well-Being Phone Calls](#) (Block Club)
- [Blood Donations Badly Needed During Coronavirus Outbreak, Officials Say](#) (Block Club)
- [Pilsen Neighbors Sign Up To Grocery Shop For Older Folks As Coronavirus Spreads](#) (Block Club)
- [Hyde Park Mom Organizes Resource Network To Help Neighbors In Need As Coronavirus Spreads](#) (Block Club)