



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

## **State Government Resources**

### **Small Businesses**

- Illinois Small Business Emergency Loan Fund
  - \$60 million fund will issue low-interest loans up to \$50,000 for small businesses in every industry
  - Businesses with fewer than 50 employees and less than \$3 million in revenue in 2019 will be eligible to apply here: <https://www2.illinois.gov/dceo/Pages/default.aspx>
  - This will be for business located OUTSIDE of Chicago. See Chicago resources for Chicago specific aid.
- Downstate Business Stabilization Program
  - \$20 million fund to issue grants up to \$25,000 to small business in suburban and rural counties across Illinois. (Cook County is excluded, as it is considered an urban county)
  - Businesses with up to 50 employees can apply here: <https://www2.illinois.gov/dceo/CommunityServices/CommunityInfrastructure/Pages/DowntstateSmBizStabilization.aspx>
- Business Invest
  - \$500 million fund through the State Treasury's Office – the Office will deposit these funds with qualified financial institutions
  - 1 year term with .01% interest rate.
  - Deposits can be drawn in \$1 or \$5 million increments, up to \$25 million per financial institutions.
  - The financial institutions use the funds to facilitate affordable loans (not to exceed 4.75%) to small businesses and not-for-profits for bridge funding.
  - Eligible Illinois businesses or non-profits must: (1) have been shut down or limited due to COVID-19; (2) have less than \$1 million in liquid assets or \$8 million average annual receipts (per SBA standards); and (3) be headquartered in the state of Illinois or agree to use the funds in Illinois.
  - Deposits can be renewed on a basis determined by the Treasurer's Office.
  - Financial institutions will be required to provide reports to the Treasurer's Office regarding the usage of program funds, including the number and types of loans provided and the economic impact of such loans.

- To apply to become a lender under the program, visit:  
[https://illinoistreasurer.gov/Financial\\_Institutions/Access\\_to\\_Capital/Become\\_an\\_Approved\\_Program\\_Depository?status=pending](https://illinoistreasurer.gov/Financial_Institutions/Access_to_Capital/Become_an_Approved_Program_Depository?status=pending)

### **Hospitality Industry**

- Hospitality Emergency Grant Program
  - To help hospitality businesses make ends meet in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, Illinois is launching the Hospitality Emergency Grant Program with \$14 million drawn from funds originally budgeted for job training, tourism promotion, and other purposes. Grant funds are available to support working capital like payroll and rent, as well as job training, retraining, and technology to support shifts in operations, like increased pick-up and delivery.
  - Bars and restaurants that generated between \$500K and \$1M in revenue in 2019 are eligible for up to \$25,000, and bars and restaurants that generated less than \$500K in revenue in 2019 are eligible for up to \$10,000. Hotels that generated less than \$8M in revenue in 2019 are eligible for up to \$50,000.
  - Unfortunately, this is now closed.
- Sales tax deferral
  - Gov. Pritzker has directed the Illinois Department of Revenue to defer sales tax payments for more than 24,000 small- and medium-sized bars and restaurants. Eating and drinking establishments that incurred less than \$75,000 in sales tax liabilities last year will not be charged late payment penalties or interest on payments due in March, April or May. Penalties and interest will be automatically waived; however, qualified taxpayers must still file their sales tax return even if they are unable to make a payment. Any taxpayers taking advantage of this relief will be required to pay their sales tax liabilities due in March, April and May in four installments starting on May 20 and extending through August 20.

### **Workers – Employment**

- Unemployment
  - Illinois Department of Employment Security has waived the 1 week wait to be eligible for Unemployment
  - To cut back on volume, people whose last names begin with A-M may file online claims on Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7:30am to 6pm and speak to someone by phone on Tuesdays and Thursdays 7:30am to 6pm. N-Z can file online Monday, Wednesdays and Fridays 7:30am to 6pm and speak to someone via phone on Mondays and Wednesdays between 7:30am and 6pm. Anyone unable to register during their designated time can file online Saturday or call on Fridays. The number is 312-338-4337 and the website is: <https://www2.illinois.gov/ides/Pages/default.aspx>
- Arts for Illinois Relief Fund
  - Artists from all fields, and non for profit arts organizations can apply for grant funding via a lottery system. Artists can also submit some of their work to be featured on this state-wide website. For more information, visit here: <https://artsforillinois.org/>

- For essential workers who feel like CDC guidelines on social distancing are not being met in their workplace can report to the Attorney General.
  - For public employers – should submit with Illinois OSHA
  - For private sector employers – should submit with Federal OSHA
  - Both can be found at [Illinois.gov/oeil](https://www.illinois.gov/oeil)
  - Or call 844-740-5076

### **Seniors:**

- Many grocery stores are setting aside hours for seniors to shop before it is open for general public. Visit here for a list of participating stores and their hours <https://irma.org/covid-19-senior-shopping/>

### **Essential Workers**

- Childcare – children of essential workers are eligible to receive child care through the Illinois Department of Human Services Child Assistance Program. Apply here: [COVID-19 Prioritized Essential Workers Child Care Application](#)

### **Families/Individuals**

- School lunches
  - Illinois State Board of Education received approval for Illinois schools to continue providing two meals a day for students who qualify for free and reduced lunches. School districts will contact students and parents on their specific food distribution plans
  - Any student in the Chicago Public Schools district can receive boxes of food containing three days of breakfast and lunch. Boxes can be picked up at any CPS schools between 9am and 1pm Monday-Friday. Parents/guardians can also call 773-553-5437 for emergency delivery.
- SNAP benefits:
  - Illinois Department of Human Services – USDA is allowing states to conduct telephone interviews instead of face-to-face interviews for SNAP in March, April and May 2020. If you have questions about applying, you can contact the Chicago Food Depository at 773-843-5416.
  - \$112 million dollars was to SNAP benefits April 20, so that families with children will get more SNAP money – for families already signed up for SNAP, they should automatically see this increase on their card.
- Click the following link for a list of resources to connect you to a food pantry or soup kitchen near you: [IDHS Food Connection Resources](#)
- Utility Relief:
  - Illinois Commerce Commission voted to formalize an order calling on utility companies to cease any disconnections and suspend late fees until May 1, or until the crisis has passed.
- Housing
  - Governor Pritzker issued an executive order ordering all state, county, and local law enforcement to not enforce evictions through the duration of the Gubernatorial

Disaster Proclamation. This order does not stop your landlord from filing for and starting eviction proceedings, which could be completed after the disaster proclamation.

- During the COVID-19 crisis, shelters serving persons experiencing homelessness are working hard to ensure safe spacing of beds while also providing shelter to those in need. On Friday, March 20, IDHS announced that it would make \$6M available throughout the state for emergency lodging for people experiencing homelessness. These emergency funds will be made available through local Continuums of Care (CoCs) - local or regional planning bodies recognized by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development that coordinate housing and services funding for homeless families and individuals. For more information, visit:

<http://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=123535>

- Health:

- State of Illinois – Governor Pritzker issued an executive order requiring insurance issuers regulated by the Department of Insurance to cover costs of telehealth service for in-network providers. Read the order

here: <https://www2.illinois.gov/Documents/ExecOrders/2020/ExecutiveOrder-2020-09.pdf>

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### Other

- Illinois has pushed the deadline to file taxes from April 15 to June 15 to align with the Federal government. If you have already filed and owe money, you can cancel or reschedule the payment. Click here to learn how: <https://www2.illinois.gov/rev/research/news/Pages/Directions-to-Cancel-or-Reschedule-2019-Income-Tax-Return-Electronic-Payment.aspx>
- Illinois Secretary of State – Expiration dates for driver’s licenses, identification (ID) cards, vehicle registrations and other transactions and document filings will be extended for the duration of the disaster proclaimed by Governor Pritzker and 30 days after the disaster ends.
- Illinois Attorney General – Submit a consumer complaint to the Illinois Attorney General’s office if you notice price gouging: <https://ccforms submission.ilattorneygeneral.net/>
- <https://www.enjoyillinois.com/allinillinois> -- a campaign encouraging all of Illinois to stay home to support essential workers
- The Illinois Environmental Council (IEC) is offering FREE educational sessions about the issues facing our environment, food systems, infrastructure, and good governance every day during lunch. Register at the link provided, to receive an email with list of Program schedules, WEBINAR link and calendar invitations: <https://ilenviro.salsalabs.org/ieclunch/index.html?eType=EmailBlastContent&eId=6630ff41-f9b6-48a4-9634b1db894db5db>
- <https://coronavirus.illinois.gov/s/> ← provides all statistics in Illinois, links to livestream, lists all executive orders

## Mental Health

- On April 11th, Governor Pritzker announced the creation of Call4Calm, an emotional support text line for Illinois residents experiencing stress and mental health issues related to COVID-19. Call4Calm is operated by the Illinois Department of Human Services' Mental Health Division and is free-of-charge.
- Individuals who would like to speak with a mental health professional can text "TALK" to 5-5-2-0-2-0.
- To receive support in Spanish, individuals can text "HABLAR" to the same number: 5-5-2-0-2-0

## Students

- Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation has an agreement with 20 private loan servicers to help provide relief for those with private student loans. Students with these loan servicers can now request a 90 day forbearance (but not automatic like it is for public loans). Information can be found here: <https://coronavirus.illinois.gov/s/student-loans>

## How to help – Donations/Volunteer

- Care Facilities and Providers should complete the DHS Emergency Childcare License form to provider care for children of essential worker: [Emergency Childcare License form](#)
- If you are a health care worker who is retired or no longer working, consider coming back to work for the time being. Register here: <https://illinoishelps.net/>
- If you or your organization is interested in donating Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), please coordinate directly with [PPE.donations@illinois.gov](mailto:PPE.donations@illinois.gov)
- Illinois has put together a list of other volunteer opportunities here: <https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/serve/Disaster/Pages/default.aspx#volunteer>
- 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)