State’s Response to COVID-19

From the beginning of the novel coronavirus pandemic, Illinois’ response has been guided by data, science, and public health experts. Relying on the experts, Governor Pritzker took decisive action to slow the spread of COVID-19 and save as many lives as possible.

Millions of Illinoisans working together by staying at home and following experts’ recommendations have proven these mitigation and social distancing measures effective so far, but modeling projects a rapid surge in new cases if all of these measures are immediately lifted.

We must follow a safe and deliberate path forward to reopen our economy, guided by public health and data, to keep Illinoisans as safe as possible.
RESTORE ILLINOIS: Five-Phase Regional Plan

- **Clear Phases:** Restore Illinois lays out five phases that regions will move through together, ensuring we move forward in a safe and deliberate manner while providing businesses and families more clarity on our next steps.

- **Health Metrics:** The plan is based on key health metrics, like positive test rates and hospital capacity and admissions, that the Illinois Department of Public Health will assess to determine when it is safe for a region to move forward.

- **Regional Approach:** Restore Illinois recognizes the distinct impact COVID-19 has had on different regions of the state. Using the long-existing Emergency Medical Services Networks, the plan uses four regions – Northeast Illinois, North-Central Illinois, Central Illinois, and Southern Illinois – that will move through each phase together.

- **Safe Reopening:** As health metrics tell us it is safe to move forward, regions will gradually reopen nonessential businesses, allow employees to begin returning to work, expand outdoor recreation, and increase gathering sizes.
# RESTORE ILLINOIS

A Public Health Approach To Safely Reopen Our State

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phase 1: Rapid Spread</th>
<th>Phase 2: Flattening</th>
<th>Phase 3: Recovery</th>
<th>Phase 4: Revitalization</th>
<th>Phase 5: Illinois Restored</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strict stay at home and social distancing guidelines are put in place, and only essential businesses remain open. Every region has experienced this phase once already and could return to it if mitigation efforts are unsuccessful.</td>
<td>Non-essential retail stores reopen for curb-side pickup and delivery. Illinoisans are directed to wear a face covering when outside the home and can begin enjoying additional outdoor activities like golf, boating &amp; fishing while practicing social distancing.</td>
<td>Manufacturing, offices, retail, barbershops and salons can reopen to the public with capacity and other limits and safety precautions. Gatherings of 10 people or fewer are allowed. Face coverings and social distancing are the norm.</td>
<td>Gatherings of 50 people or fewer are allowed, restaurants and bars reopen, travel resumes, child care and schools reopen under guidance from the Illinois Department of Public Health. Face coverings and social distancing are the norm.</td>
<td>The economy fully reopens with safety precautions continuing. Conventions, festivals and large events are permitted, and all businesses, schools and places of recreation can open with new safety guidance and procedures.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**New case growth slows**
- Surge hospital capacity
- 10,000 tests per day statewide
- Testing for any symptomatic health care workers and first responders

**Case positivity rate and hospital capacity benchmarks met**
- Testing for patients, health care workers and at-risk residents
- Begin contact tracing and monitoring within 24 hours of diagnosis

**Case positivity rate and hospital capacity benchmarks met**
- Testing available in region regardless of symptoms or risk factors
- Contact tracing within 24 hours of diagnosis for more than 90% of cases

**Post-pandemic:** Vaccine, effective and widely available, treatment, or the elimination of new cases over a sustained period of time through herd immunity or other factors
Phase 1: Rapid Spread
The number of COVID-19 positive patients in the hospital, in ICU beds, and on ventilators is increasing.

What’s open?
Gatherings: Essential gatherings of 10 or fewer allowed; No non-essential gatherings of any size

Education and child care: Remote learning in P-12 schools and higher education; Child care in groups of 10 or fewer for essential workers

Travel: Non-essential travel discouraged.

Businesses:
• Manufacturing: Essential manufacturing only
• “Non-essential” businesses: Employees of “non-essential” businesses are required to work from home except for Minimum Basic Operations
• Bars and restaurants: Open for delivery, pickup and drive-through only
• Entertainment: Closed
• Personal care services and health clubs: Closed
• Retail: Essential stores are open with strict restrictions; Non-essential stores are closed

How do we move to the next phase?

Cases and Capacity:
• Slowing of the number of new cases
• Availability of surge capacity in adult medical and surgical beds, ICU beds, and ventilators

Testing:
• Ability to perform 10,000 tests per day statewide
• Testing available in region for any symptomatic health care workers and first responders

Phase 1 Rapid Spread
Strict stay at home and social distancing guidelines are put in place, and only essential businesses remain open.

Every region has experienced this phase once already and could return to it if mitigation efforts are unsuccessful.
**Phase 2: Flattening**

The rise in the rate of infection is beginning to slow and stabilize.

---

**What’s open?**

**Gatherings:** Essential gatherings of 10 or fewer allowed; No non-essential gatherings of any size

**Education and child care:** Remote learning in P-12 schools and higher education; Child care in groups of 10 or fewer for essential workers

**Travel:** Non-essential travel is discouraged

**Businesses:**
- **Manufacturing:** Essential manufacturing only
- **“Non-essential” businesses:** Employees of “non-essential” businesses are required to work from home except for Minimum Basic Operations
- **Bars and restaurants:** Open for delivery, pickup, and drive through only
- **Personal care services and health clubs:** Closed
- **Retail:** Essential stores are open with restrictions; Non-essential stores open for delivery and curbside pickup

---

**How do we move to the next phase?**

**Cases and Capacity:** To move from Phase 2 to Phase 3 a region must be:
- At or under a 20% positivity rate and increasing no more than 10% points over a 14-day period, AND
- Have no overall increase (i.e. stability or decrease) in hospital admissions for COVID-19-like illness for 28 days, AND
- Have an available surge capacity of at least 14 percent of ICU beds, medical and surgical beds, and ventilators

**Testing:** Available for all patients, health care workers, first responders, people with underlying conditions, and residents and staff in congregate living facilities

**Tracing:** Begin contact tracing and monitoring within 24 hours of diagnosis
Phase 3: Recovery
The rate of infection among those surveillance tested is stable or declining.

What’s open?
Gatherings: 10 people or fewer
Travel: Travel should follow IDPH and CDC guidance
Education and child care: Remote learning in P-12 schools and higher education; Limited child care and summer programs open

Businesses (subject to IDPH safety guidance):
• Manufacturing: Non-essential manufacturing that can safely operate with social distancing can reopen
• “Non-essential” businesses: Employees are allowed to return to work, tele-work strongly encouraged; Employers are encouraged to provide accommodations for COVID-19-vulnerable employees
• Bars and restaurants: Open for delivery, pickup, and drive through only
• Personal care services and health clubs: Barbershops and salons open; Health and fitness clubs can provide outdoor classes and one-on-one personal training
• Retail: Open with capacity limits and face coverings

How do we move to the next phase?
Cases and Capacity: To move from Phase 3 to Phase 4 a region must be:
• At or under a 20% positivity rate and increasing no more than 10% points over a 14-day period, AND
• No overall increase (i.e. stability or decrease) in hospital admissions for COVID-19-like illness for 28 days, AND
• Available surge capacity of at least 14 percent of ICU beds, medical and surgical beds, and ventilators

Testing: Testing available in region regardless of symptoms or risk factors
Tracing: Begin contact tracing and monitoring within 24 hours of diagnosis for more than 90% of cases in region
Phase 4: Revitalization
There is a continued decline in the rate of infection in new COVID-19 cases.

What’s open?

Gatherings: Gatherings of 50 people or less
Education and child care: P-12 schools, higher education, all summer programs, and child care open
Travel: Follow IDPH and CDC guidelines
Businesses (subject to IDPH safety guidance):
• Manufacturing: All manufacturing open
• “Non-essential” businesses: All employees return to work. Employers are encouraged to provide accommodations for COVID-19-vulnerable employees
• Bars and restaurants: Open with capacity limits
• Personal care services and health clubs: All barbershops, salons, spas and health and fitness clubs open with capacity limits
• Entertainment: Cinema and theaters open with capacity limits
• Retail: Open with capacity limits

How do we move to the next phase?

Post-pandemic: Vaccine, effective and widely available treatment, or the elimination of new cases over a sustained period of time through herd immunity or other factors
**Phase 5: Illinois Restored**

Testing, tracing and treatment are widely available throughout the state. Either a vaccine is developed to prevent additional spread of COVID-19, a treatment option is readily available.

**What’s open?**

- All sectors of the economy reopen with businesses, schools, and recreation resuming normal operations with new safety guidance and procedures.

- Conventions, festivals, and large events can take place.

**What could cause us to move back?**

IDPH will closely monitor data and receive on-the-ground feedback from local health departments and regional healthcare councils and will recommend moving back to the previous phase based on the following factors:

- Sustained rise in positivity rate
- Sustained increase in hospital admissions for COVID-19 like illness
- Reduction in hospital capacity threatening surge capabilities
- Significant outbreak in the region that threatens the health of the region
Support for Businesses
Governor Pritzker announced Fast-Track Public Infrastructure Grants as part of Rebuild Illinois. This is a new program designed to accelerate work on planned public infrastructure projects around the state, but especially in underserved areas and Opportunity Zones. **The State is making $25 million available to all types of local governments** in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, as many are face lost revenues and losing the ability to finance these much needed projects.

- Funds can be used to support projects such as expansions of water and sewer systems and reinvestment to modernize schools and other public buildings.

- Grants will range in size between $500,000 and $5 million and will be awarded on a rolling basis. For this grant, 30% of application scoring will be based on community need, such as whether a project is in an underserved area or Opportunity Zone. To see a map of underserved areas, click [here](#). To see a map of Opportunity Zones, click [here](#).

- Fast-Track projects must meet shovel-ready criteria, as well as the minority business participation requirements of the State of Illinois' Business Enterprise Program. Grant awardees must be prepared to start work within 90-days of receiving funds.

- To apply for the grants, please visit the [Rebuild Illinois website](#). A full program Guidebook can be found [here](#).
Rebuild Illinois Community Resources

Public Infrastructure
• The State has allocated $50,000,000 in Rebuild Illinois funds. A grant ceiling of $5,000,000 per project has been established. Grants for less than $250,000 will not be awarded. Applications are due on June 30th.
• Eligible projects include water, sewer, rail, utility, and other public infrastructure capital improvements that can provide an improved foundation for economic growth in Illinois communities.
• Eligible applicants are local units of government (cities, villages, towns).
• Full Program Guidebook Here.

Regional Economic Development
• The State has allocated $16,500,000 in Rebuild Illinois funds. A grant ceiling of $2,000,000 per project has been established. Grants for less than $250,000 will not be awarded. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis.
• Eligible projects are capital infrastructure improvements that will foster economic development and increase employment.
• Eligible applicants include local units of government, local economic development organizations, local non-profits, and private companies.
• Full Program Guidebook Here.

Shovel Ready Sites
• The State has allocated $13,000,000 in Rebuild Illinois funds. A grant ceiling of $2,000,000 per project has been established. Grants for less than $250,000 will not be awarded. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis.
• Provide funding for site preparation for underutilized properties that can transform into economic development opportunities across Illinois. This includes development of vacant buildings, parking lots, empty schools, or other underused sites.
• Eligible applicants include local units of government, local economic development organizations, local non-profits, and private companies.
• Full Program Guidebook Here.
Downstate Small Business Stabilization Fund

• This new $20 million program supports non-essential small businesses in suburban and rural counties across Illinois.

• The program provides grants up to $25,000 to small businesses in communities served by DCEO’s Office of Community Development.

• Eligible businesses with up to 50 employees can partner with local governments to obtain grants of up to $25,000 in working capital.

• The program redeploy Community Development Block Grant local small businesses.

• You can find out additional information and apply here.
Federal Stimulus Bill – CARES Act

- **Paycheck Protection Program**: Up to $10M forgivable loan program with loan amount based on payroll history (2.5x monthly average) with 2-year term at 1%
  - Small businesses and non-profits with < 500 employees are eligible (other eligibility determinations may apply).
  - Independent contractor expenses (1099’s) cannot be included in payroll calculation or as expenses eligible to contribute for purpose of forgiveness
  - To apply, work with an SBA approved lender. Find an approved lender [here](#).
  - To check on application status, contact your lender.
  - Amount of forgiveness of a PPP loan depends on the borrower’s payroll costs over an eight-week period that begins on the date the lender makes the first disbursement of the PPP loan to the borrower.
  - **As of May 7th**, there was $127 billion in remaining in appropriations for the program.

- **Economic Injury Disaster Loan**: This program is currently ONLY open for agricultural enterprises. Working Capital Loan Program where eligible entities may qualify for loans up to $2 million with terms up to 30 years.
  - The interest rates for this disaster are 3.75 % for small businesses/2.75 % for nonprofit organizations (first payment deferred for one year).
  - Small businesses with < 500 employees and private non-profits are eligible.
  - **Businesses who submitted their application prior to the new portal (pre-3/30/20) who haven't gone back in the system to reapply should do so.**
  - Applications are processed on a first come, first served basis. Apply through SBA [here](#).
  - Loan closing activities have begun.
  - To check on application status, go to disastercustomerservice@sba.gov.

- **Economic Injury Disaster Loan Advance**: Applicants can receive an emergency advance up to $10,000 within days of a successful application and DO NOT have to repay the advance if they are denied a loan.
  - Disbursements are ongoing.

- **Subsidy for Current Loan Payments**: The SBA will cover up to 6 months of principal and interest payments that are owed on most existing SBA loans. Full list of SBA debt relief resources can be found [here](#).

- **SBA Express Bridge Loans**: Allows small businesses who currently have a business relationship with an SBA Express Lender to access up to $25,000 quickly. These loans can provide vital economic support to small businesses to help overcome the temporary loss of revenue they are experiencing and can be a term loans or used to bridge the gap while applying for a direct SBA Economic Injury Disaster loan. For more information, including how to apply, review the [SBA’s Program Guide](#).
Other Lending Resources

Other SBA Loan Programs

- SBA guarantees loans made by participant lenders to small businesses who may not have been approved for traditional lender financing.
- Primary programs are 7(a) loans, CDC/504, and microloans.
- Uses include working capital, inventory, real estate, equipment, export assistance, etc.
- Advantages include, very competitive rates, longer term loans, and no balloon payments.
- Work with an SBA-approved lender

RESOURCE:
- Find an SBA approved lender near you: [www.sba.gov/lendermatch](http://www.sba.gov/lendermatch)

Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs)

- CDFIs offer loans (usually less than $250k) for those typically ineligible for traditional bank loans.
- CDFIs are dedicated to responsible affordable lending to underserved entrepreneurs and low-income communities.
  - CDFIs provide in-depth support including mentoring and technical assistance.
  - Many CDFIs offer microloan programs, loans less than $50k.

RESOURCE:
- Opportunity Finance Network is a national membership organization of CDFIs across the country. Find a CDFI for small business loans near you: [ofn.org/cdfi-locator](http://ofn.org/cdfi-locator)

The Business Invest - Illinois Small Business COVID-19 Relief Program

- Through this program, the Treasurer's Office partners with approved financial institutions to provide loans -- either lower rate loans, or loans to a business or non-profit that would not otherwise qualify -- to Illinois small businesses impacted by the COVID-19.
- The State Treasurer has made up to $250 million in deposits available to financial institutions.
- Financial institutions must be or apply to become an approved program depository with the Treasurer's Office.

RESOURCE:
For more information, visit the Treasurer’s website [here](http://here).
BRINGG has released a new SME solution for FREE to help businesses manage delivery to customers.

Using BringgNOW small business owners can quickly load incoming orders, dispatch deliveries to their own drivers or crowdsourced fleets and deliver items to customers with a fully branded, real-time Uber-like experience.

If interested contact:
Tamir Gotfried
tamir@bringg.com

Isaac Buahnik
isaac@bringg.com

Website: www.bringg.com

Verizon Small Business Recovery Fund

An investment of $2.5 million from Verizon is making it possible for LISC to begin offering critical relief and resiliency-building support to small businesses facing immediate financial threat because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The funding will go to make grants of up to $10,000, especially to entrepreneurs of color, women-owned businesses and other enterprises in historically under-served places who don’t have access to flexible, affordable capital.

• Grants will be made in the amounts of $5,000, $7,500, and $10,000.
• Non-profit organizations are ineligible for this funding.
• Funds can be used for paying rent and utilities, meeting payroll, paying outstanding debt to vendors, and other immediate operational costs.
• Applications reopen Thursday, May 14th.

For more information, visit LISC’s FAQ on the Grant Program.

Apply here.
COVID-19: Update from Erin Guthrie, Director of the Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity (DCEO)

For More Information

General Inquires: 1-800-252-2923 or CEO.support@illinois.gov

Essential Business inquiries: contact 1-800-252-2923 or CEO.support@illinois.gov – Frequently Asked Questions

Business insurance coverage: contact the Department of Insurance (DOI) to file an online complaint: https://mc.insurance.illinois.gov/messagecenter.nsf

Federal Small Business loans inquiries: contact (800) 659-2955, illinoisdo@sba.gov, or https://disasterloan.sba.gov

Governor’s Office COVID-19 Website: coronavirus.illinois.gov

DCEO COVID-19 Resources: www2.illinois.gov/dceo
APPENDIX

• State Program FAQ
• Paycheck Protection Program FAQ
• Illinois Small Business Loan Fund
• Unemployment Insurance
• Unemployment Insurance FAQ
• Workforce Opportunities
• PPE and IL COVID-19 Response Fund
COVID-19: Update from Erin Guthrie, Director of the Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity (DCEO)

Q&A
State Program FAQ

Q: How do I find out if my business qualifies for the Downstate Stabilization Fund?
A: Local governments can apply on behalf of businesses with 50 employees or less. Only cities, villages, and counties that are not a HUD direct entitlement community or located in an urban county that receives “entitlement” funds are eligible to apply. A list of ineligible counties and municipalities can be found here.

Q: Can independent contractors apply for unemployment insurance?
A: Yes. IDES is working to have the program running in early May. All benefits will be backdated to date of unemployment. Weekly benefit is calculated the same as that for regular unemployment in Illinois (table here) plus $600/week.

Q: Is there any national / state discussion that benefits paid relating to COVID would not increase the tax rate?
A: Two things: (1) Any expansion of benefits due to the CARES Act (+$600/wk, extension to 39 weeks from 26, sole proprietors) is completely covered by federal gov’t and will not affect unemployment compensation tax; (2) As of now, unemployment compensation tax will be affected by baseline (as in, not including enhancements from CARES Act) unemployment insurance benefits received by employees from the business, like in normal times. There is discussion on this at both state and national level, but not far enough along to provide details here.

Q: If I’m located in the City of Chicago or Cook County, are there any programs available for my business?
A: Yes. For business in Chicago there is the Chicago Small Business Resiliency Fund and for businesses in Cook County there is the Cook County Recovery Initiative.

Q: Where can I find guidance on “essential businesses”? Is there an appeals process for a business if they disagree with a "non-essential" ruling from DCEO? Who enforces the determination?
A: You can find an essential business and operation FAQ on DCEO’s website. No, there is no appeals process. The enforcement piece can either by the state or the local municipality. DCEO generally give deference to municipalities.
Paycheck Protection Program FAQ

Full List of FAQs HERE

Q: Will a borrower’s PPP loan forgiveness amount be reduced if the borrower laid off an employee, offered to rehire the same employee, but the employee declined the offer?
A: No. The SBA and Treasury intend to issue an interim final rule excluding laid-off employees whom the borrower offered to rehire (for the same salary/wages and same number of hours) from the CARES Act’s loan forgiveness reduction calculation. The interim final rule will specify that, to qualify for this exception, the borrower must have made a good faith, written offer of rehire, and the employee’s rejection of that offer must be documented by the borrower. Employees and employers should be aware that employees who reject offers of re-employment may forfeit eligibility for continued unemployment compensation.

Q: Can you apply for both the Paycheck Protection Program and the SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loan?
A: Yes. A recipient of an Economic Injury Disaster Loan is still eligible for a Paycheck Protection Program. Businesses cannot use an EIDL and a Paycheck Protection Program Loan for the same purpose. If you take advantage of an emergency EIDL grant advance up to $10,000, that amount is subtracted from the amount forgiven up to the Paycheck Protection Loan. Businesses can also refinance an EIDL into the Paycheck Protection Loan for loan forgiveness purposes. Remaining portions of the EIDL, for purposes other than those laid out in loan forgiveness for a Paycheck Protection Loan, remain a loan.

Q: How can the Paycheck Protection Program Loan be forgiven?
A: At least 75% of funds must be used for payroll costs; continuation of group health care benefits during periods of paid sick, medical, or family leave, or insurance premiums; salaries or commissions or similar compensation. The employer also has to maintains or rehires their workforce.

Q: Should payments that an eligible borrower made to an independent contractor or sole proprietor be included in calculations of the eligible borrower’s payroll costs?
A: No. Any amounts that an eligible borrower has paid to an independent contractor or sole proprietor should be excluded from the eligible business’s payroll costs. However, an independent contractor or sole proprietor will itself be eligible for a loan under the PPP, if it satisfies the applicable requirements.

Q: What is the maximum amount I can borrow?
A: The amount any small business is eligible to borrow is 250 percent of their average monthly payroll expenses, up to a total of $10 million.
Illinois Small Business Emergency Loan Fund

UPDATE: DCEO and our lending partners are continuing to review the large number of submitted loan applications. To allow us to process received applications as quickly as possible, we are temporarily suspending the acceptance of applications from businesses. Please refer back to the DCEO website and follow us on social media to stay updated on upcoming opportunities.

• $60 million fund to support low-interest loans of up to $50,000 for small businesses outside of Chicago. Businesses with fewer than 50 employees and less than $3 million in revenue in 2019 will be eligible to apply.

• Successful applicants will owe nothing for six months and then will begin making fixed payments at 3% interest for the remainder of a five-year loan repayment period with no payments due for the first six months.

• Loan funds must be used for working capital. At least 50% of loan proceeds must be applied toward payroll or other eligible compensation, with a commitment to hire or retain at least 50% of a business workforce for six months.

• For more information, visit our website here. Lenders differ based on business location.

Local Government Resources

The Cook County Recovery Initiative is a comprehensive initiative to provide economic relief to small businesses, non-profits, community service organizations and independent contractors (1099 workers) in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
Unemployment Insurance

• Individuals without access to paid sick leave or unable to work due to COVID-19 can apply for unemployment insurance by visiting the IDES website: IDES.Illinois.gov

• Gov. Pritzker is waiving the 7-day waiting period for residents to apply for unemployment benefits

• The federal CARES Act:
  • Extended length of benefits from 26 weeks to 39 weeks
  • Additional $600 per week
  • Independent contractors/gig workers can access benefits. IDES plans to have this program live on May 11th.
Q: When will applications for the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) from the CARES Act be open?
A: If someone is unemployed or underemployed, they should file for unemployment immediately. Upon receipt of the application, IDES will handle the claim so that the individual receives benefits from the proper program. IDES expects to be able to begin paying PAU benefits by the week of May 11th. To receive PUA, you must first be denied for unemployment insurance.

Q: Many small businesses are concerned that their unemployment contribution rates will go up as a result of COVID-19. Many states have already implemented legislation that provides that no COVID-19 related layoffs will be chargeable to the employer. Does IDES plan to raise rates or increase UI contributions from businesses who have laid off staff who are collecting UI benefits? If yes, how will the rate increase be decided as to not burden small and local businesses?
A: Assuming no legislative changes are made, employer rates will likely be higher next year. An employer that has laid someone off can typically expect a higher tax rate in the future. However, employers will not be charged for any of the benefits paid under the CARES Act (PUA, FPUC, PEUC).

Q: Will employers (i.e. park districts) be responsible for the $600 in additional compensation?
A: No. The additional $600 per week is 100% federally funded.

Q: Can unemployment rates for small businesses be frozen given the current situation?
A: IDES does not have the authority to do this; only the General Assembly has the authority to pass legislation effectively insulating employers from rate increases.

Q: As a business owner, I have received notice from IDES, requiring a "Reply Due Date". Unfortunately, the date for which a response was due, was the same date that I received the notice. Will there be any relief on these due dates?
A: You should retain the envelope, bearing the postmark date, and explain the issue in your response.

Q: If 1099 employees benefit from the PPP, are they eligible for UI through IDES?
A: It depends. If the loans are used to pay wages, those wages could impact an individual's eligibility or weekly benefit amount.
Workforce Opportunities

Virtual Workforce Centers

All 22 local workforce Investment areas are providing services via technology to Illinois’ jobseekers. The workforce system has transitioned to providing virtual/remote workforce services including the use of video conferences and social media.

Rapid Response Workshops

DCEO has provided Rapid Response to approximately 200 companies with more than 26,500 workers over the last month. This includes outreach, customized information and virtual rapid response workshops. Rapid response workshops provide workers with information regarding the workforce services that are available including job matching, retraining services and access to unemployment insurance.

Rapid Response Funds to Help Businesses Avoid Layoffs

The OET has reprioritized WIOA Statewide Workforce Funds to help businesses avoid layoffs and adhere to “social distancing” provisions established by state and federal public health authorities.

- Funds can be used for cross training workers, deep cleaning services, establishing remote offices and other services.

Essential Jobs

All the Illinois’ Local Workforce Investment Areas (LWIAs) are working with companies to match job seekers with high-demand occupations that pay a living wage.

For information and to access these programs work directly with your local LWIA

Live Interactive LWIA Map
Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and COVID-19 Relief Fund

To DONATE PPE please email: PPE.donations@illinois.gov
PPE Items include:
• Masks: N-95, ear loop, or surgical
• Gowns: Isolation or non-descript
• Gloves: Nitrile, sterile, or surgical
• Eye Protection: Face shields and goggles
• Infection Control Kits
• Hand Sanitizer: Any size
• Disinfectant Wipes: Any size
• Digital thermometers: Forehead only
• PAPR hoods
• Ventilators

To MANUFACTURE PPE contact the Illinois Manufacturers Association (IMA) at: https://ima-net.org/covid-19/supplies/

To SELL PPE or if you plan to in the future, contact: COVID.procurement@illinois.gov

Financial Support
• The Illinois COVID-19 Response Fund created to support nonprofit organizations serving those who lives have been upended by COVID-19 –launching with nearly $23 million.
• More information can be found at www.ilcovidresponsefund.org
• For businesses wanting to make monetary DONATIONS please email: BusinessDonations@illinois.gov