

***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 dedicated to childcare services and early education.
- \$49 million in grants awarded to 2,800 businesses in Round 1.
 - Round 1 focused on restaurants, personal care services, gyms, fitness clubs, and businesses in severe disproportionately impacted areas.
- Funded by the CARES Act.

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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 impact industries
 - Remaining funds will be available to any small business meeting eligibility factors.
 - DCEO’s grant administration partner for Round 2 is Accion.

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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 the State.
 - Are located in DIAs
 - Are subject to regional mitigation measures due to COVID resurgence
 - Have less than \$5 million in annual revenue

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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

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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



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Round 2 – Outreach and Technical Assistance



- DCEO has partnered with four 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.



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Round 2 -Timeline



September 15 - application available to review

Afternoon of September 17 – begin accepting applications

Grants will be awarded and funded on a rolling basis



BIG Program – Second Round

Application



A draft application and a checklist for required documents 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:



Illinois
Department of Commerce
& Economic Opportunity
JB Pritzker, Governor