



Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity

Stay Informed. Stay Healthy. Stay Connected.

Important Local CURE Deadline Updates: More Time to Claim Funding for Reimbursement and Grants

Congress has recently modified the CARES Act to expand the deadline for Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) allocations to states and localities. As such, the State is modifying the Local CURE program to allow local governments (LGUs) more time to claim CFR funds allocated to them.

Changes to the Local CURE program will permit LGUs the needed flexibility to submit costs for reimbursement under both the core Local CURE program and Local CURE's Economic Support Payments (ES) Program.

The deadline to submit costs for reimbursement will be expanded to January 31, 2022, granting LGUs another year to submit costs incurred from March 1 – December 30, 2020.

For more information on the complete Local CURE Support Program update, please visit...

Attention Small Businesses

Expanded Technical Assistance and Resources Available to Assist During COVID-19

With new rounds of federal COVID-19 emergency funding programs opening for applications, the Illinois Department of Commerce (DCEO) has expanded direct support available to businesses to help them learn which programs they may qualify for, how to navigate application processes, and to get further assistance that can help recover and grow their business. These resources are available to help with accessing the renewed Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) and other programs set to launch in the coming weeks, including the EIDL Advance and Shuttered Venue Operators (SVO) grant programs. Details from the Small Business Administration available [here](#).

Businesses in need of information and assistance have several options to access, including the **Illinois Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs)**, **Community Navigators**, DCEO's **Office of Regional Economic Development (Team RED)** and **Office of Minority Economic Empowerment (OMEE)**. More information on the state's expanded small business assistance, including nearly 100 virtual events hosted through the end of February, can be found below.

- **Illinois Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs):** Illinois SBDCs provide one-on-one counseling, assistance with navigating best options for financial support programs, technical assistance with documentation requirements to prepare applications, and more. Find your nearest SBDC [here](#).
- **Community Navigators:** The state is working with 12 community navigators - grassroots organizations connected with other community services. Community navigators can help determine your eligibility for programs, assist with documents, and refer to other specialized services. A full list of community navigators can be found [here](#).

- **DCEO Office of Regional Economic Development (Team RED)** and the **Office of Minority Economic Empowerment (OMEE)**: These DCEO teams provide targeted referrals and counseling for economic opportunities to businesses and communities based on geography (Team RED) and in support of minority enterprises including racial/ethnic minorities, women, persons with disabilities, and veteran-owned businesses (OMEE). To connect with your area Team RED member, please click [here](#). To connect with OMEE, please click [here](#).

For a list of upcoming webinars, please visit...

[First Stop Business Information Center](#)

2021 Chicagoland Transit Survey

Calling all employers! As the State of Illinois continues to make the public health progress necessary to reopen more workplaces and to restore the economy, providing residents access to safe modes of transportation will be critical. A new survey out from the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce is seeking your input on planning efforts to bring workers back safely while restoring key modes of transportation for commuters in the region.

The survey link below asks employers with a footprint in the Chicagoland region to weigh in with ideas about how to enhance the return to work with safe, affordable transportation options that meet the needs of employees.

The survey is open now through February 6, 2021.

To provide insight on behalf of your company, please visit...

[The Transit Survey](#)

Illinois Bridging the Digital Divide

Through a first-of-its-kind collaboration by the State of Illinois, PCs for People and multiple community partners, we are bridging the digital divide through a statewide network that will receive, refurbish and redistribute used computers to those in need. The Connect Illinois Computer Equity Network aims to put computers and other mobile devices into the hands of Illinois residents - assisting more families with access to high-speed internet that is essential for e-learning, remote work, and telehealth, bridging the digital divide.

Under this ambitious plan, the state will deploy over 20,000 refurbished computers annually to Illinois families. We are well on our way! Already in 2021 the program has distributed thousands of computers and mobile hotspots across the state. As part of its COVID relief efforts, the Jewish United Fund has provided \$250,000 in seed funding to jumpstart a ground-breaking initiative

Upcoming events include:

Newman, Illinois - Newman Regional Library

- Tuesday, February 2, from 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. pm

McLeansboro, Illinois - Labor Hall

- Friday, February 5, from 4:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Cahokia, Illinois - Cahokia Public Library

- Saturday, February 6, from 9:00 a.m. -12:30 p.m.

To find an event in your region and register, please visit...

[PCs for People](#)

DCEO In the News

[Jackson County Housing Authority gives computers, hotspots to hundreds of residents - Southern Illinoian](#)

[Small-business PPP loans are flowing, and more aid could be on the way. Here's what's available - Chicago Tribune](#)

[Business Startups Are Surging As Entrepreneurs Chase Their Dreams Despite The Pandemic - WBEZ Chicago](#)

Small Business Spotlight



Family-owned [Woodfire Rockford](#) uses fresh, locally sourced ingredients and house-made dough for their popular pizzas. When COVID-19 threatened to dampen the

flames, owners Anne & Joe D'Astice applied for a DCEO Business Interruption Grant (BIG) to keep the flames stoked and satisfy his customer's 'za cravings. "We are incredibly grateful for this grant as it will help continue to pay our remaining eight employees and outstanding bills."

COVID-19: Help for businesses, workers and residents:



Businesses
→



Workers
→



Residents
→

Office of Regional Economic Development

Join the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) Office of Regional Economic Development (RED) as they present a series of statewide regional first quarter webinars.

The topics of discussion will include:

[Business Enterprise Program](#) (BEP)

[Advantage Illinois](#)

[Illinois EDGE Tax Credit Program](#)

[Illinois Angel Investment Tax Credit Program](#)

To see the full list of virtual opportunities, please visit...

[TEAM RED Quarterly Events](#)

Office of Minority Economic Empowerment



The Office of Minority Economic Empowerment focuses and promotes opportunities for all minority communities across the state through targeted programs, resources and advocacy.

The webinars are open to everyone , however, please note that there are webinars that do support specific communities.

Online with OMEE - The Business Development Managers from Office of Minority Economic Empowerment (OMEE) will host "Online with OMEE" – an open online conversation with all OMEE constituents (racial/ethnic minorities, women, persons with disabilities, and veteran-owned businesses). We will provide you with the latest updates regarding federal and state programs, share information about other resources available, and answer any questions you may have about available state or federal programs.

- Wednesday, February 3, 2021 from 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Register [HERE](#)
- Wednesday, February 17, 2021 from 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Register [HERE](#)

OMEE & Illinois SBDC Presents: ADME - Advancing the Development of Minority Entrepreneurship - Longevity in Business - ADME is an informative workshop experience where subject matter experts in the field of business share information with Illinois entrepreneurs in order to help them be successful. Each month we will offer a dynamic discussion on a business topic and highlight one of OMEE's focus communities. This month the discussion is longevity in business and the highlight is Black History Month!

- Wednesday, February 24, 2021 from 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Register [HERE](#)

For additional webinar opportunities with the Illinois Office of Minority Economic Empowerment (OMEE), please visit...

[OMEE Events](#)

Office of Trade and Investment (OTI)

The Office of Trade & Investment (OTI) continues to offer Illinois businesses virtual services to support export promotion and international sales growth. OTI's team of Chicago-based international trade specialists and our six foreign trade offices in:

Belgium, Canada, China, Israel, Japan, and Mexico are ready to support businesses across the state looking to expand in international markets.

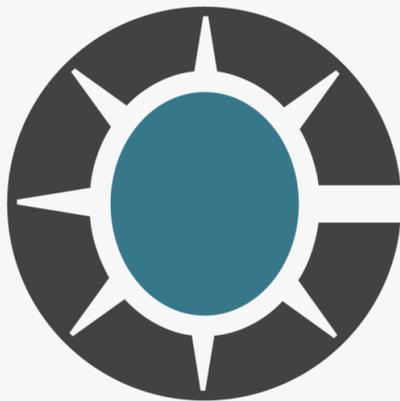
How to Export: Freight Forwarder 201

Learn more about shipping and logistics and the role of the freight forwarder in the export process. Topics include when to use and not use a freight forwarder, logistics and International Commercial Terms (INCOTERMS).

- Monday, February 22 at 12:00 p.m. Register [HERE](#)

[OTI Events](#)

GET HIRED ILLINOIS! Illinois workNet Virtual Job Fair Opportunities



Virtual Job Fair
February 10, 2021
11:00 a.m.

[Register](#)



Virtual Job Fair
February 11, 2021
12:30 p.m.

[Register](#)



Every day we do things that keep us safe, like buckling a seat belt or putting on a bike helmet. But if we forget, or don't do them (even once), we put ourselves and others at risk. A mask is no different. It only works if you wear it. So always wear a mask when you're out in public to protect yourself and others. We're all safer and stronger when we go all in, Illinois.

[Go #AllinIllinois](#)

The State of Illinois could use your support with much-needed personal protective equipment as well as other supplies for our first responders during the COVID-19 pandemic.

- To Donate:** ppe.donations@Illinois.gov
- To Manufacture PPE in Illinois:** ima@ima-net.org
- To Sell PPE:** covid.procurement@illinois.gov
- To Volunteer:** serve.illinois.gov or email dph.serveillinois@illinois.gov



Illinois: united against **COVID-19**

Follow us for real-time updates on resources for business, workers and residents:



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