

***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.

# BIG Program

## 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.

# BIG Program

## *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

# BIG Program

## *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

# BIG Program

## *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



# BIG Program

## *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.



# BIG Program

## *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: Tony Rolando**  
**[Anthony.Rolando@Illinois.gov](mailto:Anthony.Rolando@Illinois.gov)**



**Illinois**  
**Department of Commerce**  
& Economic Opportunity  
JB Pritzker, Governor