

# Applying for the Illinois Back 2 Business Grant – Update for Restaurants

Thursday, September 16, 2021

## Presented by:

- Illinois Restaurant Association
- State of Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity (DCEO)
- DCEO Community Navigator, Cook County Bureau of Economic Development



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# Welcome



## ILLINOIS



## RESTAURANT ASSOCIATION

[IllinoisRestaurants.org](https://IllinoisRestaurants.org)



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# Panelists



**Irene Sherr**

*Deputy Bureau Chief  
Cook County Bureau of  
Economic Development*



**Jason Horwitz**

*Deputy Director, Policy Development,  
Planning and Research  
Illinois Department of  
Commerce & Economic  
Opportunity*

# Cook County Bureau of Economic Development



**Irene Sherr**  
*Deputy Bureau Chief*



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## 2021 Small Business Navigator Program

### IL Small Business Navigator Program

- Cook County serves as one of 13 “Hubs” for the Illinois Small Business Navigator program which features a statewide network of organizations dedicated to assisting underserved businesses access the new Back 2 Business grants
- As a “Hub,” Cook County engages and coordinates 10 partner organizations, also known as “Spokes” (*outlined to the right*)
- “Spokes” provide direct 1:1 assistance to help businesses apply for B2B grants.
- The Illinois Restaurant Association serves as “Spoke” for Cook County.
- Cook County Back2Business Hotline: **872.304.2785**
- Businesses can schedule appointments today on our website: [cookcountysmallbiz.org](https://cookcountysmallbiz.org)

### Cook County Spokes/Partners





## 2021 Small Business Navigator Program

### Program Goals:

**Provide direct  
financial and  
technical  
assistance to  
small  
businesses**

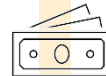
### Program Components:



**Optional group webinars** available to Chicago and Cook County businesses to explain program resources and guide small businesses through information that will help analyze their business needs with a COVID-19 recovery lens



**One-on-one business advising**, also known as technical assistance, available to Chicago and Cook County small businesses to help address their unique needs, use new tools, and navigate resources



**Access to Capital** through partnerships like this one with the State of Illinois. In 2020 Cook County provided grants to small businesses for COVID relief

### Results

|                                            |                 |      |         |
|--------------------------------------------|-----------------|------|---------|
| \$ grant funding and TA support            |                 |      | \$19.1M |
| # of grant recipients                      |                 |      | 1,690   |
| # of business advising applicants to date  |                 |      | 3,646   |
| % of grant and advising recipients who are | People of Color | 60%+ |         |
|                                            | Women           | 45%+ |         |

# Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity



**Jason Horwitz**  
*Deputy Director,  
Policy Development, Planning and  
Research*



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# Back to Business Grant Program



- Program Overview
- Back to Business Program Details
- Technical Assistance

# Program Overview



- Back to Business (B2B) Program builds on success of the Business Interruption Grant (BIG) program
- B2B grant program includes:
  - \$5,000-\$150,000 grants totaling \$250M made available by ARPA funds\*
  - User-friendly online application portal
  - Expansive network of Community Navigators to assist businesses in submitting applications

\* Grants go up to \$250,000 for hotels



# B2B Program

## *Eligibility Factors and Key Priorities*



- **Eligible businesses include any for-profit and nonprofit entities with \$20 million\* or less in annual revenue in 2019 that experienced losses in 2020 due to COVID-19.** (\$20 million cap is annualized for businesses that started after January 2019)
- Grant size will range from \$5,000 to \$150,000\* and will be equal to the difference between 2019 revenues and 2020 revenues, divided by 6, rounded up to nearest multiple of \$5,000 (effectively two months' worth of average year-over-year revenue decline).
- Priority will be given to applicants that:
  - Did not receive emergency relief.
  - Are located in DIAs
  - Have less than \$5 million in annual revenue
  - Are in a priority industry

# B2B Program

## *Set-Aside Funding Allocations*



- At least 40% of the funds – or \$100 million – will go to businesses located in DIAs
- At least \$25 million will go to businesses that applied for BIG but did not receive a grant due to funds running out
- At least \$80 million will go to a set of hard-hit industries continuing to face ongoing hardship
  - \$25 million for hotels
  - **\$25 million for restaurants that did not receive a Restaurant Revitalization Fund (RRF) award**
  - \$30 million for arts organizations and businesses

# B2B Program

## Priority Industries

- The list of priority industries for Back to Business Grants is as follows. Specific definitions for who is included will be available in an “Eligibility Guidelines” document

- Hotels
- **Restaurants *that did not receive RRF***
- Arts organizations or businesses *that did not receive SVOG*
- Clothing, accessory, or electronics retail establishments (excluding e-commerce)
- Dry cleaners
- Home health care services
- Childcare providers *that have not received CCRG*
- Barbershop or salon
- Indoor recreation
- Gym or fitness center
- Tourism or group transportation (excluding taxis, limos, or rideshare)
- Spectator and social event support services
- Museum or movie theater operators *that did not receive SVOG*



# B2B Program

## *Timeline*



August 12 – DCEO posts information about the program

August 18 – Application window opens

Late August thru late October – DCEO and administrative partners review applications on a rolling basis, according to priority

Late September thru end of October – Awards provided on a rolling basis

October 13 – Application window closes

# B2B Program

## *Application*

The link to apply can be found on the DCEO website:  
[www.illinois.gov/dceo](http://www.illinois.gov/dceo)

Additional Resources on the website:

- Application questions and required documents
- Eligibility guidelines, including priority industry definitions
- Certification form and eligible cost list
- Access to Community Navigators and business assistance

# B2B Program

## *Application*



### Required documents

- Business Owner ID (driver's license, state ID, passport, or matricular consular card)
- 2019 Federal Tax Return
- 2020 Federal Tax Return
- One business bank statement from between April and December 2020, inclusive, that reflects business expenses
- Most recent business bank statement
- If the above documents do not reflect current business address, a document that does (utility bill, lease/mortgage, credit card statement, or business license)

# B2B Program

## *Application*

Features of the application portal:

- Applicants will have designated log-in so they can save their application and return to it
- Applicants will be able to verify their application is received and check on its status
- The portal will handle notifications on application status in more streamlined way throughout program
- Community navigators and DCEO frontline team will have access to application information to assist businesses

# B2B Program

## *Application*



- Applicants will receive notifications when:
  - Their account is opened
  - A week has passed since opening account without completing application
  - Application is completed
  - Review results in changed prioritization [appeal available]
  - Review results in ineligibility determination [appeal available]
  - Grant awarded

# B2B Program

## *Some FAQs*



Are sole proprietors eligible to apply?

- Yes

Are businesses with ITINs eligible to apply?

- Yes

Are nonprofits eligible to apply?

- Yes, nonprofits that are 501c3, 501c6, and 501c19 are eligible to apply

# B2B Program

## Some FAQs



What are eligible and ineligible uses for B2B grant funds?

- Grant funds can be used for a wide range of operational expenses, including rent/mortgage payments, payroll, inventory, insurance, and more.
- Expenses that have been or will be reimbursed under any other program backed by federal funds are not eligible.

Can I apply for and receive a B2B grant if I was open last year but my business is now permanently closed?

- No. Businesses that have taken any material steps to dissolve, permanently cease operations, or sell substantially all of their assets *prior to receiving an award* – even after submitting an application – are not eligible.

# B2B Program

*Outreach and Technical Assistance is Available*



- Community Navigators: 100+ community-based organizations across the state are available to assist businesses in accessing B2B grants. [Download the B2B search tool](#) to find your navigator.
- DCEO's First Stop Hotline: 800.252.2923 or at [ceo.firststop@illinois.gov](mailto:ceo.firststop@illinois.gov)
- 42 Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs): [Search Here](#)
- DCEO Frontline staff: Offices of Minority Economic Empowerment (OMEE) and Regional Economic Development (Team RED)
- A4CB will have a customer service line and online intake form for questions about applications.

# Community Navigators + *Statewide Coverage*

Businesses can receive the following services:

- 1-on-1 technical assistance to learn about eligibility and how to apply for economic support
- Services in 30 different languages
- Referrals to SBDCs, DCEO, and other business support opportunities
- Documentation review and preparation
- Additional business assistance



# Q & A



Find a community navigator:  
[www.illinois.gov/dceo](http://www.illinois.gov/dceo)

DCEO's First Stop Hotline:  
800.252.2923

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Thank You!



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