

Business Interruption Grants (BIG) & Community Support:

Governor JB Pritzker has announced \$900 million in additional relief measures to support families and businesses facing financial hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic and recent civil unrest. This assistance, including Business Interruption Grants, rental and mortgage assistance, additional relief for childcare providers, and expanded IDHS and Department of Aging programs, will give a much-needed boost to suffering community members and small businesses in communities disparately impacted by COVID-19.

Business Interruption Grants (BIG) - The [Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity \(DCEO\)](#) will be accepting applications for the new \$270 million Business Interruption Grant program. The first round of funding will focus on small business located in disproportionately impacted areas whose operations have been severely restricted or completely shut down.

These funds are designed to help impacted small businesses stay afloat through this crisis, help offset the costs incurred during months of shut down or restricted operations, and ensure they have the resources to reopen safely in the coming months. DCEO will partner with community based financial institutions to administer this program. Bars and restaurants with \$2-3 million in 2019 revenue may be eligible for a \$20,000 grant. Those with under \$2 million in 2019 revenue may qualify for \$15,000. Applicants must confirm losses of at least this size since the Stay at Home Order was put in place on March 21, 2020.

Only bars and restaurants that have not provided outdoor food and beverage service during Phase 3 will be eligible. Priority will be given to businesses that have not received another DCEO grant, Coronavirus Relief Fund program, or PPP loan. Companies that have received a grant or loan from another program are only eligible if they can attest their costs exceed the funds they have received through other programs. **DCEO will make the application for BIG available on Monday, June 22.**