



**Illinois
Department of Commerce
& Economic Opportunity**

JB Pritzker, Governor

Report to the Restore Illinois Collaborative Commission July 1, 2020

This report is submitted in response to ILCS 20 605/605-1045, requiring the Department to submit a report not less than every 30 days, beginning July 1, regarding the status of current and proposed economic revitalization efforts in response to the COVID-19 crisis. This report will be updated monthly through the end of calendar year 2020.

The report to the Commission provides a brief summary of the Restore Illinois plan and metrics and a summary of ongoing recovery efforts, including:

- Support to impacted businesses through grants, loans, and other forms of relief.
- Support to residents through, job training, and other services for low-income residents, such as LIHEAP and basic needs assistance.
- Targeted support in communities most impacted by this crisis through grants, technical assistance, and outreach.

Restore Illinois

Central to Governor Pritzker's strategy for containing the spread of COVID-19 while encouraging a safe economic recovery is the [Restore Illinois](#) plan. Restore Illinois outlines a data-driven approach to safely reopening the economy over a 5-phase progression. This plan relies on core health metrics (COVID test positivity rates, hospital admissions, ICU and other hospital capacity indicators) that must be stable or declining before progressing to a new phase.

Each phase recognizes distinct business, education, and recreation activities that can safely operate in accordance with guidance informed by IDPH, public health experts and the latest science. The plan also clearly contemplates a regression of phases if public health metrics do not hold. Illinois is currently in phase 4 of this plan – the revitalization phase.

Over the past two phases, Illinois has made tangible progress toward not only reducing the case rate and the overall progression of the virus, but also to restore key activities – including return to work in office and other work settings, reopening of outdoor and indoor dining at restaurants, resumption of various leisure activities, and reopening of personal care services – each with capacity limitations and other public health guidance place.

Progression into the final phase will require a vaccine or highly effective treatment to become widely available or the elimination of any new cases over a sustained period. At that point, the economy may fully reopen with safety precautions continuing.

As phase 4 is likely to be the longest Phase, IDPH and public health experts will review and assess capacity limitations and other public health guidelines as sustained progress in public health indicators and new information about COVID-19 warrant. (See Appendix 1 for an overview of the current phase 4 guidelines.)

The State's data-driven reopening strategy and continued cooperation of Illinois residents and businesses aim to protect Illinois communities from a resurgence in infections, hospitalizations and deaths similar to those which have recently struck Texas, Florida, Georgia, and Arizona – among other states that have opted to reopen before achieving measurable progress in overcoming COVID-19.

Based on data from June 14 to June 28, the Kaiser Family Foundation has identified 31 US states that are “hotspots”, characterized by increasing cases and increasing positivity rates. These states are predominantly in the western and southern parts of the country.¹

Illinois is not included in this list of hotspots and has lately ranked among the states with the most dramatic declines in cases and hospitalizations, thanks to our approach and to the vigilance of Illinois residents. However, we must remain vigilant. Several states are in the midst of spikes that are straining their public health resources and setting records for COVID-19 cases.

Resources for Businesses

Given the significant impacts businesses face in the current climate, the State has established various business assistance programs aimed to help small businesses with the most urgent needs and designed in a way to ensure assistance is accessible by all Illinois communities.

The following programs were established to provide direct relief in the form of grants, low-interest loans, and more to businesses facing closure or significantly reduced operations due to COVID 19.

Business Interruption Grant (BIG) Program -- DCEO

- Appropriation amount: \$540 million funded by the CARES Act.
- BIG will provide relief for costs incurred to qualifying businesses due to COVID-related business interruption.
- Half of the funding will be dedicated to childcare providers, to help ensure that employees with children will have safe childcare options. The full grant applications for childcare providers will be available in July with anticipated grant awards being made in August 2020. The program will be administered by the Illinois Network of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (INCCRRA).
- At least 30% of all funds across the program are dedicated to Disproportionately Impacted Areas (DIAs), or low-income areas that have had high rates of COVID-19 cases. (See Appendix 2 for a map of DIAs.)

¹ <https://www.kff.org/coronavirus-covid-19/issue-brief/where-are-the-covid-19-hotspots-tracking-state-outbreaks/>

- Applications for the first \$60 million round of grants for small businesses are open now. The first round includes funds for the following businesses in targeted sectors statewide:
 - Bars and Restaurants (\$20 million) - 1,000 grants of up to \$20,000 for bars and restaurants unable to offer outside service. 50% of businesses must be located in a DIA.
 - Barbershops and Salons (\$10 million) - 1,000 grants of \$10,000 each. 50% of businesses must be located in a DIA.
 - Gyms and Fitness Centers (\$10 million) - 500 grants of \$20,000 each. 30% of businesses must be located in a DIA.
 - Businesses located in Severely Impacted DIAs (\$20 million) - 1,000 grants of \$20,000 each for businesses that are located in a subset of DIAs where there was property damage due to civil unrest
- DCEO has issued a Notice of Funding Opportunity for an administrator or administrators to oversee distribution of BIG grants under future rounds.

Rebuild Distressed Communities – DCEO

- Rebuild Distressed Communities is a \$25 million economic recovery program to support Illinois businesses that have sustained property damage as a result of civil unrest during protest and demonstrations on or after May 25th, 2020.
- The program will prioritize small businesses, underinsured or uninsured businesses, businesses that have a high community impact – such as grocery stores – and businesses in communities that have experienced historic disinvestment. It also includes provisions to prioritize partnerships with BEP-certified contractors to do the repair work.
- DCEO has issued a NOFO to identify one or more partners to serve as an administrating agency for this program. Starting in August, businesses will be able to apply to these partners for assistance.

DCEO Downstate Small Business Stabilization Program

- \$20 million program using federal Community Development Block Grant funds for small businesses in suburban and rural counties across Illinois, providing grants of up to \$25,000 to small businesses in communities served by DCEO's Office of Community Development.
- These grants will offer businesses of up to 50 employees the opportunity to partner with their local governments to obtain grants of up to \$25,000 in working capital.
- The grants will be offered on a rolling basis until funds are exhausted.

DCEO Illinois Small Businesses Emergency Loan Fund

- Up to \$60M in loans offered through partner financial institutions for business with fewer than 50 employees or less than \$3M in annual revenue supported by a DCEO loan loss reserve.
- Low-interest loans of up to \$50,000 support payments of fixed debt, payroll, accounts payable, and other bills that cannot be paid due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- As of June 30, 334 loans have been approved for a total of \$11.4 million to be funded and dispersed though July.

Hospitality Emergency Grant Program -- DCEO

- DCEO funded \$14 million in grants. This grant opportunity has closed.
- 699 eligible business across 69 counties received a grant via lottery. Bars and restaurants received an average grant of \$14,000 and hotels received an average grant of \$30,000.

- Up to \$25,000 was available for bars and restaurants with less than \$1 million in annual revenue to offset costs related to worker retraining, technology needs and working capital.
- Up to \$50,000 to support the retention of employees on payroll was available to Hotels that generated less than \$8 million in annual revenue.

Relaxing Professional Licensing Requirements -- IDFPR

- Any professional licenses issued by IDFPR that have renewal dates between March 1, 2020 through and including July 31, 2020 are granted an automatic extension to renew to September 30, 2020.
- All current licensees under IDFPR jurisdiction whose license renewal deadlines fall within the period beginning March 1, 2020 through and including July 31, 2020 shall have up to, and including, September 30, 2020 to complete their continuing education coursework.
- IDFPR is allowing licensees to complete their continuing education coursework without requiring live attendance and permit for interactive webinar and online distance education courses in addition to currently permitted methods.

Sales and Income Tax Deferrals -- IDOR

- Penalties and interest for late payment of sales taxes owed from February through April were waived for eating and drinking establishments that incurred a sales tax responsibility of less than \$75,000 in CY2019.
- IDOR automatically extended Sales Tax Exemptions for all organizations that are currently pending renewal.
- Entities filing as Corporations, Trusts, Individuals, and Sole Proprietors that file income tax returns with an original due date of April 15 have had that original due date extended to July 15.
- The state has not extended deadlines for estimated taxes; however, the Department of Revenue has added some flexibility for taxpayers who do not yet have tax year 2019 data due to the filing extension.
- The state will waive penalties and interest for out-of-state employers who fail to withhold Illinois income taxes for Illinois employees where the sole reason for the Illinois withholding obligation is that the employee is working from home due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Small Business COVID-19 Relief Program -- Treasurer's Office

- The Business Invest - Illinois Small Business COVID-19 Relief Program is a loan program under which the State Treasurer has made up to \$500 million in deposits available to banks and credit unions throughout the state, at near-zero rates, to assist Illinois small business and non-profits negatively affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The financial institutions will determine who is eligible for the loans.
- State funds will be deposited with qualified financial institutions for a 1-year term at a near-zero deposit rate of 0.01% (0.0001).
- Approximately 55 lending institutions are actively participating in the program.

Advantage Illinois Loan Payment Relief -- DCEO

- Advantage Illinois is DCEO's loan participation program for small businesses. It partners with local banks to provide a low-interest option for small businesses looking to expand operations.
- DCEO is encouraging and automatically approving adjustments to the terms of existing Advantage Illinois and FAME loans. These adjustments could include either 3 months of no payments or 6 months of interest-only payments.
- To date, 12 companies have received more than \$230,000 in relief.

Support for Residents and Families

The following programs were established to provide financial relief in the form of grants, emergency services, regulatory protection, and more to households and families facing hardships during this crisis

Help Illinois Families - Emergency Support for Households (Low Income Home Energy Assistance Block Grant and Community Services Block Grant) -- DCEO

- A \$275 million program, including \$90 million from the CARES Act that bolsters existing programs to provide food, rent, utilities, temporary shelter, medicine and other essential household services to lower income families impacted by the COVID-19 crisis.
- Eligibility for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) in fiscal year 2021 has been expanded from 150% to 200% of the Federal Poverty Level. As a result, an additional 1 million income-qualified Illinoisans will be eligible for assistance this year. Applicants will be served on a first-come, first-served basis until funding is exhausted.
- LIHEAP provides assistance to lower income households to receive assistance with home energy services, including heating and cooling.
- The Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) program supports projects that lessen poverty in communities; address the needs of low-income individuals including the homeless, migrants and the elderly; and provides services and activities addressing employment, education, housing, nutrition, emergency services and health.
- DCEO has launched a new remote application process that will provide applicants the option to begin the intake process online or over the phone with the assistance of a live agent. The State's new website and call center is accessible for all residents – with assistance provided in English and Spanish, and other languages assisted through translation.

Child Care and Development Block Grant -- IDHS

- DHS received \$118.4 million in supplemental funds through the CARES Act for Child Care and Development Block Grants.
- These funds have been used to provide payments for child care providers serving frontline and essential workers, or that have closed or decreased enrollment; child care for essential workers who would not otherwise qualify for subsidy; and sanitation, cleaning supplies, and related services or supplies.
- In May, 5,534 essential worker families benefitted from this program, through which 1,199 providers cared for 9,321 children.

Rental and mortgage assistance -- IHDA

- IHDA received \$396 million in funds from the CARES Act to provide grants to individuals impacted by COVID-19 for emergency rental assistance, emergency mortgage assistance and subordinate financing, of which at least \$100 million is designated for grants to individuals that reside in DIAs.
- The Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERA) consists of \$5,000 grants to provide emergency rental assistance to Illinois tenants who are unable to pay their rent. The program will launch in August 2020 and run through the end of the year, and is expected to reach approximately 30,000 renters.
- The Emergency Mortgage Assistance Program (EMA) consists of \$15,000 grants to provide support with mortgage payments to low-income homeowners with mortgage arrearages, or in forbearance. The program will launch in August 2020 and run through the end of the year, and is expected to reach approximately 10,000 homeowners.

- In addition to this financial support, the Governor has imposed a moratorium on evictions, which is now effective until July 26. This is intended to protect renters who were unable to pay due to the COVID crisis, while also minimizing the spread of the virus by not forcing residents to move to new housing or shelters.

Borrower Protection -- IDFPR

- IDFPR announced a series of actions to ensure the protection of Illinoisans in many areas of consumer borrowing, servicing, and collections. This includes advice and guidance for consumers struggling with loans and bills, and official guidance to its regulated financial institutions concerning their lending, servicing, and collection activities during the COVID-19 pandemic – in essence encouraging them to provide customers the maximum assistance, flexibility and forbearance possible. Prudent efforts to help consumers and businesses will not be subject to examiner criticism.

Job Training and Placement

The state offers a range of workforce training and assistance programs, which are being recalibrated to assist both employers and workers in the wake of the COVID-19 crisis.

Get Hired Illinois -- DCEO

- In May, the Governor announced the launch of Get Hired Illinois – a new portal designed to connect workers with available job and career training opportunities across the state of Illinois.
- More than 400 new employers have signed up for Get Hired since the website launched, adding 129 virtual job fairs and 12,660 job listings to the portal. In total, this portal provides Illinois job seekers access to nearly 60,000 jobs connected through the state's webpage.

Coursera On-Line Workforce Training -- DCEO

- The State of Illinois has partnered with Coursera, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Northwestern University, and the University of Chicago to offer free online career training geared toward helping Illinoisans who have lost their jobs due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Free virtual training courses will provide training and credentialing that will help ready dislocated workers for jobs in Information Technology (IT) and other marketable fields.

Disaster Recovery National Dislocated Worker Grant -- DCEO

- DCEO was awarded \$8,325,000 from the National Dislocated Worker Grant Program to prioritize services to individuals most impacted by the crisis, including low wage and traditionally lower skilled individuals who have been laid off or furloughed.
- Funds will be utilized to address immediate actions to stabilize families during this unprecedented time of work separation. Illinois will also utilize the funds to support humanitarian and cleanup recovery needs by providing Disaster Relief Employment

Employment Recovery National Dislocated Worker Grant -- DCEO

- DCEO was awarded \$8,325,000 from the National Dislocated Worker Grant Program to provide workers with essential skills training and incumbent worker training targeted at specific industries (including but not limited to hospitality and restaurants) where low skilled and low wage workers who have been disproportionately impacted by this crisis.
- Illinois will provide employment and training services to dislocated workers to assist them in obtaining unsubsidized employment, adapting the types of services and the delivery of services to meet the

changing economy and changing customer needs while following health emergency safety practices and requirements, including abiding by Illinois' Stay-at-Home orders.

Technical Assistance and Outreach

Many of those that have been hardest hit by this crisis are also those that may have the most difficulty or least experience accessing government support.

Office of Minority Economic Empowerment – DCEO

- OMEE promotes economic development opportunities for all minority communities across the state through targeted programs, resources, and advocacy.
- From March through mid-June 2020, OMEE had hosted 88 webinars and workshops with over 2,600 attendees on DCEO COVID-19 State and Federal programs, Restore Illinois guidelines, business support, and more.
- This does not include dozens of webinars and consultations that have occurred in just the past two weeks as we have launched the Business Interruption Grants Program and entered into Phase 4.

Rapid Response Services for Layoff Aversion and Job Training -- DCEO

- Rapid Response is a proactive, business-focused program to avert layoffs and plant closing through quick coordination of service and the provision of immediate aid to companies and their affected workers.
- When layoffs cannot be averted, laid off workers are connected to job training and placement services.
- Rapid Response teams have worked with 247 businesses since March to provide services to mitigate layoffs that affected approximately 28,000 workers. \$3.5 million in layoff aversion funds have been awarded.

Regional Economic Development Outreach (Team RED) -- DCEO

- DCEO has, in recent weeks, conducted extensive outreach to a wide range of constituencies to ensure businesses are familiar with available programs and assistance. Through June 19, DCEO has conducted COVID-19 related outreach to at least 4,010 small businesses, 182 local chambers of Commerce and 250 economic development organizations.
- This does not include dozens of webinars and hundreds of consultations that have occurred in just the past two weeks as we have launched the Business Interruption Grants Program and entered into Phase 4.

Small Business Development Program – DCEO

- An \$11.5 million investment (including federal, state, on local funding) to the SBDC program is facilitating the addition of 7 new community-based Small Business Development Centers and expand the reach of existing SBDCs – bringing the statewide network to a total of 42 locations and making Illinois one of the largest SBDC networks in the nation.
- Many of the newest SBDCs are located in or near disproportionately impacted areas (DIAs) identified for other COVID-response programs.
- DCEO also is disbursing \$7.3 million in supplemental funding for SBDCs provided through the CARES act to help our providers meet the expanded needs of businesses statewide.
- SBDCs play a critical role in providing businesses with support needed to reopen and operate safely and to apply and qualify for state and federal emergency assistance programs.

Appendix 1. Phase 4 Guidelines Overview

(see next page)



PART OF PHASE IV OF RESTORE ILLINOIS PLAN

APPLICABLE TO EACH REGION UPON TRANSITION TO PHASE IV | ISSUED ON JUNE 22, 2020 | EARLIEST EFFECTIVE DATE JUNE 26, 2020

ALL INDUSTRIES

- All employees who can work from home should continue to do so
- Continue to wear face covering that covers nose and mouth, maintain social distance of 6 ft., and frequently wash hands
- Continue employee health screenings upon entry into the workplace and mid-shift screenings for employees with shifts >5 hours (virtual screening permitted)
- Follow guidelines on capacity limits and group sizes (to be continually reassessed throughout Phase 4)

DAY CAMPS

- Capacity limit of no more than 50% of facility occupancy
- Group sizes of 15 participants, unless participants changing weekly
- Water-based activities permitted according to IDPH guidelines
- Continue to encourage outdoor activities as much as possible, especially for activities requiring physical exertion and/or exertion of voice

FILM PRODUCTION

- Capacity limit of no more than 50% of sound stage/location occupancy
- Crowd scenes should be limited to 50 people or fewer
- All individuals should maintain 6 ft. of social distancing unless job duty cannot be performed without proximity (e.g. actors performing, hair, make-up, costumes)
- One-time nasal swab for RT-PCR testing of all cast and crew should be obtained within 48 to 72 hours prior to the start of work on set or location
- Craft services and catering should follow Restaurant and Bar guidelines
- Live audiences permitted in line with Theatre/Performing Arts guidelines

HEALTH AND FITNESS

- Capacity limit of no more than 50% occupancy
- Group fitness classes of up to 50 people with at least 6 ft. social distancing between individuals permitted; multiple groups permitted given facilities have space to appropriately social distance and can limit interaction between groups
- Workout stations and equipment should be 6 ft. apart without barriers or 3 ft. apart with impermeable barriers in between
- For open gym spaces, have 1 employee per every 4,000 sq. ft. to monitor social distancing and sanitize equipment between use
- Sanitize equipment before and after each individual use and sanitize locker rooms and showers at least every hour
- Keep ancillary accommodations (e.g., saunas, hot tubs, steam rooms) closed, though childcare areas are permitted to reopen in line with DHFS childcare guidelines
- Members should wear face covering over their nose and mouth whenever not exercising

INDOOR/OUTDOOR RECREATION

- Reopening select indoor recreation facilities (e.g., bowling alleys, skating rinks); indoor playgrounds and trampoline parks should remain closed
- Indoor recreation to operate at lesser of 50 customers or 50% of facility capacity
- Outdoor recreation allowing group sizes of up to 50, and permitting multiple groups given facilities have space to appropriately social distance and can limit interaction between groups
- Activity stations should be spaced at least 6 ft. apart or limited in number to ensure social distancing
- Shared equipment should be disinfected before and after each use
- Clubhouses and other communal gathering places allowed to reopen
- Concessions permitted with restrictions

MANUFACTURING

- In-person meetings of up to 50 people with social distancing permitted

MEETINGS AND SOCIAL EVENTS

- Limit to the lesser of 50 people or 50% of room capacity
- Multiple groups may meet in the same facility if they are socially distanced and in separate rooms
- Groups should be static for duration of meeting or event. If event includes multiple sessions, participants should remain in one room, and speakers/presenters should rotate between rooms or be digitally displayed (e.g. projected, livestreamed) in multiple rooms
- Dance floors should remain closed
- Food service should follow Restaurant and Bar guidelines

MUSEUMS

- Capacity limit of no more than 25% occupancy
- Guided tours should be limited to 50 or fewer people per group
- Hands-on exhibits and touch screens should be closed or modified to eliminate the hands-on component
- Audio tours are permitted, though equipment should be disinfected before and after individual use
- Museums should have plan to limit congregation via advance ticket sales and timed ticketing
- Concessions permitted with restrictions



PHASE 4 GUIDELINES OVERVIEW

PART OF PHASE IV OF RESTORE ILLINOIS PLAN

APPLICABLE TO EACH REGION UPON TRANSITION TO PHASE IV | ISSUED ON JUNE 22, 2020 | EARLIEST EFFECTIVE DATE JUNE 26, 2020

OFFICES

- Continue capacity limit of no more than 50% occupancy
- In-person meetings of up to 50 people with social distancing permitted
- Continue health screenings, though employers may screen office employees via in-person conversation or questionnaire once at their workstation, or using virtual method

RESTAURANTS AND BARS

- Indoor dining and drinking now permitted for parties of up to 10 people
- Seated areas should be arranged so that tables allow for 6 ft. between parties; impermeable barriers may be installed between booths which are less than 6 ft. apart
- Standing areas (in restaurants or bars) should be limited to no more than 25% of standing area capacity
- Buffets and self-service food stations (e.g. hot and cold bars, bulk items, baked goods) should adhere to additional minimum guidelines
- Self-service beverage fountains are permissible with the additional precautions

RETAIL AND SERVICE COUNTER

- Continue capacity limit of no more than 50% occupancy
- Mall food courts may reopen in line with Indoor Dining and Drinking guidelines

PERSONAL CARE

- Continue capacity limit of no more than 50% occupancy
- If services require customer to remove his or her mask, employee must wear both a face mask and eye protection (e.g., face shield, protective glasses)
- No time restrictions on massage or other services

OUTDOOR SEATED SPECTATOR EVENTS

- Outdoor spectator events only; indoor spectator events not permitted at this time
- Tickets events with seating available for all customers permitted; general admission shows and/or events with standing room only are not permitted at this time
- Maximum of 20% of seating capacity for spectators
- Concessions permitted with restrictions

THEATERS AND PERFORMING ARTS

- Seated theaters, cinemas, and performing arts centers for ticketed events with seating available for all customers permitted; general admission shows and/or events with standing room only are not permitted at this time
- Indoor capacity limit of 50 people or less or 50% of space capacity (applies to each screening room); outdoor capacity limited to 20% of overall space capacity
- Patrons should wear face coverings over their nose and mouth, except while seated within a venue (exceptions can be made for people with medical conditions or disabilities that prevent them from safely wearing a face covering)
- Concessions permitted with restrictions

YOUTH AND RECREATIONAL SPORTS

- Competitive gameplay and tournaments permitted
- Capacity limit of no more than 50% facility capacity, 20% seating capacity for spectators
- Group sizes limited to 50 participants total (including athletes, coaches, and referees); with multiple groups permitted during practice and competitive games given venues have space to appropriately social distance and can limit interaction between group
- Concessions permitted with restrictions

ZOOS

- Capacity limit of no more than 25% occupancy
- Guided tours should be limited to 50 or fewer people per group
- Hands-on exhibits and touch screens should be closed or modified to eliminate the hands-on component
- Indoor exhibits should be closed
- Audio tours are permitted, though equipment should be disinfected before and after individual use
- Zoos should have plan to limit congregation via advance ticket sales and timed ticketing
- Concessions permitted with restrictions



Appendix 2. Map of Disproportionately Impacted Areas for Business Interruption Grant Program

