



Bureau of Economic Development

COVID-19 Response - Information for the Business Community

April 10, 2020

Greetings:

This week Cook County Bureau of Economic Development launched our [Cook County Community Recovery Initiative](#) to provide a variety of assistance to suburban Cook County businesses and to complement the federal programs including the [Paycheck Protection Program](#) (PPP). We hosted our first webinar on Wednesday to help small businesses navigate the PPP program, you can view the recording [here](#).

We thank all of the businesses that are responding to the COVID-19 crisis through providing continued service and pivoted their operations to provide critical assistance during this crisis. Surgical masks, hand sanitizer and personal protective equipment are being produced in the greater Cook County area to help our first responders do their jobs safely.

Lastly, while we know community health and economic efforts are top of mind, Cook County is also working hard to ensure the [2020 Census](#) is a success and everyone's help is needed. Please visit our [website](#) to learn more and download the media kit to share with your community members, employees and stakeholders.

Thank you,

Xochitl Flores,
Bureau Chief of Economic Development for Cook County





Cook County has launched a [comprehensive initiative](#) to provide economic relief to small businesses, non-profits, community service organizations and independent contractors (1099 workers) in response to the COVID-19 pandemic through its [Community Recovery Fund and its Technical Assistance Network](#).

The Community Recovery Fund offers one-time, zero-interest loans of up to \$20,000 for small businesses and \$10,000 for independent contractors in suburban Cook County. Please [sign up](#) to be notified when the loan fund goes live! The County's Technical Assistance Network is made up of the [American Business Immigration Coalition](#), the [Illinois Restaurant Association](#) and the [National Partnership for New Americans](#) along with local Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs) will assist businesses and independent contractors access federal, state, and local COVID-19 recovery funds as well as provide business counseling, educational, support and navigational services, at no cost. More information on the network will be coming soon.

Cook County Paycheck Protection Program Webinar

Cook County along with our partners the American Business Immigration Coalition, the Illinois Restaurant Association and the National Partnership for New American hosted a [webinar on April 8, 2020](#) on how local small businesses and 1099 workers can access the federal [Paycheck Protection Program](#). The webinar had over 800 participants and additional webinars will be announced in coming weeks.



Keep in touch:

- [Please sign-up for regular COVID-19 Updates](#) from the Bureau of Economic Development.
- Sign up for **Cook Alerts** to receive regular updates from Cook County about COVID-19. Text **ALERTCOOK to 888-777** and you will receive rapid, simple and direct updates.
- We update the [County website](#) daily with information for the business community.

Please send us any suggestions or questions about COVID-19 related resources

to Kindy.Kruller@cookcountyil.gov.

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