



Bureau of Economic Development

COVID-19 Response - Information for the Business Community

April 3, 2020

Greetings:

Today's economy networks are more important than ever, and Cook County is creating a variety of tools to connect and share resources that provide a strong web of support for businesses. Yesterday Cook County announced an unprecedented partnership with the [American Business Immigration Coalition \(ABIC\)](#), the [Illinois Restaurant Association](#) and the [National Partnership for New Americans](#) to catalyze access to the SBA's **Payroll Protection Program (PPP)**. Economic development organizations, such as Chambers of Commerce, Community Development Financial Institutions, and local lending institutions are activated to assist small businesses, non-profits and independent contractors.

Cook County knows there will be intense competition for these resources, and we want to make sure that small suburban businesses, independent contractors and non-profits take advantage of it. There are a variety of Cook County resources below and please stay in touch.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Xochitl Flores'.

Xochitl Flores,
Bureau Chief of Economic Development for Cook County



Small Business Assistance

Cook County is launching 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. The Cook County Bureau of Economic Development is working with partners to provide a variety of lending resources and technical

assistance program. The funding for the assistance is coming from the Federal CARES Act and the Bureau of Economic Development.

Starting today, small businesses and nonprofits can apply for the nearly \$350 billion in loan/grant available through the Payroll Protection Program **Final Borrower Form** [HERE](#)

- Up to 100% forgivable as long as employers keep paying their workers
- Employers can borrow up to 250% of their average monthly payroll (max. of \$10M)
- Eligible if you are: sole proprietor, partnership, C-Corp, S-Corp, LLC, Independent contractor, self-employed individual, 501c3 non-profit, 501c19 veteran organization, tribal business of SBA

Talk to your lender today (or a local lender): Ask to apply for SBA 7a program called **Payroll Protection Program FINAL Borrower form** [HERE](#)

Learn more! Register today for [***How the Paycheck Protection Program Impacts Small Businesses in Cook County***](#) [webinar](#) on Wednesday, April 8, 2020 9:30 AM CDT.

Take our Business 'Needs' Survey

The Cook County Bureau of Economic Development wants to prioritize resources to assist businesses recover from impacts related to COVID-19. We are actively developing financial tools, assistance programs and partnerships to help businesses during this time. Please complete the [SURVEY](#) and share with your network.

Connecting to Manufacturing Community

Cook County President Preckwinkle will be a guest on the [Making Chips podcast](#) on Monday April 6, 2020. **Making Chips**, America's #1 rated manufacturing podcast, was created to equip and inspire you to succeed in the challenging world of manufacturing. President Preckwinkle will be joining co-hosts Jim Carr, Jason Zenger and Nick Goellner on as their guest to discuss the pandemic and the actions Cook County is taking to help small businesses. This special podcast will go live on Wednesday, April 8, so tune in!

Critical Supplies Update

Thank you to those in our community who have already come forward with their manufacturing know-how and their donations to help meet our critical supply needs. Cook County's Donation Initiative will continue accepting unused personal protective equipment (PPE) for first responders and medical staff. This program is overseen by the County's Department of Emergency Management and Regional Security (EMRS). Please contact donate@cookcountyil.gov to donate.

EMRS, in conjunction with the County's Department of Public Health, has already distributed more than 64,000 N95 masks and close to 100,000 other critical supplies, including surgical masks, gloves, gowns, Tyvek suits, shoe covers and germicidal wipes to 106 Cook County municipalities and an additional 20 County agencies.

Community Assistance

Cook County Government announced this week additional funding for six suburban Cook County emergency shelters to help them meet new, enhanced guidelines to stop the spread of COVID-19 in their spaces. Shelters are now putting people up in costly hotels and apartments to prevent transmission. The additional \$150,000 is from Community Development Block Grant funds and further funds are expected to provide supplementary emergency grants to shelters as the federal COVID-19 stimulus package is distributed.



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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