



Sean R. McDermott
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March 30, 2020

Dear Business Owner/Manager:

The City of Countryside officials recognize the difficult position your business is in due to the pandemic. Staff has received many phone calls regarding whether or not their business is essential. The State of Illinois has developed a flowchart to assist in the determination. Enclosed is a copy for your reference.

We understand the termination or reduction in your operations is having an economic impact on your business. Some new programs have been announced to provide some economic relief for small businesses. Below is summary information regarding economic relief programs currently available.

LOANS

Illinois Small Business Emergency Loan Fund Small businesses located outside of the City of Chicago with fewer than 50 workers and less than \$3 million in revenue in 2019 can apply for a low interest loan up to \$50,000 with a 5-year repayment term with no payments due for the first six months. Businesses should express their interest on the DCEO form at <https://www2.illinois.gov/dceo/SmallBizAssistance/Pages/EmergencySBAInitiatives.aspx>. Eligible businesses will be invited to submit a full application beginning on April 1. Once submitted, DCEO will strive to make a loan decision within 10 days, and make funds available within two days of receiving bank information from a business.

The **U.S. Small Business Administration** has approved disaster assistance loans for small Illinois businesses facing financial hardship due to COVID-19. Eligible businesses can apply for up to \$2 million in low-interest loans at <https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/disaster-assistance>.

OTHER

Illinois Sales Tax Assistance for Restaurants and Bars: Restaurants and bars across the state that incurred less than \$75,000 in sales tax liabilities in 2019 will be able to defer sales tax payments. The Illinois Department of Revenue will not charge these businesses penalties or late fees on sales tax payments due in March, April and May.

Countryside Restaurant Tax and Water Bills: The City will waive late payment penalties through June 30, 2020.

The City will update this information and provide details for any future economic incentive programs via our website at www.countryside-il.org.

Sincerely,

Sean R. McDermott

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Mayor