

July 2, 2020

Gurnee Business Partner:

As we look forward to the July 4th holiday, we celebrate our community that works together and supports each other during challenging times. You certainly embody that spirit! Thank you for your commitment to Gurnee.

The Lake County Board has recently allocated \$10 million of CARES Act funding to create the Lake County Small Business Assistance COVID-19 Grant Program. Special thanks to Humberto Martinez, Jr. of O'Toole's Pub Group, who represented the Village of Gurnee in advising the County on establishing this program. Beginning **July 7th**, 2020, businesses will be able to apply online for up to \$30,000 to cover up to four months of occupancy costs (rent, mortgage, utilities) as well as expenses incurred due to COVID-19 (new equipment, plexiglass, PPE, sanitization services/materials, employee training, etc.).

Small businesses in Lake County that meet the following criteria are eligible to apply:

- For profit, incorporated business (e.g., LLC, S Corp, Partnership, Sole Proprietorship, etc.); independent contractors currently not eligible
- In business prior to February 15th, 2020
- Less than \$2.5 million in annual revenue
- In good standing with the Illinois Secretary of State
- Able to document a significant negative business impact from COVID-19

Preference will be given to businesses that have not received Federal assistance (i.e., Paycheck Protection Program or Economic Injury Disaster Loan).

Lake County small businesses that meet the above requirements may apply online at lakecountyil.gov beginning at 8 a.m. on **July 7th**. The application period will be open for two weeks, with submissions accepted until **July 20th** at 11:59 p.m. The Lake County Small Business Assistance COVID-19 Grant Program will be administered by [Lake County Partners](#), with final grant approval and dispersing of funds performed by [Lake County](#).

Other Business Resources

- **Business Interruption Grants Program (BIG):** \$60 million available for up to 3,500 businesses experiencing losses or business interruption due to COVID-19 closures, with set-asides for businesses located in disproportionately impacted areas. Application materials and portal are available [here](#); applications accepted until 5 p.m. on **July 7th**.
- Need assistance with grant applications or other guidance? The Illinois Small Business Development Center at College of Lake County is a click away: illinoisbdc@clcollinois.edu
- Business toolkits issued by the State of Illinois for Phase 4: [Phase 4 Guidelines for Reopening](#). The Village of Gurnee is mirroring State guidance.
- **Lake County Health Department biweekly business briefings** held every other Thursday at 11 a.m.; currently scheduled for **July 16th**. Click [here](#) for the Zoom link, or participate by phone at 312-626-6799. By phone or web, use: Meeting ID: 341 317 913 Password: 427820.
- **Readiness for Reopening Guide** [here](#): local sources for PPE and cleaning/sanitizing supplies.
- **The Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL)** program is still open for online applications [here](#). The EIDL consists of an advance, which does not need to be repaid, in the amount of \$1,000 per employee up to a maximum of \$10,000; and a low interest 3.75% loan with a 30 year term to be used for working capital.
- On Wednesday, **July 15th**, 10 - 11 a.m., the State of Illinois Business Development Managers from the Office of Minority Economic Empowerment (OMEE) is hosting an open online conversation with OMEE constituents (racial/ethnic minorities, women, persons with disabilities, and veteran owned businesses). Officials will share the latest updates regarding federal and state programs, share information about other resources available, and answer any questions. Registration available [here](#).

- On Thursday, **July 9th**, 4 p.m., Representative Schneider will be hosting a webinar on loan forgiveness requirements for the Paycheck Protection Program and associated tax implications for recipient businesses or organizations. Representative Schneider will be joined by guests from the U.S. Small Business Administration and accountants from American Institute of Certified Public Accountants to help answer constituent questions. Click [here](#) to register.
- On Friday, **July 10th**, 10 a.m., Representative Schneider will be hosting an online conversation with the Lake County Chamber of Commerce and Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Lake County for a conversation on the resources available to help small businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic and the challenges and opportunities facing Lation-owned businesses in our community. Simultaneous Live Spanish interpretation will be available. Click [here](#) to register.

Have a safe, happy, and healthy Independence Day! Gurnee's Got It!

Sincerely,



Kristina M. Kovarik
Mayor, Village of Gurnee