

September 17, 2021

Gurnee Business Partners:

Federal and state COVID-19 relief programs have continued to evolve; below are details on a few quick, easy (some virtual, some live – right in our own backyard!) opportunities to get the latest updates.

## **Illinois Back 2 Business Grants**

As part of Illinois' COVID-19 economic recovery program, the \$250 million Back to Business (B2B) grant program supports the recovery of small businesses in the hardest hit industries; grants of \$5K-\$150K can help offset losses, bring back workers, and take continued steps to rebuild.

Complete grant information can be found at:

[Back to Business Grant Program Overview](#)

[Eligibility criteria and priority categories](#)

[Frequently asked questions](#)

B2B - Learn More:

### **September 22, 9AM-12PM – Gurnee Mills**

Gurnee Mills will be hosting a B2B presentation by the Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity (DCEO) in the Gurnee Mills Show Court. Illinois DCEO representatives will be on hand until noon to provide individual assistance. For on-site grant applications, please bring a copy of 2019 & 2020 business federal tax returns, two business bank statements (one from Apr-Dec 2020 and one most recent) and business owner ID (ITIN accepted). Entrance G will open at 8:30am for entry; presentation begins at 9:00AM. Refreshments will be served. Masks are required. Sponsored by State of Illinois Representatives Joyce Mason and Sam Yingling. For more information, [info@RepJoyceMason.com](mailto:info@RepJoyceMason.com).

### **September 29, 9AM-10AM – Live Zoom**

The Illinois Small Business Development/International Trade Center at College of Lake County, in partnership with Lake County Partners, is offering an interactive, no-cost, virtual Grant Workshop. Register [here](#).

**Community Navigators** provide technical assistance on B2B to all businesses, with a focus on underserved businesses including minority, rural, veteran and women-owned. Any local business may contact:

Lake County Navigator  
Greater Waukegan Development Coalition  
Michael Edgar, President & Board Chair  
[jon@greaterwaukegan.org](mailto:jon@greaterwaukegan.org)  
847-440-2021

## **COVID Economic Injury Disaster Loan Updates (EIDL)**

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) recently announced enhancements to the COVID EIDL program. Key changes included:

- Increased Cap from \$500,000 to \$2 million: Loan funds may be used for any normal operating expenses and working capital, including payroll, equipment purchases, and debt payment.

- Deferred Payment Period: Repayment need not begin until two years after loan origination.
- Expanded Eligible Use of Funds: Funds will now be eligible to prepay commercial debt and make payments on federal business debt.
- Simplified affiliation requirements: Affiliation requirements now model those of the Restaurant Revitalization Fund.

Business owners that have received previous loans through the SBA's Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), Restaurant Revitalization Fund (RRF), or Shuttered Venue Operators Grant (SVOG) can still benefit from COVID EIDL. The last day for applications is December 31, 2021 but all applicants should file as soon as practicable. To learn more about the application process, visit [www.sba.gov/eidl](http://www.sba.gov/eidl). If you have questions about your already submitted EIDL application, contact the SBA Disaster Customer Service Center at [\(800\) 659-2955](tel:8006592955) or [disastercustomerservice@sba.gov](mailto:disastercustomerservice@sba.gov).

COVID EIDL - Learn More:

**September 23, 11:00 & 4:00 CST (12:00 & 5:00PM EST) – Live Zoom**

Choose the time that's most convenient for you! Join the Indiana District Office of the SBA for this no-cost opportunity to learn more about the new enhancements to the SBA COVID EIDL program. Register [here](#).

**September 28, 11:30AM CST (12:30 EST) – Live Zoom**

Hosted by the organization, Innovating Commerce Serving Communities (ICSC), this workshop - \$25 for nonmembers – features Anna Marie Lucas, Senior Advisor, Office of Field Operations, US SBA, discussing how the COVID EIDL can assist the nation's 150,000 small businesses. Register [here](#).

## PPP Forgiveness Portal

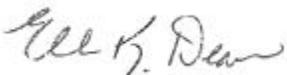
The SBA launched a streamlined application portal to allow borrowers with [Paycheck Protection Program \(PPP\)](#) loans of \$150,000 or less through participating lenders to apply for forgiveness directly through the SBA. Borrowers that need assistance or have questions should call [\(877\) 552-2692](tel:8775522692), Monday – Friday, 7 a.m. - 7 p.m. CST.

Need a refresher on how to use the PPP Forgiveness Portal? Watch a replay of the training below:

[Watch training](#)

I hope that these resources provide some measure of assistance. As always, thank you for your partnership and all that you bring to, and do for, Gurnee!

Sincerely,



Ellen Dean  
Economic Development Director  
VILLAGE OF GURNEE