

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Applications Open for City of Belleville’s COVID-19 Business Recovery Grant Program

Belleville, Ill. – December 18, 2020 – The City of Belleville recently received \$150,000 from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) to implement the Belleville COVID-19 Business Recovery Grant Program.

Applications for grant funding, which can request up to \$5,000 are now open to local Belleville businesses and are due no later than Tues., Jan. 5 at 4:30 p.m. Award announcements are anticipated by January 8, 2021, with funds disbursed by the end of January.

Eligibility criteria for the grant funding is as follows:

- Businesses must be located within the corporate limits of the City of Belleville, IL.
- Businesses must have 50 or fewer full-time-equivalent employees. Full-time-equivalent is defined as a combination of 35 hours per week.
 - Example: 1 Part Time Employee: 25 hours
 + 1 Part Time Employee: 10 hours
 = 1 Full Time Equivalent: 35 hours
- Businesses with revenues reduced >20% by COVID-19 in any months from March-December vs. February 2020.
- Businesses who have not received federal funding (PPP, EIDL, BIG, etc.) in the past, or businesses that have received federal funding and intend to use the Belleville Business Recovery Grant funding for expenses different than what federal funding was used for.
- For-profit small businesses only are eligible (non-profit organizations are not eligible). For profit businesses owned by non-profits are eligible, if they meet all other requirements. The application must be made through the for-profit business, and not the non-profit parent company.
- May not have an IRS tax lien or other judgement(s) against it and the business owners or partners may not be currently undergoing bankruptcy proceedings.

The program will be open to businesses that fall under the categories of bar/restaurant, entertainment, and retail/wholesale. An “other” category will be added for those businesses that may not be fall within these traditional categories but have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Businesses are eligible for one grant through this program.

The City of Belleville, Illinois, incorporated in 1814, is the St. Clair County seat and the largest city in southern Illinois. With a current population of 44,478 (2010), Belleville is home to the longest contiguous main street in the United States, excellent education and healthcare organizations, and thriving businesses and neighborhoods, including three Local Historic Districts and one National Historic District. Mayor Mark Eckert runs the municipal government along with elected officials including City Clerk Jennifer Gain Meyer, Treasurer Dean Hardt, and 16 aldermen representing eight city wards. The vision for the City of Belleville is one where all sectors of the community work together to help the city grow and prosper and to become a model for other communities to follow.

If awarded, the funding may be used for payroll, operating expenses, lease/rent payments, modifications required for compliance with reopening guidelines, or inventory and acquisition vital to the business. Ineligible costs include expenses reimbursed under any State, local or federal program, capital improvements, taxes, personal expenses, damages covered by insurance, expenditures prohibited by section 5001(b) of the CARES Act, reimbursement to donors for donated items, workforce bonuses other than hazard pay or overtime, severance pay, legal settlements, any other expenses not reasonably incurred due to the COVID-19 emergency.

Applicants will be required to submit a completed application, a description of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the business, 2019 or the businesses' latest tax returns, a signed W-9 form, bank statements from 2020 showing losses in revenue, and proof of any previous funding (PPP, EIDL, BIG) including documentation on the expenses funded through those programs, if applicable.

Funding will be distributed based on a scoring system concerning loss of revenue, duration of closure, years in business, percentage of business operations subject to mandatory closure, and the number of full-time-equivalent employees.

For questions, please call 618-233-6810, ext. 1249, email edpz@belleville.net, or visit www.belleville.net/COVID19BusinessRecoveryGrant.

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