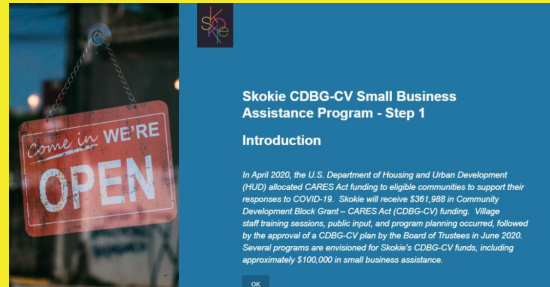


SKOKIE

July 6, 2020

Important Business Updates & Information

Skokie Small Business COVID-19 Assistance Grant Program Launched



In order to assist small businesses located within the Village of Skokie who have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Village is providing a new financial assistance grant program to help with the cost of modified business operations. Through funding provided by the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG), the Village is committing \$100,000 of assistance. Grants will provide up to \$5,000 of assistance per business.

Per requirements set by HUD, a preliminary eligibility application for this program (Step One) is now live ([CLICK HERE](#)) The purpose of Step One is to maximize the chances for staff to identify businesses that are potentially eligible for grants and to minimize the up-front investment of time and documentation gathering.

If you are the owner of a Skokie-based small business that has been or is being negatively impacted by COVID-19, please consider completing the online [Skokie CDBG-CV Small Business Assistance Application](#) or Step One if you meet the following requirements:

1. 50 or fewer Full-Time Equivalent (FTE's) employees prior to March 1, 2020.
2. In business since at least January 1, 2020.
3. Not owned by a publicly-traded corporation.

Priority will be given to small businesses that have not received other federal funding, including PPP, EIDL, or other SBA loans.

Qualified Expenses include items whereby cash was expended or credit card purchases were made on material items in direct response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Expenses are reimbursable back to April 1, 2020 and must be documented by verifiable receipts.

These include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Tents (purchase or rent) for outdoor dining.
2. Table and chairs (purchase or rent) for outdoor dining.

3. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and supplies.
4. Protective barriers.
5. Stanchions, fencing, and queue management.
6. Signs and display items.
7. Other costs not listed will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Those businesses who complete Step 1 - Preliminary Eligibility will be contacted regarding the application parameters for Step 2. Please note that additional information will be requested during Step Two, and the types of documentation will depend on the number of employees and whether or not the business is located in a HUD-defined income-eligible neighborhood.

For any questions or further information, please contact Leslie Murphy at 847-933-8446 or leslie.murphy@skokie.org.

Skokie Health Department Available For Business Consultations Regarding Phase 4

Since June 26, 2020, Skokie and the surrounding region transitioned to Phase 4 of the [Restore Illinois](#). The State of Illinois has developed a business toolkit with signage, posters and other resources to ensure business and activities are conducted in accordance with the latest public health recommendations including those of the Skokie Health Department. Each set of guidelines includes a common set of guidelines that are expected and encouraged among all employers and activity types, as well as workplace and program-specific guidelines. [See details of the Phase 4 guidance for businesses.](#)

All Skokie businesses that choose to reopen or expand operations during Phase 4 are required to adhere to the guidelines for their sector. The Skokie Health Department is available to assist businesses with navigating the Restore Illinois Phase 4 Guidance. Please call the Environmental Health team at 847-933-8462 or email info@skokie.org if you would like someone to walk through the guidance with you, including making an on-site visit for a consultation.

Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) Loan Deadline Extended to August 8

The PPP is designed to help small businesses & non-profits maintain payroll in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. Eligible businesses who enroll in the program will receive a forgivable loan to use for payroll purposes, in addition to helping pay for utilities, rent, mortgage interest payments, and more. As of June 30, about \$130 billion in PPP funding remains available. While the original deadline was June 30, Congress passed and the President signed an extension allowing new applications through August 8.



While the demand for PPP loans was overwhelming in the first round, second round funds remain available as of 7/6/2020. If you have not yet applied for a PPP loan, but think that you may qualify, you are highly encouraged to do so. PPP applications are to be submitted through participating lenders ([CLICK HERE](#)).

We Are Open!

Please remember to patronize our Skokie Businesses! Most businesses and services have opened under the Phase 4 Restore Illinois Plan. Be sure to check out our updated list [HERE](#) and [ZoomBusiness Mapping Portal HERE](#). Remember to visit the Skokie Farmers Market on Sunday's from 7:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. at the northwest corner of Oakton St. and Floral Ave. ([CLICK HERE](#))!



We thank you for being part of and supportive of the Skokie community and we sincerely appreciate your commitment to your businesses and the concern for the welfare of your employees. We encourage you to contact us directly at (847) 933-8472 or (847) 933-8471 if you have any questions or if we may be of further assistance. Please stay safe and healthy.

Sincerely,

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