

Mayor's Business Roundtable: COVID-19 Response & Assistance

September 15, 2020

Business Climate in Homer Glen – Some Good News

- Despite the pandemic and enhanced restrictions, Homer Glen is experiencing an increase in commercial development:
 - **Gas N Wash** groundbreaking.
 - **The Square at Goodings Grove** townhomes under construction.
 - The completion of the new **GoodLife Physical Therapy** building in Founders Crossing (6,000 SF).
 - The completion of the new **Shorewood Home & Auto** facility on 159th Street (28,000 SF).
 - **Mugshots Bar & Grill** is nearing a Grand Opening date.
 - Numerous recent ribbon cuttings for **Beyond Healing Counseling, Salon Realm, Fisher Berardi Law, Hydro Brew and Mass Mutual.**
 - **A number of new businesses are preparing to open soon.**
 - All show that the longer term economic life in Homer Glen remains vibrant!
- Updated Liquor Code.
- Updated Sign Code (*handout available*).
- Zoning Code updates in process.
- Comprehensive Plan Update in process.
- New Marketing Brand Forthcoming: This is an exciting time for the Village to unify it's identity and marketing efforts with the renewed interest in our 159th street corridor. Our branding and marketing efforts will continue to make Homer Glen the preeminent destination for developers, businesses and families well into the future.

Enhanced Mitigation Effort in Region 7 (Impacting Will County)

- The State implemented enhanced mitigation efforts in Region 7, (Will and Kankakee County areas), beginning August 26, after the region reached 8 percent positivity for three days.
- The region will remain under the current enhanced mitigation efforts until we have a sustained positivity rate number under 6.5% (3 days of a 7-day rolling average at or below 6.5%).
- When the region is able to meet the 6.5% sustained positivity rate target, the region will be allowed to return to regular Phase 4 guidelines without these enhanced mitigations.
- A full list of mitigation measures is found on the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) website at www.dceocovid19resources.com/restore-illinois.

Village of Homer Glen COVID-19 Business Assistance

VILLAGE OPERATIONS

- Village Hall maintained operations (even during the Shut Down)

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

- Small Business Assistance Loan Program distributed \$130,000 to approved applicants in April and May

OUTREACH AND COMMUNICATIONS

- Separate Village COVID-19 webpage with Business Resources
- Eblasts to Business Owners with assistance updates
- News Alerts and Social Media
- Outreach calls from the Village Board and Clerk to business owners

Village of Homer Glen COVID-19 Business Assistance

MODIFIED RULES TO ACCOMMODATE BUSINESS DURING PANDEMIC

- Restaurants allowed to sell prepackaged wine and beer with carry-out food.
- Outdoor Dining Rules and Guidelines for Restaurants.
- Barricades for outdoor dining areas.
- Annual Liquor License Fee Deferral.
- Heritage Park Use Guidelines for Health & Fitness Businesses.
- Modified Standards for the Use of Temporary Promotional Signs (*handout available*).

BUSINESS PROMOTION

- “Shop Local” Signs around town.
- Food Drive (week of April 27).
- FREE advertisements for 50 Homer Glen businesses (5 pages in the Spring/Summer 2020 Village Newsletter mailed to every household).
- **NEW and FREE! Submit your business ad for the Fall/Winter Village Newsletter by SEP 21, for early OCT mailing to every household, to Amy Blank at ablank@homerglenil.org.**
- Business gift cards are purchased by the Village as prizes for community events (4th of July Door Decoration Contest, Chalk It Up, Bike Bingo).
- FB Promotions: Similar businesses were offered the ability to submit an ad to fit the theme of the week promoted on the Village Facebook.

Will County CARES Local Business Assistance

Small Business Assistance Grant Program:

- \$24 million program funded through CARES Act
- Up to \$15,000 in grants per business
- Applications open Aug 24 to Sep 28
- Recipients notified early October

Application Website: <https://www.willcountyillinois.com/COVIDbizgrant>

Program Website: <https://www.willcountyillinois.com/CARES-Act>



Small Business Assistance Grant Program



Eligibility Criteria

Only businesses that meet these criteria will be eligible to receive funding:

- Located in Will County
- Annual revenue must not exceed \$2.5 million
- Employ fewer than 25 employees
- In good standing with the State of Illinois and Will County
- In business before February 15, 2020
- Sole proprietors and independent contractors are eligible provided they meet additional criteria*

**Complete criteria listed on website*



Preference Criteria

- Businesses that were forced to shut down by the Illinois Stay at Home Order will be given preference
- Businesses that have not already received other COVID-19 assistance (e.g., IL BIG, SBA loans, PPP) will be given preference

Will County CARES Local Business Assistance

- Businesses cannot use assistance funding for expenses they already covered through another COVID assistance program.

EXAMPLES:

- Business had \$15,000 of COVID-19 expenses:
Received \$1,000 from another program; they should only apply for \$14,000 from Will County.
 - Business had \$20,000 of COVID-19 expenses:
Received \$1,000 another program; they are eligible for \$15,000 (maximum grant) from Will County.
- Businesses who have not received any other assistance will be prioritized.

Will County CARES Local Government Assistance

- Will County received \$121 million from the CARES Act and has allocated \$33 million to support local governments.
- The Village has submitted a first round of expenses for reimbursement (for employee teleworking and keeping Village Hall clean and safe for employees/public). Additional eligible cost reimbursement will be sought under the program.
- Eligible costs must be directly related to COVID-19 response, not previously budgeted and incurred between March 1 and December 31, 2020.
- Local governments cannot use funds to make up for lost revenue (waiving of fees or lost tax revenues).
- **Local governments can set up assistance programs for people, businesses and non-profits.**

Business Interruptions Grants Program

BIG

ILLINOIS BUSINESS INTERRUPTION
GRANT PROGRAM (BIG)

Round 1: The first wave of \$60 million in grants was announced on August 12, assisting over 2,600 businesses located in every region of the state, with grants ranging from \$10,000-\$20,000.

Round one priority industries were:

Businesses in DIAs - \$20 million

Bars and Restaurants - \$20 million

Barbershops and Salons - \$10 million

Gyms and Fitness Centers - \$10 million

Will County Highlights:

- 72 Will County companies
- 20 Will County communities
- \$1.2 million in total grants
- 17 of 72 (24%) in disproportionately impacted areas

Business Interruptions Grants Program

BIG

ILLINOIS BUSINESS INTERRUPTION
GRANT PROGRAM (BIG)

Round 2: DCEO will accept applications for a second round utilizing an additional \$210 million, beginning September 17.

- **Enhanced mitigation regions will receive priority = Region 7 (includes Will County)**
- This wave will remain open until all of the funds have been used.
- Use the link below to access the program details and application.

Business Assistance Resources

- The Village of Homer Glen announces important updates on its COVID-19 Business Resources webpage, [click here](#) , and also uses eblasts to notify business owners.
- The Will County Center for Economic Development maintains a comprehensive list of business resources on their website, [Click here](#).

BUSINESS ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Village

- COVID-19 Small Business Assistance Loan Program, [Click here](#)
- **Is there need for additional Village financial assistance to small businesses?**

County

- **Will County Small Business Assistance Grant Program - NEW!** As part of the CARES Act funding, Will County launched a new \$24 million grant program in which eligible businesses can seek grants of up to \$15,000 to help offset financial challenges related to COVID-19. Applications are accepted August 24 through September 28, [Click here](#)

Business Assistance Resources

BUSINESS ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS (Continued)

State

- **Business Interruption Grants Program (BIG):** Check back for updates on future rounds of funding for small businesses, [Click here](#)
- **IL Department of Revenue Taxpayer Resources (Employers)** [Click here](#)

Federal

- **IL Economic Injury Disaster Small Business Loans (EIDL)** through the U.S. Small Business Administration [Click here](#)
- **Main Street Lending Program:** Program Overview, [Click here](#); Business Borrower's Page, [Click Here](#)

BUSINESS RESOURCES

- **Heritage Corridor Business Alliance**, serving Homer Glen and Lemont, [Click here](#)
- **Small Business Development Center (SBDC)** at Joliet Junior College, [Click here](#)
- **SCORE Mentors**, [Click here](#)
- **SCORE**, [Small Business Support Platform & Discussion Group](#)

Heritage Corridor Business Alliance

[ABOUT HCBA](#)

[MEMBERSHIP](#)



[PROGRAMS & EVENTS](#)

[ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT](#)

WELCOME TO Heritage Corridor Business Alliance

Working to help strengthen our area economy by being champions of the business community, offering networking opportunities and promoting our member businesses within the region.

[Join Now](#)

COVID-19

Response & Assistance

The Village Board will consider business owners' input when determining what additional small business assistance should be offered.

COVID-19

Response & Assistance

Questions and Suggestions?