

# ***Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity*** ***Funding opportunities for Fire Departments*** ***BIG & Local CURE***

## *Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) Assistance Programs*

1. For non-profits: Business Interruption Grant (**BIG**) Program
2. For local governments: Local Coronavirus Urgent Remediation Emergency (or **Local CURE**) Support Program



# The Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF)



- Section 5001 of the Federal CARES Act created the Coronavirus Relief Fund.
- Use of CRF is authorized in Section 5001 of the CARES Act and all subsequent guidance by the [US Treasury](#).
- The CARES Act requires that the payments from the Coronavirus Relief Fund only be used to cover expenses that—
  1. are necessary expenditures incurred due to the public health emergency with respect to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19);
  2. were not accounted for in the budget most recently approved as of March 27, 2020 (the date of enactment of the CARES Act) for the State or local government; and
  3. were incurred during the period that begins on March 1, 2020, and ends on December 30, 2020.

# The Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF)

- The General Assembly passed and Governor Pritzker signed into law [Public Act 101-0637](#) – the Fiscal Year 2021 budget, containing CRF funded programs at 5 state agencies.
- The Governor’s Office of Management and Budget published a report on Illinois’ Federal Coronavirus Response Funds and Anticipated Uses, which can be accessed [here](#). Programs included are:
  - State costs associated with PPE, alternative care sites, testing & contact tracing programs;
  - Rental & mortgage assistance program;
  - Mental health, substance abuse & other counseling services;
  - Pandemic stability payments for healthcare providers;
  - **Economic support for small businesses (BIG program);**
  - **Local government reimbursements (Local CURE program).**





# Overview: DCEO's COVID programs for Fire Protection



- **For volunteer fire departments** which are registered non-profits & located anywhere in Illinois:
  - Apply for a **BIG** program award – *details on the follow slides*
- **For fire departments which are part of a municipality or county government** AND are located outside of Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, or Will counties:
  - **Local CURE** has funds allotted for your local government - contact your local government's leadership about how they are using the allotment, make sure fire protection "public safety" costs are a priority.
- **For fire protection districts** which are considered their own unit of local government under the Illinois Constitution AND are located outside of Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, or Will counties:
  - Apply for assistance under **Local CURE's** Allotment C – *details on the following slides*



## DCEO's COVID programs: **BIG**

- 
- For volunteer fire departments
  - Must be a registered non-profit
  - May be located anywhere in Illinois

*Jonathan McGee – Deputy Director of Regional Economic Development*



# BIG Program



- Governor Pritzker and the General Assembly established the BIG program to provide relief to small businesses hit hard by the pandemic.
- \$540 million in grants are being awarded in funding rounds to small businesses to reimburse costs incurred due to COVID-19.
  - \$270 million specifically for childcare & early learning providers.
- \$49 million in grants awarded to 2,800 businesses in Round 1.
  - Round 1 focused on restaurants, personal services, gym and fitness, and businesses in severe disproportionately impacted areas.
- Equity-framework ensures business in communities disproportionately impacted by COVID, and historically marginalized, receive significant share of support

# BIG Program

## Round 2 – Overview



- \$200 million of the remaining funds will be available to all small businesses statewide that experienced losses due to the pandemic.
  - More than half of funds are earmarked for businesses downstate
    - “Downstate” includes all counties outside those that received direct support from the federal Coronavirus Relief Fund (Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, and Will).
  - \$70 million will be invested in disproportionately impacted areas (DIAs)
    - A map of DIA’s is [here](#).
  - \$60 million set aside for heavily impacted industries
  - Remaining funds will be available to any small business meeting [eligibility factors](#).
  - DCEO’s grant administration partner for Round 2 is Accion.

# BIG Program

## *Round 2 – Eligibility Factors and Key Priorities*



- Eligible businesses include for-profit and nonprofit entities with \$20 million or less in annual revenue in 2019 (annualized for businesses that started after January 2019) and experienced losses due to COVID-19.
- Grant size will be calculated based on revenue losses and/or expenses over the last two months, and will range from \$5,000 to \$150,000.
- Priority will be given to applicants that:
  - Did not receive PPP or other forms of emergency aid from the CARES Act or other governments
  - Are located in DIAs
  - Are subject to regional mitigation measures due to COVID resurgence
  - Have less than \$5 million in annual revenue

# BIG Program

## *Round 2 – Outreach and Technical Assistance*



- DCEO has partnered with Illinois nonprofits to assist hard-to-reach African American, Latino, and immigrant owned businesses in accessing resources to assist their business through COVID-19, including with access to BIG grants.
- DCEO's FirstStop Hotline, Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs), the Office of Minority Economic Empowerment (OMEE), and the Office of Regional Economic Development (Team RED) are also ready to assist.
- Contact information for our network of more than 60 technical assistance partners is available on the [DCEO BIG webpage](#).



# BIG Program

## *Round 2 - application*



**Applications are being reviewed and will be awarded on a rolling basis.**

- The application is live, click [here](#) to apply.
- All application support materials are available on the [BIG](#) webpage, go to [Illinois.gov/dceo](http://Illinois.gov/dceo) and click on [BIG](#).

*For assistance with your application, please submit a question to Accion via the following question submission form in either [English](#) or [Spanish](#).*



# BIG Program

## *Key Do's & Don'ts*



- **Do**: Take time to ensure your application is complete and accurate in advance of submitting.
- **Do**: Ask for assistance from the Help Desk in either [English](#) or [Spanish](#) if needed. [FAQs](#) are posted on DCEO's BIG webpage.
- **Do**: Save your answers in a separate document in case you experience any technical delays.

# BIG Program

## *Key Do's & Don'ts*



- **Don't:** Forget to double check your answers prior to submitting.
- **Don't:** Choose a heavily impacted industry, priority industry or DIA zip code if that is not applicable for your business. This will delay and negatively impact your consideration for a grant.
- **Don't:** Use an automatic form filling feature on your browser, it may populate incorrect information into your application.



# DCEO's COVID programs: **Local CURE**

- **For fire departments which are part of a municipality or county government**
  - Must be located outside of Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, & Will counties.
  - Your local government has been allotted funds under the program.
  - Connect with local government leadership on use of ["Allotment A"](#) Local CURE funds.
  - Encourage your local government's leadership to participate & cover fire protection COVID costs.





# DCEO's COVID programs: **Local CURE**

- **For fire protection districts which are considered their own unit of local government**
  - Must be located outside of Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, & Will counties.
  - Fire protection districts which are not under a county or municipality must apply for assistance under Local CURE's Allotment C.
  - Allotment C funding windows close every other Friday (next window closes 10/16 at 4pm) – apply soon to be included.
  - To apply complete the form [here](#), or visit [Illinois.gov/dceo](https://Illinois.gov/dceo) and click on “Local CURE” to learn more.





# Local CURE: FAQ check-in



**Q: What if we are a local government located *inside* Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, & Will counties?**

A: Local CURE was appropriated from the state's allotment of CRF. Under state law the program may only serve governments outside of this region. Please seek CRF assistance from your County's allotment.

**Q: What if we serve partially within the above region and partially out of the region?**

A: For fire protection districts serving a collar county AND an eligible county under Local CURE may seek assistance under Allotment C. Your application may receive a special condition due to the circumstance.

**Q: What if we are already participating in Local CURE under "Allotment C" and need more funds?**

A: Fire protection districts already participating in Allotment C may seek additional funding through the Allotment C application, but only after existing funds are drawn.



# Local CURE – *a local government support program*



- A local government assistance program which applies to all units of local government (as defined by the Illinois Constitution, Article VII, Section 1) outside of Cook, Lake, Will, Kane, & DuPage counties.
- "Units of local government" means: Counties, Municipalities, Townships, and special districts, and units, designated as units of local government by law, which exercise limited governmental powers or powers in respect to limited governmental subjects; BUT
  - **Does not include School Districts**
- Local CURE allots funds based on proportionate population for Counties, Municipalities, & Local Public Health Departments.
  - All other units of local government apply for assistance under the program.

# Local CURE's Allotments



- Local CURE is a reimbursement program and has allotted funds for different parts of the program.
- **Allotment A**: allocates \$200M for Counties and Municipalities.
- **Allotment B**: allocates \$12.5M for Local Health Departments.
- **Allotment C**: allocates \$20M in applications for all other types of local government located in eligible counties.
  - Applications are still being accepted – next round closes October 16<sup>th</sup>.
  - Click [here](#) to apply or visit [Illinois.gov/dceo](http://Illinois.gov/dceo) and click on Local CURE, follow the directions for “Allotment C funding”.



# Local CURE – Three steps to participate

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1. **Certify:** Complete the certification process by reviewing, signing, & returning the local government certification form. All certifications have been emailed to the point of contact for the program. Please check internally before reaching out. If you cannot find the original certification please email [David.Parr@Illinois.gov](mailto:David.Parr@Illinois.gov).
  2. **Register:** This step establishes a login with credentials into the portal. The Local CURE team at Crowe have or will send an invitation to register in the portal to the point of contact.
  3. **Submit:** Submit reimbursement requests electronically through the portal. All expenditures must include 1) proof of payment / back-up documentation for the expenditure and 2) justification on how the cost is eligible under the Local CURE program.

# Local CURE – Eligible costs



- **Medical expenses**, including but not limited to: expenses of establishing temporary public medical facilities and other measures to increase COVID-19 treatment capacity, costs of providing COVID-19 testing, and emergency medical response expenses;
- **Public health expenses**, including but not limited to:
  - expenses for communication and enforcement by local governments of public health orders related to COVID-19, including the purchase of media for public health messages related to mask wearing and social distancing,
  - expenses for establishing public health programs like one to reimburse businesses for public health measures such as PPE, installation of plexiglass barriers, touchless hand sanitizer stations in public places, and other such expenses;

# Local CURE – Eligible costs (payroll)



- **Payroll expenses** for public safety, public health, health care, human services, and similar employees whose services were **substantially dedicated** to mitigating or responding to COVID-19;
  - What does substantially dedicated mean?
    - *governments may presume that public health and public safety employees meet the substantially dedicated test, unless the chief executive (or equivalent) of the relevant government determines that specific circumstances indicate otherwise*



# Local CURE – Eligible costs (payroll)

- **What public safety and public health employees are covered?**
  - Public safety employees would include police officers (including state police officers), sheriffs and deputy sheriffs, firefighters, emergency medical responders, correctional and detention officers, and those who directly support such employees such as dispatchers and supervisory personnel. Public health employees would include employees involved in providing medical and other health services to patients and supervisory personnel, including medical staff assigned to schools, prisons, and other such institutions, and other support services essential for patient care (e.g., laboratory technicians) as well as employees of public health departments directly engaged in matters related to public health and related supervisory personnel.



# Local CURE – Eligible costs (payroll)

- What documentation is needed?



<b>Documentation needed for claiming Public Safety payroll:</b>		
<b>Title</b>	<b>Documentation needed</b>	<b>Justification Narrative needed</b>
Public Safety Employees	(1) General and subsidiary ledgers used to account for the receipt of CRF payments and subsequent disbursements; (2) Payroll, time, and human resource records to support costs incurred for payroll expenses per employee (e.g. payroll report); and (3) a summary (or lead sheet) to link the amount requested for reimbursement to the supporting documentation files.	Statement indicating, positions are "substantially dedicated public safety employees"
Public Safety Related Administrative Employees		Statement and/or timesheet records indicating the hours included were "substantially dedicated to mitigating or responding to COVID-19"



# Local CURE – Eligible costs (continued)



- **Expenses for actions taken to facilitate compliance** with COVID-19 related public health measures;
- **Any other COVID-19 related expenses** reasonably necessary for the unit of local government to respond to the public health emergency that satisfies the Local CURE Program eligibility criteria. Local governments **must** document how expenses are related to COVID-19.



# Local CURE

*Nonexclusive list of costs ineligible for reimbursement:*



- Governmental revenue shortfall replacement;
- Damages covered by insurance;
- Payroll or benefits expenses for employees whose work duties are not substantially dedicated to mitigating or responding to the COVID-19 public health emergency;
- Expenses associated with provision of economic support in connection with COVID-19;
- Reimbursement to donors for donated items or services;
- Workforce bonuses other than hazard pay or overtime;
- Severance pay;
- Legal settlements;
- Indirect costs or administrative costs; and
- Incurred expenses that have been or will be reimbursed through another State or federal funding opportunity.



# Local CURE – Reimbursable expenditure test

*If “TRUE” can be answered for all of the below, Local CURE funds may be used*



- The expense is connected to the COVID-19 emergency.
- The expense is “necessary”.
- The expense is not filling a short fall in government revenues.
- The expense is not funded thru another budget line item, allotment or allocation, as of March 27, 2020.
- The expense is not being reimbursed through a different emergency response program.
- The expense wouldn’t exist without COVID-19 OR would be for a “substantially different” purpose.
- The expense was incurred between March 1, 2020 and December 30, 2020. “Incurred” means services were performed or goods were received by the local government between March 1, 2020 and December 30, 2020. Payment need not be made during this time, but must be made before January 31, 2021.

# Local CURE – updated guidance



- **Public health & Public safety employee payroll** and related fringe costs are considered eligible payroll expenses under the “substantially dedicated to mitigating or responding to COVID-19” umbrella and can be claimed under Local CURE.
  - Written guidance from DCEO can be accessed [here](#).
  - DCEO will hold a webinar on payroll claiming on October 16<sup>th</sup>, visit the Local CURE webpage or click [here](#) to register.
- **Costs related to implementing CDC best practices** are an encouraged use of the Local CURE program’s funds.
  - DCEO has released guidance which ties CDC recommended actions to a local government’s potential costs, click [here](#) for the guidance.

If you have questions or need technical assistance, please reach out!

Thank You!

[LocalCure@crowe.com](mailto:LocalCure@crowe.com)

[Ceo.teamredinquiries@illinois.gov](mailto:Ceo.teamredinquiries@illinois.gov)



**Illinois**  
**Department of Commerce**  
& Economic Opportunity

JB Pritzker, Governor