



Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity

JB Pritzker, Governor

Report to the Restore Illinois Collaborative Commission July 31, 2020

This report is submitted in response to ILCS 20 605/605-1045, requiring the Department to submit a report not less than every 30 days, beginning July 1, regarding the status of current and proposed economic revitalization efforts in response to the COVID-19 crisis. This report will be updated monthly through the end of calendar year 2020.

The report to the Commission provides a brief summary of the Restore Illinois plan and metrics and a summary of ongoing recovery efforts, including:

- Support to impacted businesses through grants, loans, and other forms of relief.
- Support to residents through job training and other services for low-income residents, such as LIHEAP and basic needs assistance.
- Targeted support in communities most impacted by this crisis through grants, technical assistance, and outreach.

Members of the Restore IL Collaborative Commission met via WebEx on Tuesday, July 28th with Illinois Department of Public Health (“IDPH”) Director Dr. Ezike Ngozi and IDPH staff. Department staff will work with the Commission to schedule future meetings.

Restore Illinois

Central to Governor Pritzker’s strategy for containing the spread of COVID-19 while encouraging a safe economic recovery is the Restore Illinois plan. Restore Illinois outlined a data-driven approach to safely reopening the economy over a 5-phase progression. This plan relied on core health metrics (COVID test positivity rates, hospital admissions, ICU and other hospital capacity indicators) that must be stable or declining before progressing to a new phase. Each phase recognized distinct business, education, and recreation activities that can safely operate in accordance with guidance informed by IDPH, public health experts and the latest science. By late June, all Illinois regions had advanced to Phase 4 – the revitalization stage.

On July 15, Governor Pritzker announced [Actions to Combat a Resurgence of COVID-19](#), an update to the Restore Illinois plan designed to avoid and mitigate a potential resurgence of cases, instead maintaining the progress the state has made towards bending the curve over the last four months. Illinois remains an outlier with lower hospitalization and infection rates and one of the highest rates of testing in the U.S. The resurgence plan recognizes that the state is in its strongest position to combat the virus since the pandemic began, with a robust testing operation regularly yielding more than 30,000 tests per day, expanded tracing operations with 1,450 contact tracers, a growing stockpile of personal protective equipment, and hospital surge capacity. The plan also

accounts for months of additional data and research as public health experts reach a greater scientific understanding of this virus and how it spreads.

The resurgence prevention plan outlines three tiers of general and industry-specific mitigations that can be acted upon to prevent a renewed spread of COVID-19. To provide for a more granular approach, mitigation will be applied on a regional basis based on the 11 Emergency Medical Services regions. These strategies reflect a tailored and surgical alternative to reverting to an earlier Phase as originally envisioned.

The following metrics will be used to determine when the spread of the virus in a region requires additional mitigation measures:

- Sustained increase in 7-day rolling average (7 out of 10 days) in the positivity rate and one of the following:
 - o Sustained 7-day increase in hospital admissions for a COVID-19 like illness
 - o Reduction in hospital capacity threatening surge capabilities (ICU capacity or medical/surgical beds under 20%)
- OR three consecutive days averaging greater than or equal to 8% positivity rate

Some mitigation strategies in higher risk settings, like indoor bars and restaurants, will be automatically applied in a region that meets resurgence criteria to prevent rapid spread of COVID-19. A larger list of mitigation strategies relating to settings like retail, fitness, and salons and personal care will be available if testing and contact tracing data at the local level indicate those mitigations to be prudent.

A complete explanation of the updated mitigation strategy is available in Appendix 1.

State of Illinois Support for Businesses, Communities and Families – July 31, 2020

Update

Information provided below provides an update on new or existing program initiatives since the initial Restore Illinois Collaborative Report was delivered to the Commission on July 1, 2020.

Resources for Businesses

Given the significant impacts businesses face in the current climate, the State has established various business assistance programs aimed to help small businesses with the most urgent needs and designed in a way to ensure assistance is accessible by all Illinois communities.

Business Interruption Grant (BIG) Program -- DCEO

- Appropriation amount: \$540 million funded by the CARES Act.
- BIG will provide relief for costs incurred to qualifying businesses due to COVID-related business interruption.
- Half of the funding will be allocated to assist childcare providers across the state with reopening in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. Licensed childcare providers that meet the eligibility criteria may apply for Child Care Restoration Grants to help ensure that employees with children will have safe childcare options. The application has opened and providers can apply through August 14 at <https://www.inccrra.org/>. Grant awards are planned for August 2020 and the program will be administered by the Illinois Network of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (INCCRRA).
- At least 30% of all funds across the program are dedicated to Disproportionately Impacted Areas (DIAs), or low-income areas that have had high rates of COVID-19 cases. DCEO may exceed that level depending

on business need and application selection. 175 zip codes across the state have been identified as a DIAs with the majority being outside Chicago. (See Appendix 2 for a map of DIAs.)

- DCEO received applications for the first \$60 million round of grants for small businesses in late June and early July. Those applications are under review and awards will be disbursed shortly. The first round includes funds for the following businesses in targeted sectors statewide:
 - Bars and Restaurants (\$20 million) - 1,000 grants of up to \$20,000 for bars and restaurants unable to offer outside service. At least 50% of businesses must be located in a DIA.
 - Barbershops and Salons (\$10 million) - 1,000 grants of \$10,000 each. At least 50% of businesses must be located in a DIA.
 - Gyms and Fitness Centers (\$10 million) - 500 grants of \$20,000 each. At least 30% of businesses must be located in a DIA.
 - Businesses located in Severely Impacted DIAs (\$20 million) - 1,000 grants of \$20,000 each for businesses that are located in a subset of DIAs where property damage due to civil unrest occurred, though funding will not pay directly for repair or replacement of damaged private property.
- DCEO has issued a Notice of Funding Opportunity for an administrator or administrators to oversee distribution of BIG grants under future rounds.
- In preparation for the next round of Business Interruption Grants, DCEO has held 15 meetings with over 50 representatives from local economic development partners and industry stakeholders to collect information on the impact of COVID-19 on the Illinois economy. These meetings included local and regional economic development organizations and local governments, in addition to trade associations and business owners in industries impacted by COVID.

Rebuild Distressed Communities – DCEO

- Rebuild Distressed Communities is a \$25 million economic recovery program to support Illinois businesses that have sustained property damage as a result of civil unrest during protest and demonstrations on or after May 25th, 2020.
- The program will prioritize small businesses, underinsured or uninsured businesses, businesses that have a high community impact – such as grocery stores – and businesses in communities that have experienced historic disinvestment. It also includes provisions to prioritize partnerships with BEP-certified contractors to do the repair work.
- DCEO has issued a NOFO to identify one or more partners to serve as an administrating agency for this program. By the end of August, businesses will be able to apply to these partners for assistance.

DCEO Downstate Small Business Stabilization Program

- \$20 million program using federal Community Development Block Grant funds for small businesses in suburban and rural counties across Illinois, providing grants of up to \$25,000 to small businesses in communities served by DCEO's Office of Community Development.
- These grants will offer businesses of up to 50 employees the opportunity to partner with their local governments to obtain grants of up to \$25,000 in working capital.
- The second round of downstate small business stabilization grants has been awarded, deploying \$1.9 million in grants to 94 businesses across 25 downstate communities. This program has now awarded \$3.2 million and additional grants will be offered on a rolling basis until funds are exhausted.

Advantage Illinois Loan Payment Relief -- DCEO

- Advantage Illinois is DCEO's loan participation program for small businesses. It partners with local banks to provide a low-interest option for small businesses looking to expand operations.
- DCEO is encouraging and automatically approving adjustments to the terms of existing Advantage Illinois and FAME loans. These adjustments could include either 3 months of no payments or 6 months of interest-only payments.
- As of late July, 15 companies have received more than \$313,000 in relief.

Support for Residents and Families

The following programs were established to provide financial relief in the form of grants, emergency services, regulatory protection, and more to households and families facing hardships during this crisis

Help Illinois Families - Emergency Support for Households (Low Income Home Energy Assistance Block Grant and Community Services Block Grant) -- DCEO

- A \$275 million program, including \$90 million from the CARES Act that bolsters existing programs to provide food, rent, utilities, temporary shelter, medicine and other essential household services to lower income families impacted by the COVID-19 crisis.
- Eligibility for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) in fiscal year 2021 has been expanded from 150% to 200% of the Federal Poverty Level. As a result, an additional 1 million income-qualified Illinoisans will be eligible for assistance this year. Applicants will be served on a first-come, first-served basis until funding is exhausted.
- LIHEAP provides assistance to lower income households to receive assistance with home energy services, including heating and cooling.
- The Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) program supports projects that lessen poverty in communities; address the needs of low-income individuals including the homeless, migrants and the elderly; and provides services and activities addressing employment, education, housing, nutrition, emergency services and health.
- DCEO has launched a new remote application process that will provide applicants the option to begin the intake process online or over the phone with the assistance of a live agent. The State's new website and call center is accessible for all residents – with assistance provided in English and Spanish, and other languages assisted through translation.
- Since the Help Illinois Families initiative was launched June 15, DCEO has received 34,800 requests for assistance through the on-line pre-application form, signed up 14,000 customers for LIHEAP benefits, and provided 8,000 residents with services through CSBG.

Rental and mortgage assistance -- IHDA

- Governor Pritzker extended the moratorium on evictions until August 22 to protect renters unable to pay due to the economic distress created by COVID crisis, while also minimizing the spread of the virus by not forcing residents to move to new housing or shelters.
- IHDA received \$396 million in funds from the CARES Act to provide grants to individuals impacted by COVID-19 for emergency rental assistance, emergency mortgage assistance and subordinate financing, of which at least \$100 million is designated for grants to individuals that reside in DIAs.
- The Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERA) consists of \$5,000 grants to provide emergency rental assistance to Illinois tenants who are unable to pay their rent. The program will launch in August 2020 and run through the end of the year, and is expected to reach approximately 30,000 renters.
- The Emergency Mortgage Assistance Program (EMA) consists of grants up to \$15,000 to provide support with mortgage payments to low-income homeowners with mortgage arrearages, or in forbearance. The

program will launch in August 2020 and run through the end of the year, and is expected to reach approximately 10,000 homeowners.

Job Training and Placement

The state offers a range of workforce training and assistance programs, which are being recalibrated to assist both employers and workers in the wake of the COVID-19 crisis.

Apprenticeship Training Grants – DCEO

- On July 14, the administration announced that DCEO is awarding grants to 25 organizations across the state to expand training programs and employer partnerships, with an emphasis on growth in underserved communities.
- The \$4.7 million investment announced in July will expand the Illinois Apprenticeship Program to serve an additional 568 residents in training programs over the next two years. With this expansion, the Illinois Apprenticeship Program will see a record level of investment of \$20 million and will serve a record 17,000 participants in 2020.
- This investment is made possible by a \$2.8 million grant from the U.S. Department of Labor awarded to DCEO as well as \$1.9 million in discretionary workforce funds invested by the state.
- Residents can learn more about how to access these programs at <https://www2.illinois.gov/dceo/Media/PressReleases/Pages/PR071420.aspx>.

Get Hired Illinois – DCEO

- In May, the Governor announced the launch of Get Hired Illinois – a new portal designed to connect workers with available job and career training opportunities across the state of Illinois.
- More than 400 new employers have signed up for Get Hired since the website launched, adding 129 virtual job fairs and 12,660 job listings to the portal. In total, this portal provides Illinois job seekers access to nearly 60,000 jobs connected through the state's webpage.

Coursera On-Line Workforce Training – DCEO

- The State of Illinois has partnered with Coursera, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Northwestern University, and the University of Chicago to offer free online career training geared toward helping Illinoisans who have lost their jobs due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Free virtual training courses will provide training and credentialing that will help ready dislocated workers for jobs in Information Technology (IT) and other marketable fields.
- TechReady Illinois is also included in the partnership with Illinois and Coursera offering a set of their courses through the Coursera Platform. The TechReady Illinois is an effort to help Illinois residents hurt by COVID-19 gain new digital skills at steeply discounted tuition rates.
- Since June 1, 4,453 invitations were sent through Illinois workNet to individuals interested in taking courses on the Illinois IT Training on Coursera. Of these, 2,768 learners created an account and 2,017 enrolled in one or more courses.

Disaster Recovery National Dislocated Worker Grant -- DCEO

- DCEO was awarded \$8,325,000 from the National Dislocated Worker Grant Program to prioritize services to individuals most impacted by the crisis, including low wage and traditionally lower skilled individuals who have been laid off or furloughed.

- Funds will be utilized to address immediate actions to stabilize families during this unprecedented time of work separation. Illinois will also utilize the funds to support humanitarian and cleanup recovery needs by providing Disaster Relief Employment.
- Eight Local Workforce Innovation Areas (LWIAs) applied for and received funding to support 367 eligible individuals with Disaster Relief Employment, Occupational Training and Support Services.

Employment Recovery National Dislocated Worker Grant -- DCEO

- DCEO was awarded \$8,325,000 from the National Dislocated Worker Grant Program to provide workers with essential skills training and incumbent worker training targeted at specific industries (including but not limited to hospitality and restaurants) where low skilled and low wage workers who have been disproportionately impacted by this crisis.
- Illinois will provide employment and training services to dislocated workers to assist them in obtaining unsubsidized employment, adapting the types of services and the delivery of services to meet the changing economy and changing customer needs while following health emergency safety practices and requirements, including abiding by Illinois' Stay-at-Home orders.
- Eight Local Workforce Innovation Areas (LWIAs) applied for and received funding to support 930 Dislocated Workers with Career, Training and Support Services.

Summer Youth Employment Program – IDHS

- The Governor announced on July 16 that State has dedicated \$9.3 million to support the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) to provide training and find work for young people aged 16-24 amidst the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.
- The program will employ 2,400 young adults statewide between June and August and support dozens of worthwhile projects across some of the counties that have been hardest hit by COVID-19.

Technical Assistance and Outreach

Many of those that have been hardest hit by this crisis are also those that may have the most difficulty or least experience accessing government support.

Office of Minority Economic Empowerment – DCEO

- OMEE promotes economic development opportunities for all minority communities across the state through targeted programs, resources, and advocacy.
- From March through late July 2020, OMEE had hosted 126 webinars and workshops with more than 3,350 attendees on DCEO COVID-19 State and Federal programs, Restore Illinois guidelines, BIG technical assistance, business support, and other assistance as needed.

Rapid Response Services for Layoff Aversion and Job Training – DCEO

- Rapid Response is a proactive, business-focused program to avert layoffs and plant closing through quick coordination of service and the provision of immediate aid to companies and their affected workers.
- When layoffs cannot be averted, laid off workers are connected to job training and placement services.
- Rapid Response teams have worked with 247 businesses since March to provide services to mitigate layoffs that affected approximately 28,000 workers. \$3.5 million in layoff aversion funds have been awarded.

Regional Economic Development Outreach (Team RED) – DCEO

- DCEO has conducted extensive outreach to a wide range of constituencies to ensure businesses are familiar with available programs and assistance. Through July 23, DCEO has conducted COVID-19 related outreach for at least 6,285 small businesses, 327 local chambers of Commerce and 435 economic development organizations.
- Team RED has also launched outreach to local units of government regarding CURE program assistance. This outreach includes emails to approximately 5,600 special taxing districts, 1,000 phone calls and webinars for a collective 1,500 attendees.

Appendix 1. Restore Illinois Actions to Combat a Resurgence of COVID-19

(see next page)

Actions to Combat a Resurgence of COVID-19

From the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, Illinois followed the science and listened to public health experts by putting mitigations in place and then deliberately and gradually lifting many of them. As other states see their cases and positivity rates surge, Illinois has one of the lowest positivity rates in the nation because we let public health guide our decisions.

Even so, the virus is still out there and as mitigations are lifted, it is likely that cases will rise. The administration is committed to being fully prepared for any resurgence and transparent with the public as to what that planning looks like. Just as Illinois took a gradual and regional approach to safely reopen our state, Governor Pritzker and the Illinois Department of Public Health have put forward a deliberate plan that will utilize several layers of mitigations to combat a resurgence of COVID-19 and prevent uncontrollable spread.

This plan recognizes that the state is in its strongest position to combat the virus since the pandemic began, with a robust testing operation regularly yielding more than 30,000 tests per day, expanded tracing operations with 1,450 contact tracers, a growing stockpile of personal protective equipment, and hospital surge capacity. The plan also accounts for months of additional data and research as public health experts reach a greater scientific understanding of this virus and how it spreads.

This updated guidance establishes a menu of mitigation options organized by risk level. The following health metrics will be used to determine when the spread of the virus in a region requires additional mitigations:

What Could Cause a Region to Become More Restrictive?

- Sustained increase in 7-day rolling average (7 out of 10 days) in the positivity rate

AND ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

- Sustained 7-day increase in hospital admissions for a COVID-19 like illness
- Reduction in hospital capacity threatening surge capabilities (ICU capacity or medical/surgical beds under 20%)

OR

- Three consecutive days averaging greater than or equal to 8% positivity rate

Mitigations will be applied on a regional basis based on the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Regions that have traditionally guided IDPH in its statewide public health work. Expanding to 11 regions allows for a more granular approach in this phase of the response to COVID-19. The new regions follow county lines to account for counties that are in more than one region of the EMS system. The new regions are as follows:

1. **NORTH:** Boone, Carroll, DeKalb, Jo Daviess, Lee, Ogle, Stephenson, Whiteside, Winnebago
2. **NORTH-CENTRAL:** Bureau, Fulton, Grundy, Henderson, Henry, Kendall, Knox, La Salle, Livingston, Marshall, McDonough, McLean, Mercer, Peoria, Putnam, Rock Island, Stark, Tazewell, Warren, Woodford
3. **WEST-CENTRAL:** Adams, Brown, Calhoun, Cass, Christian, Greene, Hancock, Jersey, Logan, Macoupin, Mason, Mason, Menard, Montgomery, Morgan, Pike, Sangamon, Schuyler, Scott
4. **METRO EAST:** Bond, Clinton, Madison, Monroe, Randolph, St. Clair, Washington
5. **SOUTHERN:** Alexander, Edwards, Franklin, Gallatin, Hamilton, Hardin, Jackson, Jefferson, Johnson, Marion, Massac, Perry, Pope, Pulaski, Saline, Union, Wabash, Wayne, White, Williamson
6. **EAST-CENTRAL:** Champaign, Clark, Clay, Coles, Crawford, Cumberland, De Witt, Douglas, Edgar, Effingham, Fayette, Ford, Iroquois, Jasper, Lawrence, Macon, Moultrie, Piatt, Richland, Shelby, Vermillion
7. **SOUTH SUBURBAN:** Kankakee, Will
8. **WEST SUBURBAN:** DuPage, Kane
9. **NORTH SUBURBAN:** Lake, McHenry
10. **SUBURBAN COOK:** Suburban Cook
11. **CHICAGO:** City of Chicago



All public health criteria included in this document are subject to change. As research and data on this novel coronavirus continue to develop, this plan can and will be updated to reflect the latest science and data.

Once a region meets the resurgence criteria, the following tiered menu of mitigation options will be considered. If sustained increases in health metrics continue unabated, further mitigations could be added from additional tiers.

Actions to Combat a Resurgence of COVID-19

Triggers: (1) sustained increase in positivity rate and A) sustained increase in hospital admissions or B) reduction in hospital capacity threatening surge capabilities; or (2) $\geq 8\%$ positivity rate over three consecutive days

SETTING	TIER 1	TIER 2	TIER 3
Bars and restaurants	Reduce indoor dining capacity and suspend indoor bar service	Suspend indoor dining and bar service	Suspend in-person dining; takeout only
Hospitals	Reduce elective surgeries and procedures; limit visitation at hospitals; implement twice daily bed-reporting	Suspend elective surgeries and procedures; implement surge capacity; assess need to open Alternate Care Facility	Open Alternate Care Facility
Meetings, social events and religious gatherings	Additional limits on gatherings and room capacity	Greater limits on gatherings and room capacity	Strictest limit to gatherings and room capacity
Offices	Institute remote work for high risk individuals; continued emphasis on telework for as many workers as possible	Reduce office capacity with recommendations to resume remote work where possible	Institute remote work for all non-essential workers
Organized group recreational activities & gyms* (fitness centers, sports, etc.)	Reduce indoor capacity	Suspend organized indoor recreational activities	Suspend organized indoor and outdoor recreational activities
Retail*	Reduce in-person capacity	Suspend in-person non-essential retail; online and curbside pick-up available for all	Suspend all non-essential retail; only essential retail open (i.e. grocery stores, pharmacies)
Salons and personal care*	Institute temporary location shutdown tied to outbreak	Institute temporary location shutdown tied to outbreak with possible broader mitigations	Suspend salon and personal care operations

* Optional measures based on a region's on-the-ground condition. This list is not exhaustive and other industries may be added if indicated by the data.

Appendix 2. Map of Disproportionately Impacted Areas for Business Interruption Grant Program

