Steps to recovery for Northeastern IL businesses affected by Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Small Business Survival Guide

Coronavirus (COVID-19)
Northeastern IL

Updated: April 7, 2020
Unprecedented but not unmanageable

Businesses all over Illinois are feeling the stifling effects of Coronavirus (COVID-19) with many business owners concerned about long-term business impact. This simple guide provides essential information for weathering the pandemic and leveraging the wide range of resources available to help you to stay in business. The situation with the virus is fluid. Visit www.clcillinois.edu/sbdc-itc frequently or contact the Illinois Small Business Development & International Trade Center for the latest information at (847) 543-2033 or IllinoisSBDC@clcillinois.edu.

Get emergency financial assistance for your business
Some businesses may need financial support to help them maintain operations during the downturn caused by Coronavirus (COVID-19). Thankfully, there are a number of resources available.

SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loan program (EIDL)
Click here for an overview of the SBA’s EIDL program and access to the loan application portal.

If you experience problems completing your loan application contact SBA Disaster Loan Assistance by phone at 1-800-659-2955 (TTY/TDD: 1-800-877-8339) or email at disastercustomerservice@sba.gov.

Illinois DCEO Small Business Emergency Loan Fund program (SBELF)
Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity (DCEO) provides emergency assistance to businesses through this fund. Click here to learn about the program and access the application site.

Contact Illinois DCEO customer service at CEO.Support@Illinois.gov for questions about these grant and loan programs.

Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act program
The federal government approved a 2 trillion dollar stimulus package that includes a variety of relief programs for small businesses. Click here to learn more about all CARES programs and here for information about the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), which provides businesses with forgivable payroll loans. Applications are not yet available for the PPP but updates will be provided as they become available.

SBA Express Bridge Loan Program
The SBA provides eligible small businesses with expedited working capital while they wait for long-term disaster funding. Click here to learn about the program.
If you have other questions or problems related to Coronavirus (COVID-19) contact the Small Business Development & International Trade Center at College of Lake County by phone at 847-543-2033 or by email at IllinoisSBDC@clcillinois.edu.

Reduce spread of the virus
First things first! Slowing the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) is critical to recovery efforts and small business owners should do their part. Click this link for information from the CDC about how to reduce the spread of the virus. Similarly, understanding virus symptoms and knowing what to do in case of illness is also important. Click here for a list of Coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms and here for information about what to do if you or people you work with get sick.

Help your people
Unemployment benefits may be available to some individuals whose unemployment is attributed to Coronavirus (COVID-19). The Illinois Department of Employment Services (IDES) recently adopted emergency rules to make unemployment benefits available to qualifying individuals. Please review this link for information about those benefits.

Additionally, employees can check into the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) (formerly Food Stamps) which helps low-income people and families buy the food they need for proper health. Click this link for additional information about SNAP.

While we cannot give definitive answers about utilities, we can offer connections to service providers that are offering support during the pandemic.

Commonwealth Edison
NICOR Gas
Verizon

T Mobile
AT&T
Xfinity

Make operational adjustments
Savvy business owners will consider making changes to the way business is conducted during a pandemic.

Not having a disaster plan during a disaster can be tough, but rarely is it too late to plan. Click here for tips on creating an emergency preparedness plan and here to learn about cost-cutting measures.

Click here to learn about employees, contractors and workplace safety from the U.S. Department of Labor and here to see Illinois Department of Labor information. Click here to read about changes to tax reporting deadlines from the Internal Revenue Service.
Comply with federal, state and local guidelines
In order to operate your businesses optimally you should understand the decisions made by our elected leaders and the information they provide to support your success. Click here to see Illinois’ Economic Injury Declaration. Note that Lake County businesses can now apply for disaster assistance loans. Click here for a list of essential and nonessential businesses regarding Coronavirus (COVID-19) business closures.

Click here for the Illinois disaster proclamation and here for Lake County emergency/disaster declarations.

Leverage local expertise
In addition to the resources listed above, there are others in Lake County who want to help. Click the links below to learn more about your local resources.

- Congressman Brad Schneider
- Lake County Government
- Lake County Health Department
- Lake County Workforce Development
- Lake County Partners
- Lake County Municipalities, economic development and chambers of commerce
- Illinois Small Business Development & International Trade Center at College of Lake County