

In This Issue...

- Receive up to \$30K for Your Business!
- Home Sweet Home for the Holidays
- Holiday Parking: Shoppers Can Park Longer This Holiday Season!
- Business Registration Renewals Due by December 29
- Illinois EPA: Electric Vehicle Rebate Program Funding
- Small Business Development Center: No-Cost Business Counseling
- Community Navigator Business Support Program
- Hello Alice Small Business Grant Program
- SCORE Mentoring & Webinars: Low and No Cost Business Services
- Contacting the Office of Business Development

Receive up to \$30K for your Business!



Illinois B2B NewBiz will provide financial relief to businesses that started during the pandemic in the industries most impacted by the pandemic. Businesses that started during the pandemic have not been eligible for state grants and most federal emergency support provided for emergency relief to small businesses thus far.

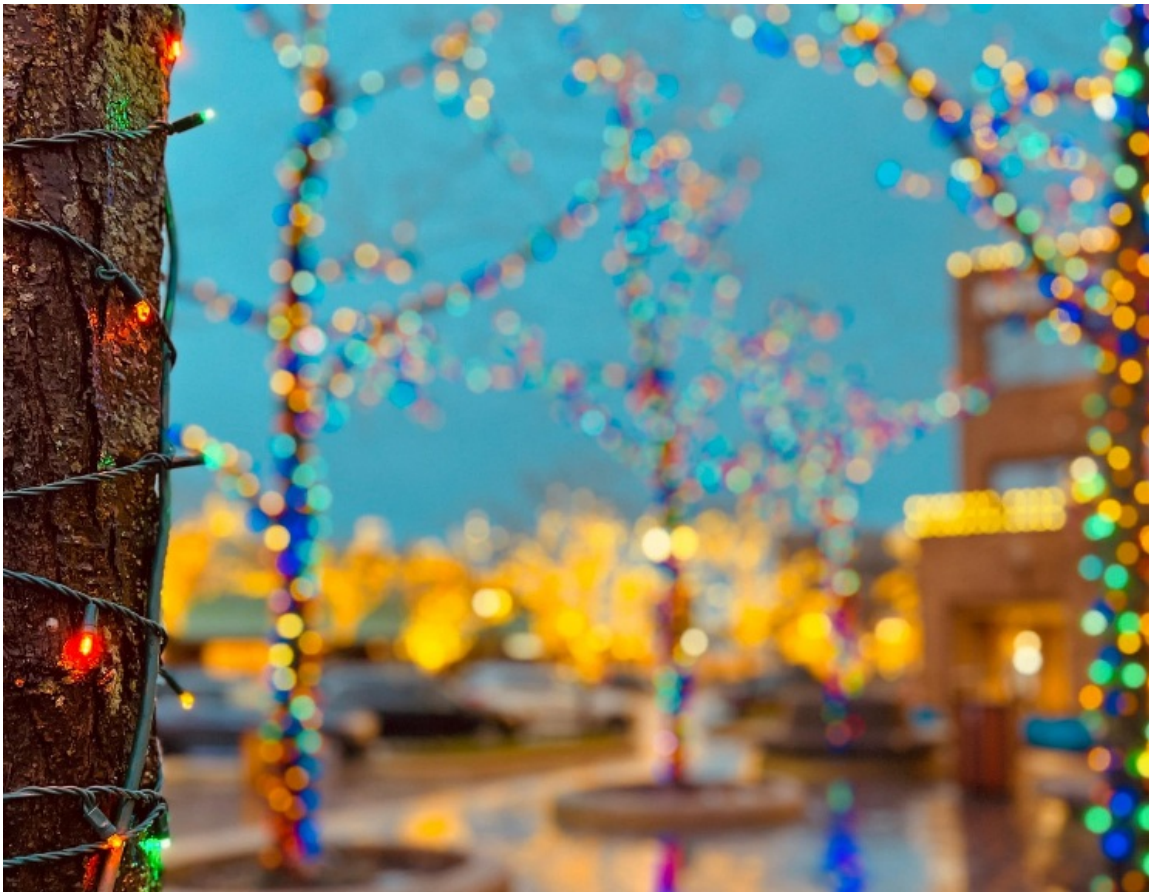
Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible for a grant award under Illinois B2B NewBiz, for-profit businesses and nonprofit organizations must meet all the criteria listed below:

1. Started operations between January 1, 2020, and December 31, 2021.
 2. Had gross receipts of at least \$25,000 and up to \$20,000,000 in 2021 (annualized if started during 2021).
 3. Currently active operations in Illinois.
 4. Have not received a Back to Business (B2B) grant prior to 2023.
 - Business Interruption Grant (BIG), Back to Business (B2B) Grant issued prior to 2023, Shuttered Venue Operators Grant (SVOG), or Restaurant Revitalization Fund Grant (RRF).
1. Must meet one of the following two criteria:
 - The business or nonprofit is in a priority industry as defined for the previous Back to Business program
 1. A list of priority industries and their definitions can be found [here](#).
 - The business is majority owned by an individual or individuals that became eligible for and received unemployment insurance benefits – including from Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) – between March 13, 2020, and the date the business began operations.

[Visit this link](#) for detailed information about program eligibility.

Home Sweet Home for the Holidays



Highland Park is "[Home Sweet Home for the Holidays!](#)" as holiday fun continues in Downtown Highland Park!

Save the date for the following holiday event:

December 16, 2-4 PM, Port Clinton Square: Hot Cocoa Crawl throughout participating downtown Highland Park businesses and Gingerbread House making located and sponsored by Renaissance Place, with carolers and elves.

"Home Sweet Home for the Holidays" events in Downtown Highland Park are presented by the Downtown Highland Park Alliance. The Ravinia District Cookie & Cocoa Crawl is presented by the Ravinia District Special Service Area #17 property owners.

Visit [enjoyhighlandpark](http://enjoyhighlandpark.com) for more information!

Shop Local and Park Longer This Holiday Season!



Please inform your customers that they will be able to shop local and park longer this holiday season! The City of Highland Park encourages residents and visitors to shop and dine locally this holiday season with extended parking hours **through Friday, January 5, 2024.**

Parking restrictions will be suspended at all municipal parking lots. There will be no time limit enforced at these public lots. Disabled parking, fire hydrant zones, loading zones, and on-street customer-only parking will remain in effect. Permit parking will remain in effect during these parking holidays. Employee parking restrictions will be strictly enforced.

Please note: EV charging areas will be enforced to give multiple individuals the opportunity to use the service.

A list of available on and off-street parking lots and garages can be found at www.cityhpi.com/parking. A complete list of Highland Park retail and restaurant locations can also be found at [Enjoy Highland Park](http://enjoyhighlandpark.com).

For more information, please contact the City Manager's Office at

New 2024 Business Registration Renewal Process

SET UP YOUR NEW ACCOUNT!

It's time renew your 2024 business registration and license(s). You must sign up for a *new* account online and complete the payment process by 5pm, December 29. [Here is the link to a User Guide with detailed instructions to assist with account set up.](#)

The steps for account set up are also outlined below:

- 1) [Click here](#) to visit the Self Service payment portal.
- 2) Click on the “**Login or Register**” box to access a “**Sign in**” box.
- 3) **Scroll down to the bottom of the “Sign in” box** and follow the instructions for “**Don't have an account? Sign up.**”

- 4) Click the “**Sign up**” link and complete the instructions.

NOTE: Enter the email address with which you used to register your business in previous years. If you do not remember that email address or aren't sure, contact the City via email at cmolicense@cityhpil.com or by phone at 847.926.1000 for assistance.

- 5) You should now be in your business Dashboard where you can access permits and licenses for renewal. If you do not see that information, contact the City via email at cmolicense@cityhpil.com or by phone at 847.926.1000 for assistance.

- 6) Click the “**renew**” button(s) to follow the steps for license renewal.

Thank you for your cooperation in this effort.

Illinois EPA : Electric Vehicle Rebate Program Funding



Illinois EPA Electric Vehicle Rebate Program Funding

[The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency](#) (Illinois EPA) is announcing that the next funding round for Illinois' Electric Vehicle (EV) Rebate Program will open Wednesday, November 1, 2023, and run through Wednesday, January 31, 2024. Individuals who purchase a new or used all-electric vehicle from an Illinois licensed dealer, meet all other eligibility requirements, and apply during the rebate cycle will be eligible for a rebate as long as funds are available. Questions about the EV Rebate Program may be submitted to EPA.EV@Illinois.gov.

Small Business Development Center: Low and No-Cost Business Services



[Small Business Development Centers](#) (SBDC) are located throughout the state and provide information, confidential business guidance, training, and other free resources for start-ups and existing small businesses. If you need help with a business plan, marketing, financial bookkeeping, finding grants, starting and growing a business, click [HERE](#). To find a Center near you, click [HERE](#). Please note that many SBDCs do provide Spanish assistance. If you need help finding an SBDC that provides Spanish assistance, please contact Diana Alfaro at diana.alfaro@illinois.gov.

Community Navigator Business Support Program

[Community Navigators](#) is a support program to assist small businesses, particularly minority, women, rural, and veteran-owned businesses. They provide outreach to raise awareness on federal and state programs, and provide 1:1 technical assistance, etc. For more information, please click [HERE](#).

Hello Alice Small Business Grant Program



Discover small business grants for every stage of your small business adventure. Grant opportunities are recommended based on your unique profile and delivered to your inbox weekly. The search for free money doesn't get any easier! In partnership with the Global Entrepreneurship Network (GEN) and with funding from Etsy and Progressive, [Hello Alice](#) is a free online platform that helps businesses launch and grow through every step of their entrepreneurial journey. The Small Business Growth Fund provides small business owners with knowledge, funding, networking opportunities, and peer-to-peer connections with more than one million small business owners.

[Learn about Hello Alice funding opportunities.](#)

SCORE Mentoring at the Highland Park Public Library & Free Webinars

SCORE offers in-person or virtual sessions using phone, email, or video

All sessions are free and confidential. SCORE mentors are successful business professionals, some retired, some working, from all industries and experiences.



SCORE recently added a new [YouTube channel](#) where all previously recorded webinars can be accessed.

To schedule an in-person or virtual session, visit score.org/northchicago and register to "Find a Mentor". You will be asked to provide the nature of your business interest. Please include whether you prefer in-person or virtual mentoring (phone, email, video) and note the **Highland Park Public Library** even if you prefer a virtual session.

Upcoming December Webinar:

- **December 16: Understanding Business Loan Proposals**

[Click here for more information](#)

Contacting the Office of Business Development

This newsletter is produced by the City of Highland Park's Office of Business Development. The City encourages business owners and managers to share information regarding upcoming events, promotions or news for possible inclusion in the City's marketing modalities, including [The Weekender](#), [Enjoy Highland Park](#), and [social media](#). Please send these items to the City via email to: businessdevelopment@cityhpil.com. The City reserves the right to edit and/or filter submissions.

For general business inquiries and assistance, contact Business Development Manager Carolyn Hersch at chersch@cityhpil.com or 847.926.1027.

Additional Resources

[Available Commercial Space](#)

[Business Directory](#)

[City of Highland Park Business Development Strategic Plan](#)

[Chamber Of Commerce](#)

[College of Lake County Small Business Development Center](#)

[Hello Alice](#)

[SCORE](#)

[SCORE YouTube Channel](#)

[U.S. Small Business Administration](#)

[Job Center of Lake County - Business Services](#)

[Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity:](#)

- [Small Business Development Centers of Illinois](#)
- [Community Navigator Business Support Program](#)
- [Grant Opportunities](#)

[Visit Lake County](#)

[Women-in-Business Resources](#)

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