

September 30, 2020



Business Development

eNews

Illinois Department of Labor Launches Back to Business Illinois

The Illinois Department of Labor (IDOL) has announced the launch of Back to Business Illinois, a free, voluntary service to connect small businesses of 250 employees or fewer with consultants who will help them evaluate and address workplace safety and health issues related to COVID-19. The consultants will create a plan for small businesses that promotes a safe, healthy, and productive environment for workers and customers. Back to Business Illinois health and safety consultants in IDOL's Workplace Safety and Health Consultation Division will help local small businesses audit their physical operation, identify best practices, and find ways to implement them efficiently.

Since every industry presents unique work environment challenges, each consultant will be paired with applicants based on their expertise and specific needs to customize the best plan for their business.

The Illinois Department of Labor will also be offering a free, voluntary "Back to Business" certification designed to show workers and customers that the small business has participated in the program.

Businesses can voluntarily complete a series of online modules and then institute the necessary practices to promote a safe work environment. The online guidance and education program will emphasize areas including basic infection prevention, physical space modification, infectious disease planning, employee monitoring, and workplace flexibility.

This is a non-punitive program, and no fines or citations are associated with it. It is designed entirely as a benefit to empower Illinois small businesses to continue operating safely.

For more information on the Back to Business Illinois program, visit the official website illinois.gov/worksafe

DINE & DISCOVER

Curbside
Pick-up
Delivery
Dine-Out
or Dine-In



Explore the Many Flavors of Highland Park

NEW RESTAURANTS!

Bright Bowls
Vegan, Juice Bar
& Smoothies
770 Central Avenue
847.504.9019
www.brightbowls.com

Lao Sze Chuan
Award winning authentic
Chinese cuisine
1935 Sheridan Road
847.780.3198
www.laoszechuanhp.com

Madame ZuZu's
A multi-media venue featuring
a plant based café, retail, art,
and entertainment
1876 First Street
www.madamezuzus.com

Pixca Seasonal American Bistro
A farm to table restaurant working
with local farmers to bring the
freshest ingredients to every meal
455 Central Avenue
847.926.3189
www.pixcarestaurant.com

Abigail's American Bistro, Arriva Dolce Gelato & Coffee Bar, Backyard Grill, BBQ Pit Ribhouse & Grill, Bella Via Ristorante, Bluegrass, Cafe Dacha, Coffee Speaks, Country Kitchen, Curt's Cafe, Happi Sushi, Il Forno Pizza, Jade Cafe Chinese, Judy's Pizzeria, Koya Japanese, La Casa De Isaac & Moishe, Love's Highland Park, Max's Restaurant Deli & Bakery, Michael's Grill & Salad Bar, Mizrahi Grill, New China, New York Slices, Norton's, Once Upon A Bagel, Perfect Blend, Phoenicia, Piero's Pizza, Players Grill, Ravinia Brewing Co., Ruby of Siam, Salt Creek Tacos, Shaevitz Uptown BBQ, Sushi Badaya, Sushi Kushi Too, Sweet Home Gelato, Tamales...A Mexican Joint, Taqueria Los Mogotes De Michoacan, That Little French Guy, True Juice, Viaggio, Walker Bros., Yummy Bowl

 City of Highland Park

cityhpil.com/ThingsToDo

HPHS Sidewalk Chalk Day

On Tuesday, October 6, Highland Park High School students will be decorating the sidewalks of Downtown Highland Park to celebrate 113Viral Rivalry Week. Students will be assigned a corner to decorate with no more than 3 students per corner. Face coverings will be worn at all times and social distancing maintained.



EMPLOYEE TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT TOOL FOR LAKE COUNTY SMALL BUSINESS!

CARES Act Funded - No Cost, No Obligation

Staying open and capturing revenue opportunities during Coronavirus requires businesses to stay sharp and innovate. Continuous learning is a competitive advantage. TAD (Talent Assessment & Development) is an online platform that provides businesses of any size with a continuous learning resource. Businesses will be able to:

- ✓ Assess employee skills
- ✓ Identify training needs
- ✓ Create individual and companywide development plans
- ✓ Deliver high-quality, training programs on a wide range of business topics with many no-cost and low-cost options
- ✓ Analyze and report employee development data

Apply Now

Click here to complete a short application



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State of Illinois Accepting Applications For The Second Round of BIG Grant Funding

Applications for the second round of funding are now being accepted and can be found [HERE](#). A total of \$220 million will be made available for small businesses of all types in Illinois. Grants will be awarded and funded on a rolling basis until funding is depleted.

The grant size will be equivalent to two months of expenses.



The BIG program is open to all eligible businesses (for-profit and nonprofit) with \$20 million or less in annual revenue in 2019 and experienced losses due to COVID-19. Of the total funding, \$70 million will be invested in Disproportionately Impacted Areas (DIAs) and \$60 million in heavily impacted industries. A map of the DIAs and the eligibility guidelines can be found on our website, however all businesses in Illinois can apply if they meet the criteria, regardless of zip code. The heavily impacted industries are defined as having annual revenues of \$10 million or less, and have been closed or operating at a very diminished capacity since mid-March and are likely to continue to do so until Phase 5 of the Restore Illinois Plan. These industries include the following:

- Event spaces
- Music venues
- Performing arts venues
- Indoor recreation
- Amusement parks
- Movie theaters
- Museums
- Charter/shuttle buses

DCEO is hosting webinars on the program, and advance registration is currently being accepted for these sessions:

- [October 7, 9:30 - 10:30 AM](#)
- [October 14, 9:30 - 10:30 AM](#)
- [October 21, 9:30 - 10:30 AM](#)



Lake County is holding its third live Virtual Town Hall on Wednesday, September 30, at 7 p.m. Hosted by Lake County Board Chair Sandy Hart, panelists will discuss the most current information about how COVID-19 is impacting Lake County, relief efforts including programs that have provided funding to Lake County businesses and residents who have been financially impacted, and information about voting in the November General Election. [Register to attend here.](#)

SBDC Recovery Assistance Training

Cash Resiliency

Thursday, September 24 OR

Thursday, October 8
9AM - 12PM

Discover tactics for identifying sources of cash in the next 90 days and solving immediate, short-term and long-term cash flow challenges.



Register for all programming at tinyurl.com/y3bwaoo8

Additional Resources

SCORE

Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity industry-specific guidelines and tool kits

COVID-19 Emergency Resources For Businesses - Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity

Emergency Small Business Grant & Loan Assistance - Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity

COVID -19 Small Business Survival Guide - Illinois Small Business Development & International Trade Center

Illinois Department of Revenue COVID -19 Tax Relief

Illinois Department of Insurance (DOI)

Highland Park Chamber of Commerce COVID-19 Toolkit

Lake County Health Department

NorthShore University HealthSystem

Illinois Department of Public Health

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

For general business inquiries, contact the City's Business Development Manager Carolyn Hersch at chersch@cityhpil.com.

For more information on the City's response to COVID-19,

contact the City's Communications Manager Amanda Civitello at acivitello@cityhpil.com.

This newsletter is produced by the City of Highland Park's Office of Business Development. If you have information you would like to include in this bi-weekly mailing, please submit information, photos, and news to Melissa Rosen at mrosen@cityhpil.com. The City reserves the right to edit and/or filter submissions. No pricing information will be published.

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