

May 20, 2020

 City of Highland Park

Business Development

eNews

Virtual Town Hall Meeting for Businesses



On Friday, May 22 at 8:00 AM, the City of Highland Park will host a virtual town hall meeting for businesses to discuss the reopening preparedness and impacts of COVID-19. Following updates from the City, the Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity and the CEO of the Illinois Restaurant Association will present information as well as best practices. Attendees will also have an opportunity to ask questions. While this town hall is designed to provide a forum for local business owners, all are welcome to attend.

For more information, please contact the Office of Business Development at 847.926.1027. The call-in information for the meeting is as follows:

Dial-in: 312 626 6799

Webinar ID: 844 6552 3987

Password: 443895

View the Agenda [HERE](#)

Restore Illinois Plan for Reopening – Update

The earliest any region could expect to enter Phase 3 is on May 29, but this is not a given and is dependent on public health metrics for each region. No timeline has been set for any region to progress through the phases of Restore Illinois.

Earlier this month, Governor Pritzker announced the five-phase [Restore Illinois plan](#) to reopen the state's economy on a regional basis, [providing a region meets certain benchmarks](#). All four regions in the state are currently in Phase 2, and **each region must demonstrate that it has successfully met minimum metrics in order to progress to the next phase**. The City of Highland Park is in the Northeast Region of the state. All Illinoisans may [monitor the IDPH Restore Illinois Reopening Metrics](#) on the IDPH website.

According to the IDPH, as of today all four regions of the state are reporting encouraging statistics. However, IDPH has not advanced any region of the state to Phase 3 at this time. **The earliest any region could expect to enter Phase 3 is on May 29, but this is not a given and is dependent on public health metrics for each region. No timeline has been set for any region to progress through the phases of Restore Illinois.**

The governor filed emergency rules Friday, May 15, 2020, which can punish businesses for violating regulations set by the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH). Businesses can face Class A misdemeanor charges and fines ranging from \$75 to \$2,500. Less than a year of jail time is also a possibility. In addition, Governor Pritzker said the state can revoke the business' liquor license or impose a closure order by IDPH.

Although we do not yet know when the Northeast Region will be cleared to advance to Phase 3, there are a number of actions business owners can take now to prepare for the eventual expansion of services. Visit [our website](#) for important information regarding relief for business owners and resources for reopening. The City will continue to add resources as information becomes available. Business owners should also familiarize themselves with guidance issued by the [Illinois DCEO](#).

The City of Highland Park is deeply committed to the success of our business community, and understands the gravity of the impact of COVID-19 on our local economy. The Office of Business Development continues to support small business owners with regular communication and assistance, and staff are available to respond to inquiries and offer guidance. Please contact the Office of Business Development at 847.926.1027 with any questions you may have.

Celebrate 2020 Graduates In Your Store Windows

Congratulations to our seniors. We understand this is a challenging time for them and so many others in the community. The City has with HPHS and there are banners posted throughout the community to recognize our HS seniors.

Consider honoring this years graduating seniors by placing a sign or decorating your store windows to celebrate all that these young people have achieved.



Small Business and Non-Profit Business Equipment Grants

The Lake County Workforce Development Board recognizes that COVID-19 has put a difficult burden on our business and non-profit community. As a response, the Workforce Board is working with the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) to provide small businesses and nonprofits with reimbursement grants during this health crisis. These grant funds can help you equip your business with strategies that assist in mitigating layoffs and adhering to “social distancing” provisions established by state and federal health entities. Allowable Strategies and Costs include the following:

- Payment for special cleaning & sanitization services
- Purchase of software and hardware for remote working
- Cost of conversion to call center/remote work environments
- Cross functional or transitional training
- Production of essential goods and services needed to support COVID-19 response

Essential businesses should contact the [Lake County Workforce Development Board](#) to learn more about the program and receive a copy of the grant application.

FEDEX Small Business Grants

FedEx is Offering \$1M in Small Business Grants. Each grant recipient will receive \$5,000, plus a \$500 credit from FedEx Office that can be used for printing banners, posters, floor graphics, custom branded boxes, and more.”



More information is available [HERE](#). FedEx will open grant applications May 25, 2020, through June 12, 2020.

Restrictions apply. More information about restrictions [HERE](#).

Business for All – Hello Alice Grants

\$10,000 COVID-19 Business for All Grants are awarded on a rolling basis.

NOTICE OF RULES

CHANGE: The Sponsor has changed the Official Rules:

In order to provide COVID-19 Emergency Grants more quickly, the Sponsor has eliminated the last three rounds of COVID-19 Grant Contest judging and will conclude that contest on July 16, 2020. For full details, see the amended Official Rules [HERE](#).



Other Grants Available through Business for All – Hello Alice
General Business for All Grant applications are due September 25, 2020 at 12:00 am PT.

Apply for grants up to \$50,000 to support business growth, including \$10,000 emergency COVID-19 Business for All Grants to help small businesses in crisis. Join leaders such as Gwyneth Paltrow, Kristen Bell, Lisa Price, Armando Christian "Pitbull" Perez, and Jeff Hoffman to empower every American with an entrepreneurial spirit.

businessforall.helloalice.com

Water System Precautions for Idle Buildings

Earlier this month, Governor Pritzker announced the five-phase [Restore Illinois plan](#) to reopen the state's economy on a regional basis, providing a region [meets certain benchmarks](#). While a timeline has not been set and the Governor's Updated Stay at Home Order remains in effect, many businesses are beginning to develop reopening plans. Special attention should be paid to the buildings' water systems.



If your building or facility has been mostly vacant for several weeks or longer, the water in your internal plumbing is stale from sitting idle. Unused water that has been sitting in pipes for extended periods may appear cloudy or have an unpleasant taste or odor. Depending on the building and its plumbing, Legionella, metal leaching, and other hazards can also pose a health risk.

Commercial and institutional building water systems are not designed for prolonged periods of inactivity and should be flushed thoroughly prior to use.

Click here for [detailed guidelines to flush your facility's water system](#) and prepare for a safe reopening of your business.

Utilities Resources & Information

Assistance from North Shore Gas

If you cannot pay your gas bill, please call 1-888-NICOR4U to establish payment arrangements if needed. Do not ignore bills or your gas may be shut off.

Nicor Gas EEP Program

As businesses reopen and haven't used their equipment in a few months, consider having your equipment checked. Contact the Nicor Gas EEP program at 877-886-4239 or visit nicorgas.com for information about free assessments and/or grants if you need to upgrade/replace your equipment.

Additional Resources

Essential Business FAQs - Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity

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.**

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