

Downstate Small Business Stabilization Program

To support small businesses in downstate and rural counties across Illinois, DCEO is repurposing \$20 million in CDBG funds to stand up the Downstate Small Business Stabilization Program. This Fund will offer small 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. These grants will be offered on a rolling basis.

Who is eligible?

Local governments can apply on behalf of businesses with 50 employees or less. Only cities, villages, and counties that are not a HUD direct entitlement community or located in an urban county that receives “entitlement” funds are eligible to apply.

Communities receiving an annual allocation directly from HUD on an entitlement (formula) basis are not eligible to apply for the State’s CDBG funding. Businesses located in the following counties and municipalities are therefore NOT ELIGIBLE for this program.

Urban Counties

Cook County	Madison County	DuPage County	McHenry County
Kane County	St. Clair County	Lake County	Will County

Metropolitan Cities

Arlington Heights	DeKalb	Naperville	Rock Island
Aurora	Des Plaines	Normal	Schaumburg
Berwyn	Elgin	Oak Lawn	Skokie
Bloomington	Evanston	Oak Park	Springfield
Champaign	Hoffman Estates	Palatine	Urbana
Chicago	Joliet	Pekin	Waukegan
Cicero	Kankakee	Peoria	
Danville	Moline	Rantoul	
Decatur	Mount Prospect	Rockford	

What can grants be used for?

Grants can be used to support working capital.

How do businesses apply?

Businesses in the eligible areas should work with their local governments to submit applications.



[Downstate Small Business Stabilization Application](#)

How much money is available?

Grants of up to \$25,000 per business will be available.

How soon will businesses receive funds?

DCEO’s goal is to execute grants within 30 days of application receipt, after which funds will be accessible.