

Back to Business (B2B) Grants for Restaurants, Hotels & Creative Arts Businesses

Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO)



Illinois
Department of Commerce
& Economic Opportunity

JB Pritzker, Governor

Back To Business Programs

- The Back to Business (B2B) grant program provides recovery grants for businesses in the hardest-hit industries.
- Eligible restaurants, hotels and creative arts businesses are eligible to apply for \$175 million in available grant funding.
- All applicants will receive a grant as long as they meet eligibility requirements, submit proper documentation and attestations required by the program.
- The program design for B2B Restaurants, B2B Hotels, and B2B Arts, respectively, are based on legislation which established the Restaurant Employment and Stabilization Grant Program (20 ILCS 605/605-1100), Hotel Jobs Recovery Grant Program (20 ILCS 605/605-1095), and the Illinois Creative Recovery Grant program (30 ILCS 709/40).



DCEO Partners

- **NCRC CDF:** Through a competitive application process DCEO selected National Community Reinvestment Coalition Community Development Fund (NCRC CDF) to support with application review, provide technical portal support for applicants, manage the development of the application portal and provide support in processing payments.
- **Submittable:** Submittable is a sub-awardee to NCRC CDF and the entity who will be running the online portal.
- **Community Navigators:** Over 100 community navigators are available across the state to provide support and to help navigate the application process.



Important Dates & Resources

March 21-April 4: Pre-Application

- Prepare to apply ahead of application opening.
- Reach out to Community Navigators for support.
- Resources available at Illinois.gov/B2B.

April 5-May 10: Application Open

- Application is open; apply during this time period.
- Link to application will be available on Illinois.gov/b2b and [NCRC's website](https://www.ncrc.org).



Important Dates & Resources Cont.

- For program questions:
 - Reach out to [Community Navigators](#)
- For portal/application questions:
 - Reach out to our partners
NCRC/Submittable: ncrccdfgrants@submittable.com

June-July: Awards disbursed

- Like prior rounds of funding, applicants will have the opportunity to appeal if they feel they met the eligibility criteria and were denied a grant.



Overview of All 3 Programs

All businesses that meet the eligibility requirement and submit the proper documentation and attestations will receive a grant through the program.

- **Restaurant Employment and Stabilization Grant (B2B Restaurants) - \$50M**
 - Up to \$50,000 for restaurants or taverns with 50 or fewer employees.
- **The Hotel Jobs Recovery Grant (B2B Hotels) - \$75M**
 - Up to \$1,500 per room.
- **The Illinois Creative Recovery Grant (B2B Creative Arts) – \$50M**
 - Up to \$250,000 in grants for arts & cultural organizations.



	B2B Restaurants	B2B Hotels	B2B Arts
Funding Available	\$50 million	\$75 million	\$50 million
Award Range	\$5,000-\$50,000	Up to \$1,500 per room	\$5,000-\$250,000
Impact of Receiving Prior Award	<p>Ineligible if business received any prior state relief funding (B2B, BIG, RRF) or more than 10K in local funding.</p> <p>Businesses who received federal funds, such as PPP <u>are eligible</u>.</p>	Amount of state or local grants received deducted from overall award amount.	Grant based only on 2021 losses for businesses that received prior state relief funding (BIG or B2B).
Spending Guidelines	Flexible spending to support losses	80% for payroll related costs; 20% flexible spending	Flexible spending to support losses
Examples of Eligible Businesses	Restaurants Taverns Bars Caterers Breweries Wineries Food Trucks	Hotels Motels Inns Lodging sites	Performing and presenting arts Theaters Museums Arts education Cultural heritage organizations

Eligibility & Application Documents – All Programs

- Independently owned and operated for-profit corporation or limited liability corporation, partnership, or sole proprietorship authorized to conduct business in the State of Illinois, or a nonprofit in Illinois and registered as a 501c organization
- Business must be in good standing with the Illinois Secretary of State.
- Businesses that received federal COVID-19 relief funding such as PPP and EIDL are eligible.
 - Eligibility for receiving B2B, BIG, and RRF differs per program.
- Business must have been established by March 12, 2020.
 - Restaurants and creative arts businesses established in early 2020 are eligible to receive \$5,000.



Eligibility & Application Documents – All Programs

- **Application Documents Required for All Programs:**
 - **Business Owner/Nonprofit Leader Identification:** Driver's license, State ID, Passport, CityKey
 - **Tax Returns:** Tax Returns required
 - Specific years vary by program but may include 2019, 2020, and 2021



Ineligible Businesses– All Programs

- A government-owned business entity
- A private club or business that limits membership for reasons other than capacity
- A business engaged in activities that are prohibited by federal law or applicable law in the jurisdiction where the business is located or conducted.
- A business primarily engaged in political or lobbying activities
- A business principally engaged in teaching, instructing, counseling, or indoctrinating religion or religious beliefs, whether in a religious or secular setting
- A night club or strip club
- A pawn shop
- A liquor store
- Permanently closed businesses



Back to Business Restaurants



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B2B Restaurants – Eligibility

- **Business Type:** Restaurants, taverns, bars, caterers, breweries, wineries, food trucks, street vendors
 - Full list can be found in the eligibility documents on [Illinois.gov/b2b](https://www.illinois.gov/b2b)
- **Eligibility:**
 - 50 or fewer employees
 - In operation by March 12, 2020 and still in operation
 - Experience a loss in earned or contributed revenue of at least \$5000 due to economic disruptions related to the COVID-19 pandemic



B2B Restaurants – Eligibility

- Has not received state or local pandemic funding, including:
 - Restaurant Revitalization Fund (RRF)
 - Illinois Back to Business Grants (B2B)
 - Illinois Business Interruption Grants (BIG)
 - Any other local or state program that provided over \$10,000 in grants or loan forgiveness
- Restaurants that received federal PPP or other federal relief beside RRF **ARE ELIGIBLE** to apply



B2B Restaurants – Awards and Grant Spending Guidelines

- **Award Size:** Award size will be based on losses incurred, based on tax information submitted, up to \$50,000.
 - The number of applicants may also impact the award amounts.
- **Award Spending Guidelines:**
 - Funds must be spent within a year of award and attestation will be required.
 - Any funding not spent within a year must be returned.



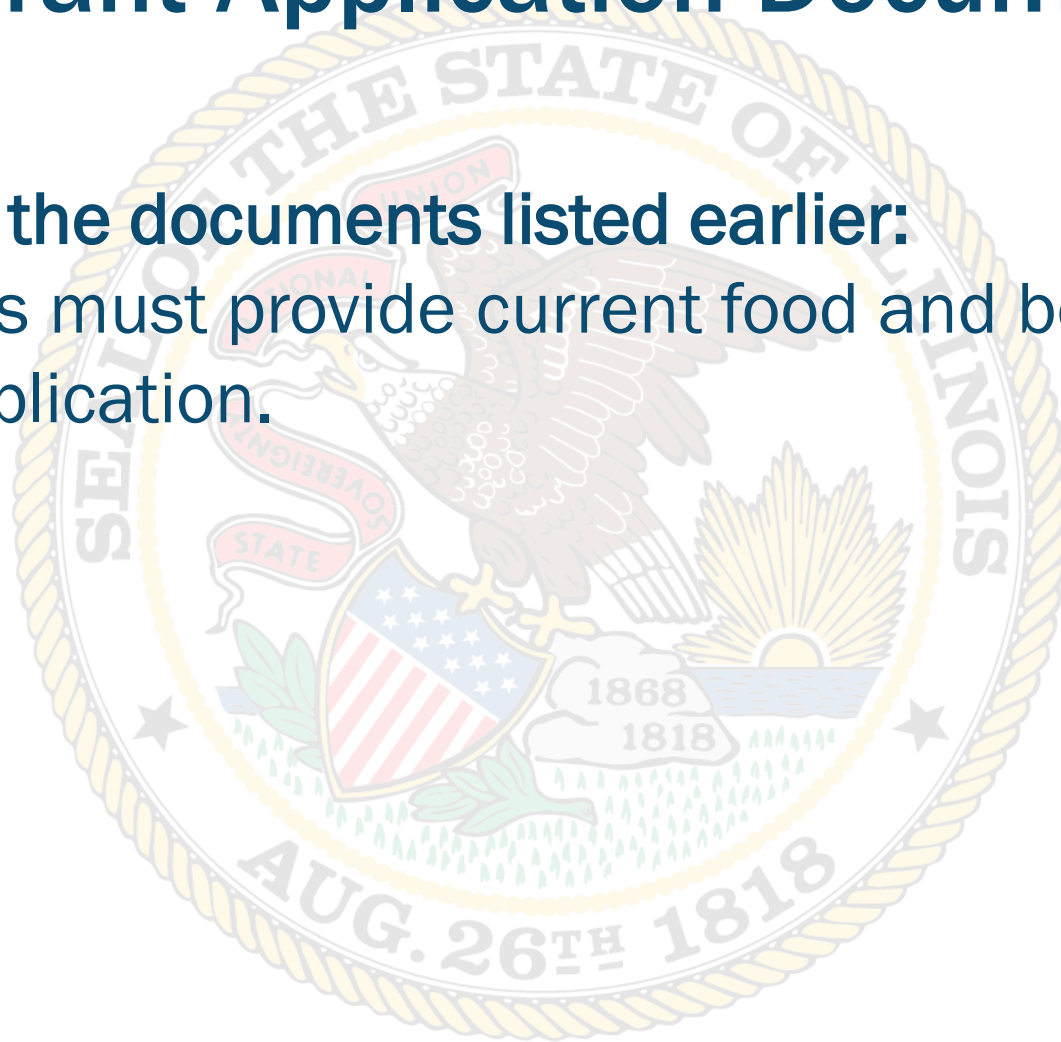
B2B Restaurants – Awards and Grant Spending Guidelines Cont.

- **Eligible Expenditures:**
 - Payroll costs
 - Paid sick leave
 - Employer contributions to employee health care costs
 - Payments of principal or interest on any mortgage obligation
 - Rent payments, including rent under a lease agreement
 - Utilities
 - Maintenance
 - Operational expenses



B2B Restaurant Application Documents

- In addition to the documents listed earlier:
 - Businesses must provide current food and beverage license at time of application.



Back to Business Hotels



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B2B Hotels – Eligibility

- **Business Type:** Hotels, motels, inns, lodging sites
 - Full list can be found in the eligibility documents on Illinois.gov/b2b
- **Eligibility:**
 - In operation by March 12, 2020 and still in operation today.
 - Short-term and/or vacation rentals are NOT eligible.
 - Prior recipients of state COVID-19 funds (e.g. BIG, B2B) are eligible to apply.
 - Amount previously received under BIG or B2B will be deducted from total award.



B2B Hotels – Awards and Grant Spending Guidelines

- **Award size:** Based on the number of rooms, up to \$1,500 per room.
 - All prior state & local pandemic funding will be subtracted from total amount awarded.
 - The number of applicants may also impact the award amounts.
- **Award Spending Guidelines/Eligible Expenditures:**
 - Funds must be spent within a year of award and attestation will be required.
 - 80 percent of the funding must be spent on payroll/employee related costs, including payroll, paid leave/other employee benefits, employee contributions for healthcare, etc.
 - 20 percent of funding is flexible based on the needs of the business.



Back to Business Arts



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B2B Arts – Eligibility

- **Business Type:** Performing or presenting arts, venues, museums, cultural heritage organizations, Arts education organizations
 - Full list can be found in the eligibility documents on Illinois.gov/b2b
- **Eligibility:**
 - In operation by March 12, 2020 and still in operation today.
 - Prior recipients of state COVID-19 funds (e.g. BIG, B2B) **are eligible** to apply.



B2B Arts – Awards and Grant Spending Guidelines

- **Award size:** Based on losses, either gross receipts (for businesses) or revenues (for non-profits) with a maximum award of \$250,000.
 - Applicants that previously received a BIG or B2B grant must use tax year 2021 as the comparison year.
 - The number of applicants may also impact the award amounts.
 - For non-profits, award will be based on declines in earned revenue, contributed revenue, or total revenue, whichever is greater.



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Resources for Assistance

- DCEO [Team RED](#), [Team OMEE](#), [First Stop Business Center](#)
- [Community Navigators](#)
- [Small Business Development Centers](#)
- NCRC: ncrccdfgrants@submittable.com
- [Arts Alliance Illinois](#): support@artsalliance.org
- Website for Program Information: Illinois.gov/B2B
 - Eligibility Guidelines for each program
 - FAQs for each program





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