



April 6, 2020

The Illinois Downstate Business Stabilization Program allows small businesses in your community to apply for a grant of up to \$25,000 to cover the cost of 60 days of working capital. Unlike traditional state assistance programs, businesses do not apply directly to the state. Rather, they apply through a unit of local government (ULG). Peoria County has offered to serve as the ULG and applicant for all businesses within the county.

Greater Peoria EDC is working on behalf of Peoria County to help organize the effort. Greater Peoria EDC will not be judging the merits of applications, just that all materials are properly submitted and that the business is eligible.

As part of its work, GPEDC has built an on-line portal to assist businesses to understand the program and submit application. The application portal is available at the top of www.gpcovid.com. The deadline for submission is 5 p.m. this Friday, April 10. DCEO regulations require that all applications are subject to a public hearing which itself needs to be noticed seven days in advance. Immediately following the public hearing, the County Board will convene for a special public meeting to pass resolutions supporting the applications. Applications are then packaged and forwarded to DCEO for a final decision.

This is the current timeline:

Application Window Opens -- Now

Application Window Closes -- April 10 @ 5 pm

Public Notice in Journal Star -- April 15

Public Hearing -- April 23

Special County Board Meeting - April 23

Applications Sent to DCEO - Week of April 27

There are two documents that are linked in the business section at <https://bartonville.org/#>

- A two-page explanation of the program that you can share with businesses in your community.
- A document that outlines the program in a bit more detail.

Please do not hesitate to contact Michelle Carr-Bruce, clerk@bartonville.org if you have any questions. I look forward to helping your businesses receive this much needed help.

Thank you!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michelle Carr-Bruce".