



**McHenry County
Department of Planning and Development**

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County Extends Immediate Business Relief Grant Deadline

WOODSTOCK, IL – McHenry County has extended the deadline for small businesses suffering financial hardship because of the COVID-19 pandemic to apply for the Immediate Business Relief Grant program.

Eligible businesses that serve the food service, accommodation, arts, entertainment, and recreation sectors now have until 10 a.m. Friday, Jan. 15, to apply for the \$15,000 grants, which can be used to reimburse expenses incurred by the business from March 1, 2020 to Dec. 30, 2020. Many grants are still available on a first come, first served basis until the extended deadline expires.

To be eligible, businesses must be located within McHenry County and must have been in business for at least two years as of Sept. 1, 2020. They must employ between two and 25 employees, and must be able to demonstrate at least \$25,000 in lost revenue for any six-month period between March and October. To date, the most common reasons for ineligibility have been that the business was not in the above list of eligible industries, or because the business had already received a state Business Interruption Grant.

A complete list of eligibility requirements and restrictions can be found at <https://bit.ly/38nBEuE> - business owners are encouraged to read the list in full before applying. Eligible businesses must apply through an application portal called "Neighborly," and must first complete an applicant profile; they can do so by visiting <https://portal.neighborlysoftware.com/mchenrycountyil/participant>.

Awards can be expected to be made to selected businesses by the end of January. Business owners can email McHenryCountyComDev@mchenrycountyil.gov with questions.

McHenry County businesses of all sizes, and their employees, can find a one-stop shop for COVID-19 resources at www.resumemchenrycounty.com.