



Nov. 25, 2020

Peoria Heights to administer new business relief program

Peoria Heights business owners whose bottom lines have suffered because of the pandemic will be eligible for a one-time grant up to \$5,000 to help reimburse them for lease, mortgage and utility obligations incurred over the last eight months.

The Peoria Heights Commercial Expense Reimbursement Grant Program is made



possible by \$250,000 in funding from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO).

To qualify, local businesses must be able to show that their monthly revenues between March 1 and Oct. 31 of this year have decreased by at least 25 percent compared to the same period in 2019.

Applications are available on the [Village's website](#) or at Village Hall at 4901 N. Prospect Road. The dollars will be distributed on a first-come, first-serve basis until the fund is exhausted. Documentation must be provided for mortgage, lease and utility expenses. There will be about a 10-day turnaround between application approval and check in hand.

The program is similar to the COVID-19 emergency subsidy grant that the Village offered last May out of locally generated dollars from the community's two



Business Development Districts. For that, local businesses received up to \$1,500 to help cover mortgage and lease payments. All in all, 82 Heights businesses received more than \$110,000 in total through the program, which local officials termed a “resounding success.”

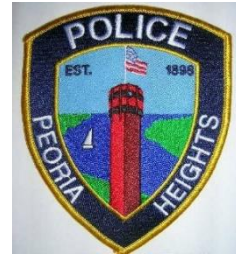
Like that effort, this latest relief program is coming just in the nick of time for the mom and pop businesses for which the Heights is known, and which have just entered a second phase of mitigation restrictions or closures that are likely to create more economic hardship for them.

“The Village is doing everything in its power to help keep local businesses afloat,” said Village Administrator Dustin Sutton.

With the expectation that this winter could be a lean one until a COVID vaccine comes along, “we want to soften the blow.”

For more information about the program, please contact Village Administrator Sutton at (309) 686-2385 or at dsutton@heightspd.com.

In other news that Heights taxpayers should be happy to hear, the Village also has received nearly \$255,000 through another DCEO-administered program, funded with federal assistance, to help defray police payroll expenses over much of the last year.



“This year has been a challenging time for all of us,” said Sutton. “Our police officers have been among those who have really stepped up, and we’re grateful for the assistance.”

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