



Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity

JB Pritzker, Governor

Restaurant Employment and Stabilization Grant Program (B2B Restaurants) Eligibility Guidelines

Eligible Businesses

Businesses must meet the following requirements to be eligible for funds available through the Restaurant Employment and Stabilization Grant Program. In addition to meeting these eligibility guidelines, recipients must comply with the Restaurant Employment and Stabilization Grant Program Certifications and Requirements.

- 1) Must be an 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 operating in Illinois and registered as a 501c organization;
- 2) Must have begun operations prior to March 12, 2020, and maintain active operations in Illinois at time of application.
- 3) Must have experienced a loss in earned or contributed revenue of at least \$5,000 due to economic disruptions related to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 4) Must have 50 or fewer employees at time of application.
- 5) Must be primarily operating as a properly licensed restaurant, tavern, brewpub, tasting room, taproom, caterer, brewery, microbrewery, winery, distillery, food truck or street vendor.
- 6) The following businesses are not eligible:
 - a. independent contractors or freelance workers that do not operate a sole proprietorship;
 - b. businesses that have received financial assistance from the Restaurant Revitalization Fund (RRF), Illinois Back to Business Grants (B2B), Illinois Business Interruption Grants (BIG), Illinois Emergency Hospitality Grants, or at least \$10,000 in grants or loan forgiveness from any local relief program for small businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - c. a private club or business that limits membership for reasons other than capacity;
 - d. a business that derives at least 33% of its gross annual revenue from legal gambling activities;
 - e. a business engaged in pyramid sales, where a participant's primary incentive is based on the sales made by an ever-increasing number of participants;
 - f. a business engaged in activities that are prohibited by federal law or applicable law in the jurisdiction where the business is located or conducted. (Included in these activities is the production, servicing, or distribution of otherwise legal products that are to be used in

- connection with an illegal activity, such as selling drug paraphernalia or operating a motel that knowingly permits illegal prostitution);
- g. a business principally engaged in teaching, instructing, counseling, or indoctrinating religion or religious beliefs, whether in a religious or secular setting;
 - h. a government-owned business entity (except for businesses owned or controlled by a Native American tribe);
 - i. a business primarily engaged in political or lobbying activities;
 - j. a business that manufactures or sells at wholesale tobacco products or that manufactures or sells firearms at wholesale or retail;
 - k. a night club or strip club;
 - l. a pawn shop;
 - m. a liquor store;
 - n. an establishment similar to any enumerated above; or
 - o. a business in which a majority owner has a financial or familial connection to a director, principal shareholder or leadership member of the Department or Department's partner under the program.