

COVID-19 Resource Guide

47th Ward - Alderman Matt Martin | aldermanmartin.com

We understand that this is a stressful and uncertain time for many neighbors - financially, personally, and otherwise. Our priority is making sure that neighbors are safe and healthy, and finding ways for everyday people to get direct access to the financial resources they need. That's why we've put together this resource guide to help you find programs that may assist you.

Our staff is working hard to keep this guide as up-to-date as possible. The programs and guidelines can change daily or by the hour. Please be sure to confirm benefits with the applicable department, agency, or entity. If you have questions, please reach out to info@aldermanmartin.com.

Assistance for Individuals

Housing & Utilities

Housing

- [Emergency rental assistance](#) - Administered by the City of Chicago - You can now print and mail your application rather than apply in-person. You can call this hotline for assistance 312-744-5000.
- [Evictions](#) - Governor Pritzker issued an executive order ordering all state, county, and local law enforcement to not enforce evictions through the duration of the Gubernatorial Disaster Proclamation. The original order did not stop your landlord from filing for and starting eviction proceedings, which could be completed after the disaster proclamation. Beginning May 1, eviction filings should not be allowed. If your landlord's mortgage is federally backed, you may have additional protections. Please reach out to josh@aldermanmartin.com and he can help you determine the details for your circumstance.
- [Rent and Mortgage Relief Campaign](#) - Alderman Martin introduced an ordinance and resolution that would follow Los Angeles' lead in allowing tenants to set up

payment plans to pay owed rent from the stay-at-home order, and urging the state to expand mortgage relief. Fact sheet and petition are included on the website.

- [Late fees](#) - Buildings with federally backed mortgages may have expanded protections - including a stronger eviction moratorium and late fee moratorium. Use this link to see if this applies to your building, or email Josh at josh@aldermanmartin.com to speak in-depth.
- [At risk of or experiencing homelessness](#) - Chicago Coalition for the Homeless and community organizations - This resource guide includes a hotline if you're having trouble paying rent, have a housing legal need, or need shelter.
- [Mortgage payments](#) - Hardship programs are available for homeowners whose loans are guaranteed by Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac. Other mortgage providers generally seem to be considering forbearance on a case-by-case basis.
 - [Find your mortgage servicer](#)
 - [Freddie Mac](#)
 - [Fannie Mae](#)
- [Tenants](#) - Metropolitan Tenants Organization - You can contact our office at info@aldermanmartin.com about tenant rights issues. Additionally, Preservation Compact created [this resource](#) for Illinois tenants. To address a common issue, our office has been advised that under the Governor's executive order open houses are not permitted. Showings of occupied rental properties are not permitted. Showings of vacant or owner-occupied units are permitted if necessary and scheduled in advance (virtual showings are preferred) but limited to no more than 4 people.
- [Property taxes](#) - The offices of Cook County Assessor Kaegi and Cook County Treasurer Pappas are temporarily closed to the public due to COVID-19. Both encourage you to file appeals and pay bills using their online portals. While his office is closed, Assessor Kaegi has suspended assessment notice mailings and deadlines (including deadlines for appeals).
- [Property tax sales](#) - Cook County Treasurer - The Treasurer's Office is required to put delinquent taxes up for auction, the first step in a legal process that can end with the loss of property if the taxes are not repaid. A Cook County Circuit Court Judge has postponed the Annual Tax Sale of delinquent properties scheduled to begin May 8, 2020.
- [HIV Emergency Financial Assistance](#) - AIDS Foundation of Chicago and Center on Halsted - The AIDS Foundation of Chicago and Center on Halsted can help with emergency financial assistance (rent, utility payments, COVID-19-related support) for people who are living with HIV and who are HIV-negative and taking PrEP.

Services are available in Chicago, Cook County and the Collar Counties. Call the HIV Resource Hub at 1-844-HUB-4040.

For questions regarding shelters or homeless individuals, please reach out to josh@aldermanmartin.com. If you are dealing with a tenants rights issue, we encourage you to reach out to our office directly so we can connect you with organizations that may be able to assist.

Utilities

- [Gas - Peoples Gas](#) - Peoples Gas will suspend shut-offs until after the health crisis. They will also waive late fees.
- [Electric - ComEd](#) - ComEd will suspend residential and commercial disconnects until the end of the stay at home order.
- [Water - City of Chicago](#) - The City's previously announced a moratorium on water shut-offs is still in effect. In addition, no late penalties will be assessed and no debt will be sent to collections until after the stay at home order. This means payment for water bills is not expected until after the stay at home order.
- [Internet - AT&T](#) - For 60 days, AT&T will waive late fees and will not terminate service for those who cannot pay their bills due to COVID-19. Contact AT&T to confirm these benefits. AT&T is expanding "Access from AT&T," their low-cost home internet offering to qualifying households. The program offers Internet for \$10 a month. New customers will receive 60 days of free service. Nurses and physicians may also qualify for free internet for a limited period of time.
- [Internet - Comcast](#) - Comcast will not disconnect service or assess late fees for customers who contact them during this period. Xfinity hotspots will be available to anyone for free. You can also get their "Internet Essentials" for free for 60 days, followed by \$9.95 per month.
- [Internet - RCN](#) - RCN will not terminate service for residents or small businesses, or in the case of financial hardship, charge late fees. They are also offering free service for 60 days followed by 10 months of service for \$9.95 for qualified households.
- [Internet](#) - CPS - Chicago Public Schools put this guide together for reduced cost (or free) Internet access. It includes information about programs offered by major phone and Internet companies.
- [Sewer and Garbage](#) - City of Chicago - If you receive sewer service or garbage collection through the City of Chicago, the city will not expect payment until May 1,

2020. This does not mean that the bill is forgiven, but that there will not be adverse consequences for not paying until May 1, 2020.

If you need a wifi-enabled device, please contact Michael at michael@aldermanmartin.com. We cannot guarantee that we'll be able to connect you with a device, but we will do our best.

Unemployment

Public Funds

- [Unemployment](#) - State of Illinois - If you're a worker who has been laid-off or quarantined because of COVID-19, you may be eligible for unemployment benefits. Those who quit their jobs because of COVID-19 are not eligible for unemployment benefits unless there is another legally valid reason. The federal government has temporarily increased benefits for those on unemployment by \$600 per week - a benefit which will terminate on July 31. Illinois has also waived the one week waiting period for benefits. Note that the state unemployment website is not mobile compatible. Due to a 1400% increase in claims, IDES has announced a new online filing schedule to ensure everyone has access to the website. For online applications:
 - Last names beginning with letters **A-M** will be asked to file their claims on Sundays, Tuesdays, or Thursdays.
 - Last names beginning with letters **N-Z** will be asked to file their claims on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays.
 - Saturdays will be available for anyone to accommodate those who could not file during their allotted window.
 - Those with questions or in need of assistance with unemployment benefit at this time are encouraged to visit IDES.Illinois.gov.
 - **For contractors, freelancers, and self employed individuals, see our section on workers and labor.**
- [Who is hiring right now](#) - American Job Center - Find businesses that are hiring right now.
- [Contact tracing](#) - State of Illinois - Use this form to express interest in contact tracing.
- See sections on healthcare, housing & utilities, federal tax deadline, and students & loans for more financial relief and resources.
- Contractors and freelancers should see the section on workers & labor.

- Business owners should see the section on assistance for small businesses.

Private Funds

- [Bartenders](#) - United States Bartenders Guild - Bartenders can apply for emergency assistance from a fund managed by the United States Bartenders Guild. You do not need to be a member of the guild to qualify.
- [One Fair Wage](#) - One Fair Wage is accepting applications for cash assistance to restaurant workers, car service drivers, delivery workers, personal service workers, and more who need emergency assistance.
- [United Way](#) - United Way is managing a COVID-19 Community Response and Recovery fund. These funds are used on things like shelter and food.

Healthcare

Insurance

- [Medicaid](#) - State of Illinois - Use this link to apply for Medicaid benefits. Cook County has a financial counseling line for those who have questions about paying for medical care. For more information call (866) 223-2817 or (312) 864-2224, Monday through Friday from 8 am to 7 pm or Saturdays from 8 am to 4 pm.
- [Telehealth](#) - State of Illinois - Governor Pritzker issued an executive order requiring insurance issuers regulated by the Department of Insurance to cover costs of telehealth service for in-network providers. Read the linked executive order to all details.
- [Health coverage for Illinoisians who become uninsured during COVID-19](#) - Legal Aid Chicago - This includes information about Medicaid, the Marketplace, and COBRA.
- [Medical debt](#) - Legal Aid Chicago - Learn more about your rights with regards to medical debt.

Mental Health

- [Mental health resources](#) - NAMI - Use the following guide to mental health resources during COVID-19.
- [Virtual Mental Health Forum](#) - State Rep. Williams and Pizer and State Sen. Feigenholtz - Hosted on April 15th at 10:30 AM. Use the link to RSVP.

- [Text a mental healthcare professional](#) - State of Illinois - The program, called “Call4Calm,” was launched by the state’s Human Services Mental Health Division. Illinois residents wanting to speak to a mental health care professional can text the word “TALK” to 552020, and the service is free to use, according to the governor’s office.
- [Trauma counseling](#) - Bright Star Community Outreach - Connect using their hotline at 833-TURN-123.
- [Free teletherapy](#) - Chicago Department of Public Health - Call 312-747-1020.
- [Crisis counselor](#) - For after hours support, contact Crisis Text Line which serves anyone, in any type of crisis, 24-hours a day. Instructions: Text HOME to: 741741 to access a trained crisis counselor.
- [LGBT National Youth Talkline](#) - Provides a safe space for those under the age of 25 to anonymously seek support. To reach the hotline, call 1-800-246-7743 for the hours. Those under the age of 20 can also join the weekly moderated chat rooms—there’s one for all LGBTQ teens and another dedicated just for trans teens.

Underlying conditions and COVID-19 care

- [COVID-19 resources](#) - CDC - Check the CDC webpage for the latest national guidance on COVID-19. For updates specific to Chicago or the State of Illinois go to the resources section.
- [Caring for someone with Alzheimer’s disease or dementia](#) - Alzheimer’s Association - The Alzheimer’s Association has a Helpline available to anyone 24 hours a day / 7 days per week 800-272- 3900.
- [Caring for dialysis patients during COVID-19](#) - Dialysis Patient Center - DPC’s Education Center webpage factsheet provides a list of state and federal resources and weblinks for patients looking for information about disability, financial assistance, nutrition, healthcare, housing and utilities, jobs, transportation, women and children, daily living, and staying safe.
- [Cancer caregiving](#) - American Cancer Society - Caring for someone with cancer has become even more serious because of the coronavirus pandemic. Read these tips for taking extra precautions.
- [Asthma and COVID-19](#) - Chicago Asthma Consortium - Chicago Asthma Consortium put together this video series to inform the public about living with asthma during COVID-19.

Stimulus, Rebate, or Economic Impact Checks

The CARES Act passed by Congress will provide most Americans with rebate checks. [Here's a summary of the legislation](#). If you have questions about this rebate, please feel free to reach out at info@aldermanmartin.com or to your Congressperson.

- [Amount of rebate check](#) - If you filed your taxes as a single person without dependents and you make \$75,000 or less, you will likely receive a \$1,200 rebate. Single people who earn more than \$75,000 may still receive a smaller rebate. You can use the link to calculate your anticipated rebate amount - especially for joint filers and those with dependents.
- [Rebate eligibility](#) - You must have Social Security Numbers for yourself and qualifying children in order to receive rebates.
- [Rebate delivery](#) - Direct deposits have already started to arrive for some Americans. The IRS will use your 2018 or 2019 tax filing information to determine how to send your check. If you receive your annual tax return as a direct deposit, then the rebate will be deposited directly into the bank account on file. If you did not file taxes in 2018 or 2019 because you did not have earned income (i.e. many seniors), you are still eligible for a rebate. Those on social security or supplemental security income should [receive the check or deposit automatically](#). One exception is for individuals receiving social security benefits who also have dependents ages 16 and under. If this applies to you, please follow the instructions for nonfilers. If you didn't file taxes in 2018 and 2019 and do not receive social security, use this [nonfiler website](#) to receive your payment. If you need to update your direct deposit information or find out when you'll receive your payment the IRS rolled out "get my payment" on their website at [IRS.gov](https://www.irs.gov).
- [Rebates and taxes](#) - In a small minority of cases, someone may need to pay back a portion of their stimulus. Your rebate amount is based on your 2020 income, but the IRS will use data from 2018 and 2019 to predict the amount you are eligible to receive. So for example, if your 2020 income substantially increases and you surpass the income threshold for the rebate, then you may need to pay back a portion of (or all) of the check next year.
- [Trouble receiving your rebate](#) - The IRS now has phone operators to help you with questions regarding your rebate. You can call at 800-919-9835.

Students & Loans

- [Student Debt](#) - Federal Government - The Trump Administration announced a suspension of federal student debt payments through September. The CARES Act

solidified these benefits. You should not need to contact your federal student loan provider in order to suspend payments. In April, Governor Pritzker announced the expansion of student debt relief to private student loan borrowers. Twenty private student loan service providers are allowing Illinois borrowers to request a 90-day forbearance, waived late fees, no negative credit reporting, 90-day pause on debt collection lawsuits, and enrollment in other assistance programs.

- [Financial assistance for students](#) - Federal government/your university - The CARES Act allocated \$6 billion to colleges and universities to be distributed as grants to college students who need support as appropriate. There's quite a bit of flexibility granted to schools in deciding who receives these funds and how much they receive. We recommend contacting your school directly to learn more.
- If you're a student who had to leave student housing early and have no alternative arrangement, see section on housing.

Groceries, Food & Nutrition

- [SNAP \(Food Stamps\)](#) - Illinois Department of Human Services - USDA is allowing states to conduct telephone interviews instead of face-to face-interviews for SNAP in March, April and May 2020. If you have questions about applying, you can contact the Chicago Food Depository at 773-843-5416. Beginning June 2 in Illinois, you can use SNAP to purchase groceries online.
- [CPS meals](#) - CPS - Some CPS locations are Food Distribution Centers beginning on 4/13 from 9AM to 1PM. Families can pick up 3 days worth of food for each child at any given time. Parents in need of delivery should call 773-553-KIDS (5437) or email familyservices@cps.edu. Since spring break, the sites offering meals have been reduced. As of writing, the locations in the ward offering meals after spring break include McPherson Elementary, Ravenswood Elementary, and Lane Tech. Use the link to find a site near you.
- [Senior groceries](#) - Several retailers have created dedicated shopping hours for older adults and those in high-risk groups to shop without crowds of other people. We recommend you call ahead to verify this information:
 - Gene's Sausage Shop: Older adults given priority 9am-10am daily
 - Jewel-Osco: Older adults given priority 7am-9am Tuesday/Thursday
 - Mariano's: 6am-8am daily
 - Target: First hour of each Wednesday
 - Tony's Fresh Market: Older adults given priority 7am-9am Tuesday/Thursday
 - Walmart: Age 60+ can shop 1 hour before store open.

- Whole Foods: Age 60+ can shop 1 hour before store open
 - Email info@aldermanmartin.com if you need help getting groceries.
- Food pantries - Our local food pantries continue the amazing work they're doing to feed people in need.
 - [Common Pantry](#)
 - [The Friendship Center](#)
 - [Lake View Pantry](#)
 - [Ravenswood Community Services](#)
 - [Find a pantry near you](#)
- I am your neighbor - Common Pantry - Common Pantry with support from the chambers of commerce in Ravenswood, Lincoln Square, Northcenter and Roscoe Village have partnered with a growing list of restaurants to “open a tab” for those who may need food. Anyone in need can stop into a participating restaurant to order a carryout meal, just mention the “I Am Your Neighbor” Program and the meal is free. Restaurants currently participating include:
 - Tuscan Hen Market, Luella’s Southern Kitchen, 016 Restaurant, Roots Pizza, Slims, Reclaimed, Mi Fogata, Spacca Napoli, Cobblestone, Fountainhead, Same Same Thai, The Rambler, Volo Restaurant

Seniors

- [Forward Chicago](#) - Forward Chicago is continuing online programming and outreach to older adults. Use the link to sign up for their newsletter.
- [COVID-19 Recommendations](#) - CDC - Older adults are at higher risk of COVID-19. Read the CDC’s recommendations on staying safe and healthy.
- Levy Center and Northcenter Satellite Center - City of Chicago - Please be advised that all of the city's senior centers are currently closed (until further notice). If you (or an older adult relative/neighbor/friend) is in need of any services, please call 311 or email aging@cityofchicago.org. If you are in need of home delivered meals, please call 311 or email seniormeals@cityofchicago.org. [Department of Aging](#) - State of Illinois - The State of Illinois has a senior helpline that seniors can call for assistance.
- [Department of Family and Support Services](#) - City of Chicago - DFSS is offering a number of support services for seniors including home delivered meals. See the full list of resources. You can also call their hotline at 312-744-4016.
- [Meals on Wheels](#) - Meals on Wheels is continuing to deliver meals to seniors who need them.
- If your question is regarding healthcare, see section on healthcare.

Travelers

- [International travel](#) - US Department of State - The Department of State issued a Global Level 4 Health Advisory advising US residents to not travel internationally. If you or a loved one is having trouble returning from abroad, email us at info@aldermanmartin.com. We will work to connect you to your Congressperson.
- [Quarantined due to travel](#) - CDC - If you recently returned from abroad and are quarantined based on CDC guidance, please feel free to reach out to info@aldermanmartin.com. We will help connect you to any resources available.
- [Traveling within the United States](#) - CDC - Read the CDC's guidance on traveling within the United States during the COVID-19 outbreak. There is now guidance for those traveling from New York, Connecticut, and New Jersey to self quarantine for 14 days and regularly monitor their temperature.
- [Travel reimbursements](#) - Illinois PIRG - If you need help refunding travel plans, use this resource as a guide.

Price Gouging & Consumers

- [Reporting price gouging](#) - Illinois Attorney General - Submit a consumer complaint to the Illinois Attorney General's office if you notice price gouging.
- [Reporting price gouging](#) - City of Chicago - Submit a consumer retail store complaint on 311 if you notice price gouging.
- [Consumer debt collection](#) - Chicago Legal Aid - Learn more about your rights with regards to consumer debt collection.

Childcare & CPS Families

- [Guidelines and resources for daycares](#) - State of Illinois - Child care is considered an essential service under the Governor's executive order. The Governor's Office of Early Childhood Development has resources for childcare providers.
- [Internet and computer access for students](#) - Illinois State Board of Education - This resource guide is for all students across Illinois. CPS also has its own remote learning plan.
- [Remote learning](#) - Remote learning began Monday, April 13 and remains in place until schools reopen. Schools will have detailed information about their remote

learning plan. Please reach out to your school directly with questions including technology needs.

- [Tutoring support](#) - Chicago Public Libraries - CPL offers an online platform for students who need help with homework.
- [Mentoring](#) - Illinois Retired Teachers Association - Retired Illinois Teachers are volunteering to mentor students. Mentors are on a first-come, first-served basis. Mentors will meet with students in virtual environments. Mentorships will last from now until the end of the school year or June 1. Mentorships are at the sole discretion of the teacher-mentors.

Transportation & Parking

- [Parking ticket relief](#) - City of Chicago - Through the stay at home order, the city will waive late penalties on city debts, including vehicle tickets; suspend its vehicle booting program; and limit its ticketing, towing and impound operations to focus solely on public safety issues. Motorists are still required to pay parking meters. While the City's parking enforcement efforts have been scaled back to prioritize safety-related violations, people should still pay for metered parking during this period.
- [Vehicle registration relief](#) - Illinois Secretary of State - Expiration dates for driver's licenses, identification (ID) cards, vehicle registrations and other transactions and document filings will be extended for the duration of the disaster proclaimed by Governor Pritzker and 30 days after the disaster ends. These documents can still be renewed online.
- [CTA](#) - Read about the steps CTA is taking to protect customers who must take public transit during COVID-19. CTA is offering a prorated credit for any unused days on active 7- and 30-day passes. Customers with active Ventra passes can receive a prorated credit for any remaining days, based on when the pass was last used. Prorated credits will transfer to the cardholder's Ventra account.
- [Metra](#) - Metra is reducing service during COVID-19. Check their website for the most up-to-date information about their alternative schedule.

If your request is regarding no parking signs related to a construction project, email Josh at josh@aldermanmartin.com.

Workers & Labor

- [Staying safe as an essential employee](#) - US Department of Labor - Visit the Department of Labor's website for resources for workers who are required to work during COVID-19. This includes an OSHA guide for maintaining safe workplaces.
- [Workers rights](#) - Illinois Department of Labor - Read common questions and answers for workers in Illinois during COVID-19.
- [Non-essential business open](#) - City of Chicago - Business Affairs and Consumer Protection (BACP) and the Chicago Police Department are responsible for enforcing the Governor's executive order in Chicago. Email us at info@aldermanmartin.com if you're concerned a non-essential business is open.
- [Artists general resources](#) - National Endowment for the Arts - Find resources and information for artists and art organizations for COVID-19. Separately, there are a number of private fundraisers providing financial support to artists. The federal government has recently expanded eligibility to contractors or "gig" workers who were unable to start a new job or contract due to COVID-19. See the bullet point on contractors and freelancers for more information.
- [Artists relief fund](#) - State of Illinois and City of Chicago - The Arts for Illinois Relief Fund provides financial relief to workers and organizations in the creative industries impacted by COVID-19. This includes all artists and artisans, including stage and production members and part-time cultural workers, and large to small arts organizations in all disciplines. Individuals are encouraged to apply for one-time grants of \$1,500, which are awarded expediently and based on a lottery system.
- [Contractors and freelancers resources](#) - Freelancers and contractors are among the most vulnerable financially due to COVID-19. This article includes some tips on ways to protect yourself. Typically, these workers are not eligible for unemployment benefits. The federal government has recently expanded eligibility to contractors or "gig" workers who were unable to start a new job or contract due to COVID-19. While they are eligible, the system to provide these benefits has not yet been implemented in Illinois. The federal government (DOL) released guidance to states 4/10, and now the state is working on an implementation plan. It's estimated that applications will open the week of May 11. It may still take approximately two weeks to receive benefits after a successful application is submitted. Benefits will apply retroactively. This [guide from Senator Andy Manar](#) (while not Chicago based) is comprehensive. **New guidance from Illinois asks that contractors apply for regular unemployment benefits for which they will be denied and their application automatically moved over for consideration for benefits for contractors.**

Face Masks

- [Masks for those in need](#) - 47th ward office - Our office is anticipating receiving masks to distribute to those residents in need. If you are a senior, essential worker, high risk individual, or otherwise in need, you can fill out this interest form, and we'll do our best to connect you with a mask once we receive them. If you are able to afford purchasing a mask from an artist or local business owner, we recommend checking with your local Chamber of Commerce for recommendations.

Federal and State Tax Deadline

- [Tax deadline](#) - Federal Government - The deadline to file your taxes has been moved from April 15 to July 15. The state tax deadline has now been moved to July 15 as well.

Legal Aid

- [CARPLS Legal Aid](#) - The legal aid hotline for Cook County, is providing uninterrupted phone services remotely. Contact 312-738-9200 Monday-Friday 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. (Monday & Wednesday nights until 7:30 p.m.)

Banks

- Most major financial institutions are offering hardship relief to customers and small businesses. Relief may include waiving overdraft fees, late fee refunds, deferred payments for loans including mortgages, waiving fees to withdraw from CDs, and more. Check with your bank about specific programs they are offering and how to access them.
 - [Bank of America](#)
 - [Byline Bank](#)
 - [BMO Harris Bank](#)
 - [Capital One](#)
 - [Chase](#)
 - [Citibank](#)
 - [Fifth Third Bank](#)

- [Huntington Bank](#)
- [PNC](#)
- [TCF](#)
- [US Bank](#)
- [Wells Fargo](#)

Pets

- Emergency pet food - Friendship Pet Food Pantry - If you need emergency pet food during COVID-19, the Friendship Pet Food Pantry at 2711 W Lawrence Ave is providing pet food and cat litter to those in need. They operate 9 AM - 11 AM on the 3rd Saturday of each month.

DACA and Immigration

- [DACA biometrics appointments](#) - US Citizenship and Immigration Services - DACA applicants who had an appointment scheduled with an ASC on or after the March 18 closure or have filed an I-765 extension will have their application processed using previously submitted biometrics. This will remain in effect until ASCs are open for appointments to the public.
- [Family Independence Initiative](#) - This is a privately administered fund that is raising funds for families in need during COVID-19. This is one of the few funds available to undocumented folks.
- [Federal COVID-19 legislation for refugees](#) - This provides quick facts about how federal legislation passed for COVID-19 applies to refugee populations.
- [Resources for immigrants during COVID-19](#) - ICIRR - Read this guide compiled by ICIRR.
- [Employment rights](#) - ARISE Chicago - If you do not have work authorization in the United States, you still have rights. If you need assistance understanding your rights, you can contact ARISE Chicago at 773-769-6000. If you have valid work authorization (this includes DACA recipients), you may qualify for unemployment benefits if you have lost your job or hours worked.

Domestic Violence

- Domestic violence helpline - Illinois Domestic Violence Hotline - This service is available 24/7 to provide crisis intervention, information, and referrals for survivors

of domestic violence. Call or text 877-863-6338 for confidential help and information.

- [Safe Horizon](#) - A crime victim assistance program and nonprofit, has an online chat service available Monday through Friday from 1—6 p.m. EST and the domestic violence hotline is available 24/7. To reach it, call 1-800-621-HOPE (4673).

Ways to Help

General

- [47th Ward COVID-19 support volunteers](#) - Sign up here for updates from our ward office on ways you can support our community at this time.
- [Blood donations](#) - The Governor has urged those who are healthy without travel history and not at high risk of COVID-19 to consider donating blood.
- [Animal shelters](#) - Animal shelters have asked for people to foster or adopt animals at this time. PAWS has launched a virtual adoption process.
- [I am your neighbor](#) - Common Pantry - Common Pantry with support from the chambers of commerce in Ravenswood, Lincoln Square, Northcenter and Roscoe Village have partnered with a growing list of restaurants to “open a tab” for those who are food insecure. To help, call a participating restaurant and ask to donate to I am Your Neighbor program or add an extra amount to your bill when making a purchase. The donation is added to the restaurant’s tab to be used for food ordered by someone in need.
- [Donate to Chicagoans experiencing homelessness](#) - Chicago Coalition for the Homeless - This fund will provide \$500 for Chicagoans experiencing homelessness.
- [Local mutual aid networks](#) - Our office hosted a mutual aid workshop with leaders from local mutual aid networks. You can learn more about setting up your own mutual aid network, and connecting with local leaders in your neighborhood by watching the workshop linked here.
- [Food distribution](#) - Greater Chicago Food Depository - They have shifts almost everyday to pack food for distribution. This is also one of the safest ways to volunteer for food distribution right now.

Businesses

Our Chambers of Commerce have compiled guides on how to support local businesses at this time.

- [Andersonville Chamber of Commerce](#)
- [Greater Ravenswood Chamber of Commerce](#)
- [Lakeview Chamber of Commerce](#)
- [Lincoln Square Ravenswood Chamber of Commerce](#)
- [Northcenter Chamber of Commerce](#)
- [Roscoe Village Chamber of Commerce](#)
- [Uptown United](#)

Hospitals

- The City of Chicago is helping coordinate the [donation of personal protective equipment \(PPE\)](#) supplies like masks and gloves.
- You can help the State of Illinois respond by [making PPE donations here](#).
- [Donate food to Chicago-area hospitals](#) - This link directs to the page for Swedish Hospital but other Chicago-area hospitals have also posted on this page.

How to Stay Updated

- [World Health Organization](#) - International updates
- [CDC](#) - National updates
- [State of Illinois](#) - State updates
- [City of Chicago](#) - City updates
- [Illinois Department of Public Health](#) - State updates from Dept. of Health
- [Ask Dr. Arwady](#) - Ask Chicago Commissioner of Public Health questions at 11 AM any day on Twitter.
- [Governor's Daily Press Conferences](#) - The Governor live streams daily press conferences usually at 2:30 PM. You can view them on Facebook or Twitter.
- [47th Ward newsletter](#) - Get ward-level updates twice a week.
- [Congressman Quigley](#) - View the latest information from Congressman Quigley whose district overlaps most of the 47th ward.
- [Congresswoman Schakowsky](#) - View the latest information from Congresswoman Schakowsky whose district overlaps the northern part of the 47th ward.
- [State Representative Greg Harris](#) - View the latest information from State Representative Harris.

- [State Representative Ann Williams](#) - View the latest information from State Representative Ann Williams.
- [State Senator Heather Steans](#) - View the latest information from State Representative Heather Steans.
- [State Senator Sara Feigenholtz](#) - Contact Senator Feigenholtz' office regarding COVID-19.
- [County Commissioner Bridget Degnen](#) - Contact Commissioner Degnen's office regarding COVID-19.
- [County Commissioner Bridget Gainer](#) - Contact Commissioner Gainer's office regarding COVID-19.

Assistance for Small Business Owners

Fill Out These Surveys

- [Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity](#) - This survey will be used for the consideration of disaster relief funds from the US Small Business Administration.
- [City of Chicago Business Affairs and Consumer Protection](#) - The City of Chicago is seeking information about COVID-19 impact on small businesses to help inform policy solutions.
- The Small Business Advocacy Council wants to collect anecdotes from small businesses experiencing hardships during this time in order to pass along to the Federal Government. Write a paragraph describing your hardships in detail and email these to Elliot Richardson, President of SMAC at elliott@scacil.org.

Essential vs. Nonessential Businesses

- [Governor's New Executive Order](#) - State of Illinois - Read the State of Illinois FAQ sheet on the state at home order and what it may mean for your business.
- [Stay at Home Order Question](#) - Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity - The State of Illinois has set up a hotline for businesses to ask questions about whether their business is essential and any other questions regarding the Governor's executive order. Call 1-800-252-2923.

Tax Relief

- [City of Chicago](#) - The City is extending due dates for tax payments until April 30, 2020 for the following City taxes: bottled water tax, checkout bag tax, amusement tax, hotel accomodation tax, restaurant tax, and parking tax.
- [Illinois Department of Revenue](#) - Gov. Pritzker has directed DOR to defer sales tax payments for more than 24,000 small- and medium-sized bars and restaurants. Eating and drinking establishments that incurred less than \$75,000 in sales tax liabilities last year will not be charged penalties or interest on payments due in March, April or May made late. Penalties and interest will be automatically waived; however, qualified taxpayers must still file their sales tax return even if they are unable to make a payment. Any taxpayers taking advantage of this relief will be required to pay their sales tax liabilities due in March, April and May in four installments starting on May 20 and extending through August 20.
- See section on Federal Tax Deadline.

General Resources

- [Resources specific to industry](#) - Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation - This website provides resources specific to industries including real estate, financial institutions, healthcare profession, and more.

Low- or No-Interest Loans & Grants

- [Summary of options](#) - Presented by State of Illinois DCEO - This presentation hosted by the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity with Senator Durbin includes a summary of most available programs current as of March 30.
- [Summary of SBA options](#) - Presented by Commissioner Gainer - SBA loans summary.

Federal

- [Small Business Administration Disaster Assistance](#) - Small Business Administration - SBA now offering federal low interest loans (3.75% up to \$2M). The Illinois office of the Small Business Administration is hosting twice daily webinars to help small business owners looking to apply for assistance. You can view available training and sign up to participate [at this link](#).

- [SBA Paycheck Protection](#) - Small Business Administration - This program will go live on April 3 and provides small businesses a loan up to \$10 million for payroll and certain other expenses. If all employees are kept on payroll for eight weeks, SBA will forgive the portion of the loans used for payroll, rent, mortgage interest, or utilities. Up to 100 percent of the loan is forgivable. There is no prohibition on eligibility based on if you've already let go of your employees. Simply ask that you attest to using those funds to rehire as many people as possible. [Here's a calculator to determine how much you can borrow.](#) If you are having issues applying for this program with your bank, please email us at andi@aldermanmartin.com.
- [SBA Bridge Express Loans](#) - Small Business Administration - Express Bridge Loan Pilot Program allows small businesses who currently have a business relationship with an SBA Express Lender to access up to \$25,000 with less paperwork. These loans can provide vital economic support to small businesses to help overcome the temporary loss of revenue they are experiencing and can be a term loans or used to bridge the gap while applying for a direct SBA Disaster Loan.
- [SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loan](#) - Small Business Administration- The SBA's Economic Injury Disaster Loan program provides small businesses with working capital loans of up to \$2 million that can provide vital economic support to small businesses to help overcome the temporary loss of revenue they are experiencing. The loan advance will provide economic relief to businesses that are currently experiencing a temporary loss of revenue. Funds will be made available within three days of a successful application, and this loan advance will not have to be repaid. Note: Guidance recently changed for this program. Originally this would provide small businesses \$10,000. Now, it provides \$1,000 per employee up to \$10,000.

State of Illinois

- [Small business COVID-19 Relief](#) - Illinois Treasurer - State Treasurer is making up to \$250 million in deposits available to banks throughout the state, at near-zero rates, to assist Illinois small business and nonprofits negatively affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. More information about how to apply provided on the Treasurer's website.

City of Chicago

- [Small Business Resiliency Loan](#) - City of Chicago - Mayor Lightfoot announced \$100 million made available for small businesses most affected by COVID-19.

Applications are now open. To be eligible, businesses must attest to a more than 25 percent revenue decrease due to COVID-19, employ fewer than 50 workers and have gross revenues of less than \$3 million in 2019. If you're interested, we recommend applying as soon as possible as applications will in part be processed on a first come first serve basis. The deadline to apply is April 24.

- [Artists for Illinois Relief Fund](#) - City of Chicago and State of Illinois - Individuals are encouraged to apply for one-time grants of \$1,500, which are awarded expediently and based on a lottery system. Arts organizations grants are likewise based on a combination of need and lost revenue from the crisis.
- Special Service Areas (SSAs) - Some SSAs are offering rebate programs. SSA27 has opportunities to apply for financial assistance with marketing specialists and help defray costs of disinfectant and sanitation materials. To apply email ssa27@lakeviewchamber.com.
- [Find other types of assistance available on the Chicago Business Affairs and Consumer Protection website.](#)

For questions about federal programs like SBA loans, we're happy to help answer your questions to the best of our ability! We also recommend reaching out directly to your Congressperson. For the 47th ward, the best contact for most of the ward will be Congressman Quigley's office (erica.reardon@mail.house.gov). Some residents in the northern tip of the ward are represented by Congresswoman Schakowsky (Andrew.Goczkowski@mail.house.gov).

Private

- Save Small Business Fund - US Chamber of Commerce - The initiative issues \$5,000 grants to small businesses who: Employ between 3 and 20 people, Are located in an economically vulnerable community, Have been harmed financially by the COVID-19 pandemic. Please note that as eligibility is based on ZIP Code, businesses in the following ZIP Code are eligible for this program: 60618, 60625, 60640. Businesses in 60657 and 60613 do not qualify. If your ZIP code is outside of the ones mentioned, you can check your eligibility on the [Save Small Business website](#). Applications will go live on Monday, April 20th, and [you can sign up to be notified when they're ready here](#).
- [Facebook Small Business Grants](#) - With businesses everywhere affected by COVID-19, Facebook is giving away \$100 million to up to 30,000 eligible businesses across 30 countries. Chicago applications are open until May 6.

Nonprofits

- [COVID-19 resources for nonprofits](#) - Steans Family Foundation - Use this comprehensive guide to benefits available to nonprofits at this time. This document is up-to-date as of March 30. Be sure to confirm benefits.

Rent and Utilities

- See section on housing & utilities.

Support for Employees

- See section on unemployment, housing & utilities, students & loans, healthcare, federal tax deadline, and transportation & parking.

Resources

If you haven't already, we recommend contacting your Chamber of Commerce to share ways the community can support you and your business.

- [Insurance Issues](#) - Illinois Department of Insurance accepts complaints from small business owners who believe they are wrongfully denied a claim.
- [Manufacturing PPE](#) - Illinois Manufacturing Association - IMA is coordinating with the Governor's office to produce PPE for healthcare workers. If you might be able to manufacture PPE, fill out this survey. If you have any questions, please contact michael@aldermanmartin.com.
- [Andersonville Chamber of Commerce](#)
- [Greater Ravenswood Chamber of Commerce](#)
- [Lakeview Chamber of Commerce](#)
- [Lincoln Square Ravenswood Chamber of Commerce](#)
- [Northcenter Chamber of Commerce](#)
- [Roscoe Village Chamber of Commerce](#)
- [Uptown United](#)