

**CITY OF OTTAWA**  
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## **PRESS RELEASE**

**Contact:**

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**For Immediate Release:**

Mayor Dan Aussem announces a grant opportunity for small businesses impacted by the Covid-19 virus. Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity (DCEO) is offering a Downstate Small Business Stabilization Program Grant administered through the City of Ottawa. Grant funds would be 60 days of working capital, up to \$25,000. Said funds will be used to assist private for-profit small retail and service business, or businesses considered non-essential by the Governor's Executive Order without the ability for employees to work remotely.

To apply businesses must meet the following criteria:

- Demonstrate an urgent need for funds;
- Less than 50 employees;
- One full-time employee equivalent (other than the owner);
- Operation since January 1, 2017; and
- Solid commitment to retain permanent jobs.

Staff will host two conference calls for businesses interested in the program. They will be held 2:30PM on Thursday, April 9<sup>th</sup> and 10:30AM on Friday, April 10<sup>th</sup>. The call in number is as follows: (425) 436-6394. Access code: 444221#

Initial applications are due 4:30pm on Wednesday, April 15<sup>th</sup>. Email applications and/or any questions to Dave Noble [dnoble@cityofottawa.org](mailto:dnoble@cityofottawa.org) or Tami Koppen at [tkoppen@cityofottawa.org](mailto:tkoppen@cityofottawa.org).

City will consider future rounds if necessary.

See DCEO website for more information:

<https://www2.illinois.gov/dceo/CommunityServices/CommunityInfrastructure/Pages/DownstateSmBizStabilization.aspx>