



The Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity (DCEO) has made funding available to local Workforce offices throughout Illinois to **prevent essential, small businesses from laying off or furloughing employees**. DCEO is looking for businesses for whom these potential grant dollars would make the difference between keeping workers on or having to layoff/furlough. Here are some sample scenarios that qualifying businesses (“essential” per the Governor’s order and “small” by the SBA’s definition) can apply to cover:

- **Layoff aversion funds could be used to pay for a cleaning/sanitization service.** A small business needs their employees to be at work, on-site, but cannot afford frequent deep cleaning to help prevent potential exposure to COVID-19.
- **Layoff aversion funding could be used to purchase the software programs and/or hardware (computers) that the employee would need to use from home to support their work.** A small business whose employees use specific software or computer applications asks their employees to work from home/remotely in order to support social distancing and limit potential exposure to COVID-19.
- **Layoff aversion funding could be used to purchase remote access supplies, including laptop computers and/or smart phones, that the employee would need to use from home to support their work.** A call center environment needs to have their employees work from home/remotely in order to support social distancing and limit potential exposure to COVID-19.
- **Layoff aversion funding could be used to offset related costs to the employer or workers, excluding wages and benefits.** In order to support social distancing and limit potential exposure to COVID-19, a company that usually runs two shifts of workers adds a third shift, so that fewer employees are on onsite at any given time.
- **Layoff aversion funding can help pay for projects to support the production of goods and services that are needed to address COVID-19 National Health Emergency and/or preserve critical business operations to stay in business.** Incumbent worker training to redirect and reassign existing employees on critical business needs.

Please note that this list is not all inclusive. **Employee payroll and benefits cannot, however, be covered through this funding opportunity.** Upcoming costs as well as expenses incurred already since the start of the Governor’s stay-at-home order (March 20) can be reimbursed through this grant. The amount that can be awarded per company is \$5,000-\$50,000.

There is a **VERY BRIEF APPLICATION** document (attached) that companies in need should complete and submit to your local **Workforce Investment Solutions** office as soon as possible. Application is also available on the Workforce website: [www.worknetdecatour.org](http://www.worknetdecatour.org). The grant is a “first come first served basis” and will be made available until DCEO runs out of funding or stops the process.

Email applications to Workforce Investment Solutions at: [wisgrantapplication@mdwis.org](mailto:wisgrantapplication@mdwis.org). You will receive an email from Workforce verifying receipt of the application.

Questions? Call or email:

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