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**Will County launches second round of COVID-19 (CARES Act)  
Small Business Assistance Grant Program**

Small businesses impacted by COVID-19 may be eligible for up to \$15,000 in grant assistance.  
Applications accepted Oct. 19 – Nov. 26, 2020.

JOLIET-- Will County officials are offering another opportunity for small business owner impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic to apply for relief funding. Through the CARES Act passed by the U.S. Congress, Will County received more than \$120 million of this federal funding, of which \$24 million is earmarked for small businesses.

“We are proud Will County has already offered assistance to nearly 500 local small businesses,” said County Executive Denise Winfrey. “We are also happy there are funds available to assist additional businesses who need help.”

Through a special page on the county website, small businesses can apply for this funding. Eligibility criteria has increased to include businesses with up to 50 employees and less than \$5 million in annual revenue. Applicants must document revenue loss and/or an increase in expenses directly related to COVID-19. The business must have been operating on or before February 15, 2020 and be in good standing with the State of Illinois and Will County. Home-based businesses and sole proprietors located within the county are eligible to apply for these funds.

Currently, applicants from the first round of funding are being notified whether or not they qualified and when to expect to receive the funding. All applicants will be notified of their status.

The online application opens again on October 19 and can be accessed at [www.willcountyillinois.com/COVIDbizgrant](http://www.willcountyillinois.com/COVIDbizgrant). The deadline for filing the small business grant application is midnight on November 26. Technical assistance for prospective applicants is available in both English and Spanish.

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