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# **LOCAL BUSINESSES AWARDED GRANT FUNDING**

# *State Aides Hospitality Industry*

**[CITY, STATE, Month Date]** — [CVB] is pleased to announce the following area businesses have been awarded grant funds from the Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity.

 [List of business]

The funds were granted to aide with working capital, such as payroll and rent, job training and technology to support shifts in operations including increased use of carryout and delivery for food businesses. On March 23rd the State launched a $14.45M Hospitality Emergency Grant Program to support hotels and food and beverage small businesses in response to the pandemic shutdown. The hospitality industry in Illinois has seen significant revenue losses as the pandemic worsened and the Stay at Home Order was extended through April.

Over 12,000 hospitality small businesses applied for the funds, and over 700 were awarded grant funding. A lottery system was used to select award winners. “These funds will help the businesses stay operational in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic,” says [employee of CVB], “and help them recover quickly once the Order expires and citizens are allowed to frequent area businesses again.”

*[CVB] is a [Boilerplate description…]*ICCVB, a statewide association working in conjunction with the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, Office of Tourism, enables members to be more effective and efficient in attracting visitors to their communities.  The Council provides educational opportunities that raise the level of professionalism in the travel industry, and it provides a forum for networking and cooperative action between the members. The organization also maintains a proactive legislative and advocacy effort on issues that affect tourism and business travel in Illinois through its Advocacy and Legislative Affairs Committee.

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If you would like more information, please call [Name] at [Phone number], or email [email address].