

## **Governor's Office COVID-19 Daily Q & A**

March 18, 2020

### **Executive Order 2020-7: Unemployment benefits/Business Insurance/Business Relief**

Q: What measures can be taken to help restaurants with their losses?

A: The Administration applied to the U.S. Small Business Administration for the entire State to be eligible for Economic Injury Disaster Loan Assistance. We expect the SBA to approve of the declaration in the coming days. Once the declaration is granted, eligible impacted businesses and non-profits will be able to apply for loan assistance, up to \$2 million per company at low and fixed interest rates. These loans may be used to pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable and other bills that can't be paid because of the disaster's impact.

Q: Will Small business loans be quick to be processed and given? Will there be a lot of requirements? A: DCEO and Small Business Development Centers will be providing technical assistance to small businesses technical in completing their applications for loan assistance.

Q: Can we confirm that all restaurant workers will receive unemployment benefits? What if they don't qualify for unemployment benefits? What about reduced hours?

A: The Small Business Association (SBA) is offering coronavirus disaster assistance loans to help impacted companies get through this period of instability, and this will ensure that all of our counties qualify for assistance.

Q: Can the Governor provide unemployment benefits to gig economy workers?

A: Currently, definition of independent contractors is very narrow, but we encourage those who need them to apply. Apply at IDES: <https://www2.illinois.gov/ides/Pages/COVID-19-and-UnemploymentBenefits.aspx>