

# Gov. Pritzker Announces \$50 Million Rebuild Illinois Main Street And Downtown Capital Program

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SPRINGFIELD—Governor JB Pritzker and the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) announced a new \$50 million capital program designed to bring forward investments to revitalize commercial corridors and main street areas statewide.

The latest installment of the Rebuild Illinois capital program will leverage funds from the American Rescue Plan Act to provide grants for construction, repair, and modernization of public infrastructure and amenities to boost jobs, improve quality of life and stimulate economic activity for areas hit hardest during COVID-19.

The Rebuild Illinois Main Street and Downtown Capital program is part of \$1.5 billion authorized by the State's FY 22 budget to help jumpstart the state's economic recovery from COVID-19. The Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) can be found on [DCEO's website](#).

I'm pleased to announce the Rebuild Illinois Main Street and Downtown Capital program – a \$50 million commitment to revitalize the commercial corridors and main street areas hit hardest by the pandemic,” said Governor JB Pritzker. “This first-of-its-kind program recognizes and addresses the impact of the pandemic on city centers and commercial corridors – delivering quality of life enhancements that will invite people back to Main Street, grow jobs in the community, and deliver modernized infrastructure to commercial neighborhoods that have waited too long for their fair share.”

RBI Main Street and Downtown Capital recognizes the toll that the pandemic has had on local commercial corridors – with many communities suffering a decline in economic activity due to a loss in tourism, the shuttering of key industries such as arts and hospitality, and with the pandemic shifting more people from downtown offices toward work from home. The goal of this project is to drive investment in infrastructure and public amenities that will invite more people back into Main Street districts and local city centers.

“While Illinois has made significant progress in combatting COVID-19 and reopening our communities, we know that more work is needed to restore economic activity to the places hit hardest during the pandemic,” said DCEO Acting Director Sylvia Garcia. “Governor Pritzker’s economic recovery plan calls for programs to do just that—bringing jobs, visitors, and economic activity back into our communities. Through the RBI Main Street and Downtown Capital program, DCEO will leverage a strategic deployment of capital to accelerate quality of life improvements that will stimulate jobs and boost economic activity where it’s needed.”

Projects eligible for RBI Main Street and Downtown Capital grants must be located in a commercial center or downtown area and may include, but are not limited to: roadways, parking, and public way improvements; parks and venues or plazas for public use; sustainability upgrades; structural repairs; and mixed-use or transit-oriented development. Projects awards will range from \$250,000 to \$3 million in funding.

Community organizations, local governments, and private developers are among the list of eligible parties encouraged to apply for funding. Projects will be prioritized based on: location in a disproportionately impacted area (DIA) or rural area; alignment with local or regional economic development plans; and demonstrates community support. The program incentivizes local match – with private businesses or organizations required to

provide a minimum 50 percent match, and with public projects receiving higher priority if they include a local match component. All projects must adhere to participation requirements of the State of Illinois' Business Enterprise Program (BEP), designed to ensure that state-funded contracting opportunities benefit a diverse set of contractors.

Source funding for the RBI Main Street and Downtown Capital program is generated by the American Rescue Plan Act and Rebuild Illinois— a historic \$45 billion plan passed by Governor Pritzker, and the state's first comprehensive capital plan in more than a decade. DCEO has been charged with spearheading a number of Rebuild Illinois programs, including investments to modernize public infrastructure, boost broadband capacity, and accelerate business development and jobs for communities statewide.

“On behalf of the City of Hillsboro, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Governor Pritzker and his colleagues for choosing our small town of Hillsboro to make this historic announcement,” said Hillsboro Mayor Don E. Downs. “The \$50 million funding opportunity from the governor’s capital plan will open the door for much-needed economic growth and investment.”

As a result of the passage of the State’s FY 22 budget, close to \$1.5 billion in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds will be deployed to support Illinois’ continued economic recovery from the pandemic. DCEO is heading up several of these recovery programs, including the \$250 million Back to Business grants and \$10 million Tourism Attraction and Festivals Grants programs; and with additional funds set aside to expand training for workforce recovery.

The deadline to apply for Main Street and Downstate Capital grants is January 10, 2022. DCEO will be hosting technical assistance sessions on the new program, including a webinar hosted on Monday, September 13<sup>th</sup>. Prospective applicants can register for the webinar [here](#). For updates on the program or other upcoming economic recovery grant opportunities, please check DCEO’s [website](#).