

Rebuild Distressed Communities

Rebuild Distressed Communities is a \$25 million economic recovery program to support Illinois businesses that have sustained property damage as a result of civil unrest during protest and demonstrations on or after May 25th, 2020. The program will identify Grantees to solicit applications, administer subgrants and coordinate qualified vendors to make repairs for impacted businesses.

Program Design: The Rebuild Distressed Communities NOFO will solicit applications from eligible applicants (“Administrator”) to administer \$25 million in Rebuild Illinois capital funds for businesses that have sustained property damage as a result of recent civil unrest. Administrators will solicit, evaluate, and select project applications from eligible Illinois businesses in their region, coordinate qualified vendors to make the repairs or perform new construction (with a priority for BEP vendors), and oversee these projects for completion. A portion of the funds will be allocated to reimburse businesses for costs incurred for work performed since May 25, and the remainder will fund new projects to perform repairs or new construction.

Funding Sources: This opportunity will have two funding components:

1. Administrative expenses incurred by the Administrator Grantees will be funded from Community Development Grants, funded by Public Act 101-0637.
2. Funding to support capital repairs for businesses will be from the Rebuild Illinois Program, funded by Public Act 101-0638.

Eligible Administrators will include non-profit organizations; chambers of commerce; county, local, or regional economic development organizations; community development financial institutions; or organizations or associations that have demonstrated experience administering grants of this kind.

Grant Specifics: Grants to administrators will be competitive. DCEO will make multiple awards under this program. Each administrator grantee will be required to propose a region they will cover. Administrators will be expected to begin receiving applications from businesses within two weeks of executing a grant agreement with the state.

Business Eligibility: Eligible businesses must have sustained property damage as a result of civil unrest during protests or demonstrations on or after May 25, 2020. Eligible businesses include but are not limited to: grocery, pharmacy, personal and professional services, restaurant/taverns, retail, and others. Additional priority will be given to businesses with fewer than 50 employees, women and minority-owned businesses, underinsured or uninsured businesses, businesses that have a high community impact such as grocery stores, and businesses in communities that have a history of disinvestment.

Eligible Uses for Property Repair Funds: Capital funds will be used to fund property repair and are subject to bondability guidelines. Eligible project expenses include major and durable repair of an asset, including:

Repair of structural damages, including signs, awning, storefronts, entrances, doors, brickwork, total roof repair/replacement, and window replacement; installation of security shutters; reconstruction or improvement of existing buildings or structure (walls, floors, ceilings, interior finishes, and demolition of previous); lighting and electrical systems; building additions; and exterior work which will extend the building’s useful life.

Routine or reoccurring operational or maintenance costs, restocking of inventory, or expenses that have been reimbursed through a separate grant program or insurance claim are not eligible expenses.