



EXECUTIVE ORDER 2020-9
Cook County Community Recovery Initiative

Issued by

**TONI PRECKWINKLE, PRESIDENT,
COOK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Cook County, Illinois

April 7, 2020

WHEREAS, Cook County (County) understands that the COVID-19 pandemic will have a substantial negative economic effect on many business sectors, notably the small business community; and

WHEREAS, County President Toni Preckwinkle announced an expansive series of measures that will suspend and delay the imposition of various County fines, fees and tax collections to assist residents and businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the County is identifying ways to redeploy County resources to support residents, social service agencies, and businesses and are also coordinating with the philanthropic community to bring more financial resources into suburban Cook County in this time of need; and

WHEREAS, on March 28, 2020, the United States passed the Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security Act (“CARES Act”) pursuant to which the Paycheck Protection Program will provide relief to small businesses and other individuals impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, many of the federal, state, and local programs offering low-interest loans, have stringent eligibility requirements leaving many small businesses and independent contractors to fall through the cracks; and

WHEREAS, creditworthiness and collateral requirements disproportionately exclude minority-owned and newly established businesses, and many small businesses and independent contractors struggle to navigate the complex process of applying for these loans; and

WHEREAS, the County is creating the Community Recovery Initiative seeded with Ten Million Dollars (\$10,000,000) to assist the small business community in suburban Cook County impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, this initiative will commence with a suite of programs that include (1) outreach through webinars; (2) technical assistance provided through several partners including CDFI's and other key non-profits; and (3) one time, zero-interest loans of up to \$20,000 for small businesses and \$10,000 for independent contractors; and

WHEREAS, the County will partner with the Chicago Community Loan Fund and other Community Development Financial Institutions to administer loans under the Community Recovery Initiative.

NOW, THEREFORE, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution of the State of Illinois, the laws of the State of Illinois, and the Ordinances of Cook County,

I, TONI PRECKWINKLE, President of the County of Cook, **DO HEREBY ORDER**, as follows:

1. Cook County shall, hereby, make available Ten Million Dollars (\$10,000,000.00) for the Community Recovery Initiative to assist small businesses located in suburban Cook County. This initiative will commence with a suite of programs that include (1) outreach through webinars; (2) technical assistance provided through several partners including Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs) and other key non-profits; and (3) one time, zero-interest loans.

2. The Cook County Bureau of Economic Development (Bureau of Economic Development) is authorized to develop, establish and administer a Micro-lending and technical assistance program for small businesses located in suburban Cook County called the "Community Recovery Initiative". Such program is to assist small businesses in suburban Cook County to access loans and other financial resources under the CARES Act and other assistance programs, and to provide one-time, non-revolving loans of up to Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) to independent contractors, or up to Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000.00) to corporate entities.

3. Under the technical assistance component of this initiative, Cook County will partner with key nonprofit and CDFIs to assist small businesses in accessing loans under the Community Recovery Initiative, the CARES Act and other available financial resources; the CDFIs will be able to receive a minor administrative fee for their services which will be paid by the County from the Community Recovery Initiative fund.

4. The Micro-lending component of the Community Recovery Initiative will be a loan program with the following features:

- (a) Loans will be unsecured.
- (b) Up to Five-year terms with no extension options.
- (c) 0% interest rate.
- (d) No application, loan commitment or credit-check fees.

- (e) No principal payments for the first six (6) months of the term of the loan.
- (f) No pre-payment penalties.

5. Eligible applicants for the Micro-lending component of the Community Recovery Initiative shall be:

- (a) Independent contractors who reside outside of the City of Chicago in Cook County and who are individuals that report at least fifty percent (50%) of their income using IRS Form 1099 with incomes not exceeding \$100,000 per year; or
- (b) Small businesses with up to twenty-five (25) full-time employees whose primary business location is outside of the City of Chicago in Cook County with annual gross revenue for either the 2018 or 2019 calendar year of no greater than Three Million Dollars (\$3,000,000.00)

6. The Community Recovery Initiative shall be administered by the Cook County Bureau of Economic Development and its designated Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs); the Bureau of Economic Development is hereby authorized to issue any required rules and regulations to govern the loan program.

7. Further information and qualifying details regarding the Community Recovery Initiative, including an applicant survey and intake form, will be posted on the Bureau of Economic Development website on or before April 15, 2020. Loans will be made on a “first come first served” basis until funds under the Community Recovery Initiative have been exhausted.

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that, this order shall take effect upon its execution and filing with the County Clerk and that immediate notice of this order be delivered by the County Clerk to the Cook County Board of Commissioners.



Toni Preckwinkle
President

Dated: April 7, 2020

ATTEST:



Karen A. Yarbrough
Cook County Clerk

Received and Filed: April 7, 2020