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Cook County Community Recovery Initiative

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**COOK COUNTY
GOVERNMENT**

Toni Preckwinkle
Cook County Board President

Bureau of Economic Development | May 4, 2020

Interview with Xochitl Flores, Bureau Chief, Economic Development

Recently, the [Civic Consulting Alliance](#) sat down with Xochitl Flores, Chief of the Cook County Bureau of Economic Development. From October 2019 to January 2020, Civic Consulting Alliance collaborated with Chief Flores and her team to revamp the Bureau's



mission and vision. We asked her to reflect upon the project and its impact on the Bureau—whose work is even more critical now as it prepares for a strong and equitable recovery from the COVID-19 crisis. [Read full interview.](#)

Podcast with President Preckwinkle

In a recent interview, Jim Carr, Nick Goellner, and Jason Zenger sat down with Cook County IL Board of Commissioners President Toni Preckwinkle, to discuss details of the COVID-19 management and response, the CARES Act, and how to utilize current and future available resources to meet the demands of the crisis. [Check out the podcast!](#)

April Webinars Got the Word Out!

Working together with our partners, more than 3000 persons registered for our webinars. We want to thank all of our partners who helped us reach out to small businesses and gig workers: [Cook County Community Recovery Initiative](#), [Illinois Business Immigration Coalition](#), [Illinois Restaurant Association](#), [National Partnership for New Americans](#), [New York Immigration Coalition](#), [New York Office of Immigrant Affairs](#)



We couldn't have done it without you! More webinars are in the planning stages, so we will be sure you are up to date with the latest information you need to know.

How Has Your Small Business Been Impacted by the Pandemic?

The University of Chicago is reaching out to business owners like you to take a short and confidential survey about how small businesses have been impacted by the coronavirus pandemic. Your feedback can help improve the types of assistance that city and state government agencies provide to help businesses like yours survive and recover from this crisis. If you would like the chance to shape the government's economic response to this crisis, please take this 10-minute survey by clicking the link below, or copy and paste it into your browser.

[https://uchicago.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5hzA8C6BPOIQkbX?
linksource=cook](https://uchicago.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5hzA8C6BPOIQkbX?linksource=cook)

To thank you for your response, you will be entered into a lottery for the chance to win one of ten \$500 prizes. (Researchers will run a computerized random draw and notify winners by May 31st.)

Manufacturers Share how apprenticeships attract & retain talent

Join us for a **free webinar, sponsored by our Bureau**, on Wednesday, **May 13 @ 10:00 AM to 11:15 AM**. Hosted by Daley College, join to learn from local manufacturing employers Ed Miniat and Principal Manufacturing about their approach to apprenticeship. [Register today!](#)

Community Recovery Fund - FAQs in English and Spanish

Cook County's Bureau of Economic Development has launched The Community Recovery Fund as part of the Community Recovery Initiative. This loan fund offers one-time, zero-interest loans of up to \$20,000 for small businesses and \$10,000 for independent contractors in suburban Cook County. Loans will be administered by the Chicago Community Loan Fund and provided by a network of community lenders. Details are in the process of being finalized.

[Frequently Asked Questions](#) - English and Spanish

Census 2020 - What You Can Do This Week

- **Inform your community that paper Census forms have arrived in their mailbox:** "DYK the Census bureau mailed Census paper questionnaires that are arriving in your mailbox between April 8-30?! Check your mailbox for the form and complete it in less than 10 minutes! #CookCountyCensus #MakeILCount #BeCounted #Census2020"
 - You can now fill out your census form at home either [online or by phone](#). Be prepared with the letter you have received and follow the instructions on the [U.S. Census website](#). Cook County will continue to conduct virtual outreach to make sure everyone is counted.
 - [Operational Timeline from the U.S. Census](#) - This table from the U.S. Census Bureau will be updated with the latest public information available on any revisions to their timeline.
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Illinois Small Biz Development Center at South Suburban Economic Growth Initiative (SSEGI)

The Southland Development Authority is ready to help small businesses in the COVID-19 crisis and recovery as part of the Southland Equitable Recovery Stimulus Plan. For hands-on help for your business, please sign up online or call 708-232-6098. Advisors are available to help you prepare for and apply for: SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loans, SBA Paycheck Protection Program, Cook County Community Recovery Fund assistance once PPP runs out and other emergency sources can help your business access stimulus funds and loan programs!

[More Information.](#)

COVID-19 Dashboard and “Social Vulnerability Index” Interactive Map

Find out more about the recently launched [Cook County Medical Examiner COVID-19 Dashboard](#) and interactive [Social Vulnerability Index \(SVI\) Map](#). The COVID-19 Dashboard provides direct, transparent access to critical information about coronavirus



deaths in the County for public health agencies, medical professionals, first responders, journalists, policymakers and residents. The SVI Map is an interactive way to share information with first responders, public health officials and the public about which communities in Cook County will likely need the most support during a catastrophic event such as a pandemic. [Read More](#).

In Case You Missed It

Sam Toia, President of the Illinois Restaurant Association with [WGN Radio](#) explaining what local dining will look like in the future.



Bureau of Economic Development

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Mission

To Lead and Promote Equitable Economic Growth and Community Development

Values

Equity. Engagement. Excellence.

Learn more about Vital Communities, our strategic plan for economic development, with the [*Policy Roadmap: Five-Year Strategic Plan for Offices Under the President.*](#)

Be Counted

[Census 2020](#)



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