PRESS RELEASE

DOWNSTATE SMALL BUSINESS STABILIZATION PROGRAM

***THESE ARE BUSINESS GRANTS NOT LOANS***

***PAY ATTENTION TO WHAT MUST BE DONE BY MONDAY***

The City of Du Quoin intends to apply to the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity for grant assistance to support Du Quoin businesses impacted by the COVID-19 emergency through the Downstate Small Business Stabilization Program. The program is designed to provide small businesses with **two months working capital** up to $25,000. There will be **no cost** to a Du Quoin business to participate however **the City must apply on behalf of each interested business.**

To initiate the application process that City must conduct a public hearing which will be conducted virtually by conference call **at 3:00 pm April 16, 2020**. **Any Du Quoin business that wants to be included must identify its interest by Monday April 6 by 3:00 PM** by contacting Jeff Ashauer at jashauer@msn.com or by calling (618) 318-3983. The business name will be included in the ad for the public hearing that will be published on **Wednesday April 8, 2020.** It is not necessary for a business to participate in the public hearing to be included but the business needs to **indicate interest** to be included by the Monday deadline.

After indicating interest each business will be asked to fill out three short forms for inclusion in the grant application. Those forms can be found on the Du Quoin web page or by contacting Jeff Ashauer. A question and answer page about the program is also included. The applications are expected to be conveyed to the state on or immediately after **Friday April 17, 2020** which is the first day Du Quoin can legally submit.