
FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

August 28, 2020



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COVID-19 — IOWA SMALL BUSINESS UTILITY DISRUPTION PREVENTION PROGRAM

Program. The [Small Business Utility Disruption Prevention Program](#) provides short-term relief to eligible small businesses and nonprofits that face significant hardship in the payment of utility bills for service provided during the months of economic disruption to their business as a result of COVID-19. The Program provides direct payments to utility providers to be applied to accounts of eligible small businesses and nonprofits. Request for assistance must be for a minimum of \$400 for natural gas and electric service charges combined and may not exceed \$7,500.

Funding. Governor Kim Reynolds has allocated \$14.5 million in federal [Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security \(CARES\) Act](#) funds to the Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA) for the Small Business Utility Disruption Prevention Program. The Program will accept applications through October 31, 2020, or until all funds have been exhausted.

Eligibility. Eligibility criteria for the Program have been expanded to include utility assistance for eligible small businesses and nonprofits for electric or natural gas service provided between March 17, 2020, and October 15, 2020. To be eligible, small businesses and nonprofits must have experienced a COVID-19 related loss of income.

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Doc ID 1150855