
FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

November 9, 2020



Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

515.281.3566

COVID-19 — IOWA MOVIE THEATRE RELIEF PROGRAM — NOVEMBER 2020

Program. On November 5, 2020, Governor Reynolds and the Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA) announced the launch of the [Iowa Movie Theatre Relief Grant Program](#). The Program is an extension of the [Iowa Small Business Relief Grant Program](#) and will provide short-term relief to eligible movie theatres for the purpose of continuing or resuming business operations in the context of a public health emergency and to assist entities to accelerate and restore economic activity amid the current COVID-19 public health emergency.

Assistance Levels. Theatres in Iowa showing films open to all ages are eligible for \$10,000 per movie screen.

Eligible Uses. Recipients may use the funds for short-term cash flow assistance to continue operations. Any other use of the funds, including paying debts incurred prior to March 1, 2020, is not permitted.

Funding. The Iowa Movie Theatre Relief Fund will provide up to \$10,000 per screen to assist with operational expenses the nearly 150 movie theatres housing approximately 550 screens in Iowa. The State has allocated up to \$5.5 million of federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act ([H.R. 748](#)) funds for the program. This statewide program, an extension of the Small Business Relief Grant Program, is offered through the [IEDA](#).

Eligibility. To be eligible for a grant, the applicant must demonstrate that it:

- Operates movie screen(s) in Iowa showing films open to all ages.
- Conducted regularly scheduled screenings in Iowa in calendar year (CY) 2019.
- Was subject to limitations or restrictions described in a Proclamation of Disaster Emergency issued by Governor Reynolds on or after March 17, 2020, or it has not been able to host screenings in Iowa between March 17, 2020, and the submission date of the application for assistance through the Fund.
- Incurred revenue loss in CY 2020 due to the pandemic as compared with CY 2019.

Theatres with corporate ownership based outside of Iowa, with additional screens outside of Iowa, must use this grant for their Iowa-based screens and/or operations.

Application Information. The application deadline for the Program is November 16, 2020, at 5:00 p.m. A link to the online application will be emailed to theatre owners on Monday, November 9, 2020. Theatre owners who do not receive the email should contact theatrerelief@iowaeda.com.

LSA Staff Contact: Eric Richardson (515.281.6767) eric.richardson@legis.iowa.gov

Doc ID 1156062