**Get My Payment Illinois Mini-Grants**

**Helping Illinoisans Access the CARES Act Economic Impact Payments (EIP)**

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| **Overview**: On behalf of the Get My Payment Illinois coalition, Heartland Alliance is accepting grant applications to support EIP outreach to people throughout the state. Grants will support outreach efforts specifically for people experiencing homelessness, people with very low incomes, and people without internet access to help them access the payments. Grantees and applicants will have access to web-based training on accessing the EIP for hard to reach populations. **Funding Amount:** Up to $10,000**Timeline**: Applications due Tuesday, June 30 at 11:59pm CST. Grantees will be notified July 6. Grant period to run through August 21. |

**The Opportunity**

The GetMyPaymentIL coalition will support outreach efforts that assist those in Illinois experiencing homelessness, people with very low incomes, and people without internet access to access the stimulus payment (Economic Impact Payment- EIP). The coalition also supports outreach efforts to educate unbanked households on Bank On certified accounts.

Outreach efforts must begin upon the grant award, and must be completed by no later than August 21, 2020.

**Expected Outcomes**

Number of individuals who are assisted with stimulus payment enrollment, number of people who register for a receive the EIP, and number of individuals assisted with Bank On certified accounts. Actual numbers will vary in accordance with the difficulty of the outreach, and how resource intensive the strategy must be.

**Roles and Responsibilities**

Funded Community Partners will be responsible for:

* Planning, coordination, promotion, and staffing of funded outreach activities
* Submitting simple, real-time reports (either daily or weekly) in an online portal that track:
	+ Impacts of the outreach strategy and number of people reached
	+ Activities held and services offered
	+ Numbers of individuals assisted
	+ Number of new bank accounts opened, if relevant
	+ Number of other secured payment options applied for, if applicable
	+ Lessons learned for future activities

Heartland Alliance/ Heartland Human Care Services will be responsible for:

* Managing the mini-grant process, answering questions from applicants and grantees
* Providing relevant and timely response during the application process
* Disbursing funds and collecting reports.
* Providing web-based training for community partners. Web-based training opportunities will be available to funded and unfunded partners.

Ladder Up will provide additional technical assistance for filers and non-filers with specific tax-related questions relevant to the EIP.

Bank On Chicago will provide additional assistance linking individuals to Bank On certified accounts.

**Eligibility**

Applications may be submitted by any organizations meeting the following eligibility criteria:

* 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization for at least one year
* Provides services for those living in the state of Illinois
* Has a track record of providing services to those experiencing homelessness, people with very low incomes, and/or those with lack of internet access.

Preference shall be given to:

* Organizations that already interact directly with the described community/ies that can easily integrate outreach for the stimulus payments into existing activities.
* Organizations operating in target areas. Your organization does not need to be physically located in the target areas. These areas are: West Englewood/ Chicago Lawn, West Garfield Park, East Garfield Park, Englewood, Riverdale, Woodlawn, Washington Park, Fuller Park, North Lawndale, Burnside, South Shore, South Chicago, Rogers Park, New City, Englewood, Greater Grand Crossing, Roseland, Douglas, West Pullman, Austin, Harvey, Blue Island, Robbins, Chicago Heights, South Holland, Carol Stream, Batavia, Northwest Cook County- Dunning, Mokena, Crete, Wilmington, Decatur, East St. Louis/ Cahokia, Rockford, and high need parts of St. Clair County, Kankakee County, Rock Island County, Peoria County, Sangamon County, Vermilion County, Macon County, McHenry County, Madison County, LaSalle County, and Winnebago County.

**Application Process**

Applications should be submitted by 11:59pm CST on Tuesday, June 30.

Organizations will be notified regarding the status of their application within one week after the submission deadline.

Applications should be submitted via email to blmartinez@heartlandalliance.org. Be sure to put “Get My Payment Illinois Mini-Grants” in the email subject line.

**About Get My Payment Illinois**

The CARES Act passed by Congress in March provides a one-time Economic Impact Payment (EIP) for many Americans experiencing economic distress brought on or exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Most Illinois residents earning up to $75,000 (single filers) and $150,000 (married filers) will be eligible to automatically receive the full EIP of $1,200 per individual, with an extra $500 for eligible dependent children under the age of 17. While most people will receive the EIP automatically, it is more difficult to access for many populations that need it most, including those who are unbanked, people who make less than $12,200 per year, and those who have not filed their tax returns yet.

A group of nonprofit organizations formed Get My Payment Illinois to help ensure more low-income Illinoisans are able to receive their stimulus funds and to receive these funds more quickly. The coalition includes Ladder Up, the Economic Awareness Council, New America Chicago, Heartland Alliance, Heartland Human Care Services, and Woodstock Institute.

**Get My Payment Illinois Mini Grant Application**

**Contact Information**

**Organization:**

**Address:**

**Contact Name:**

**Contact Job Title:**

**Contact Email Address:**

**Contact Phone #:**

**Organization Information**

**Describe your organization. (250 word limit)**

**What kind of services do you provide, and what communities do you serve? Please share about the communities you serve both geographically and demographically. (250 word limit)**

**Have you already been doing outreach to help people in your community get their CARES Act Economic Impact Payments (EIP, aka stimulus payments)? If so, please share some of your activities to date. (250 word limit)**

**Proposed Outreach Activities**

**Please describe your outreach strategy. (250 word limit) NOTE: All outreach for the purposes of this grant must be completed by August 21, 2020.**

**What population do you expect to reach, both geographically and demographically? How do you expect to reach people? (250 word limit)**

**How many people do you estimate that you will be able to reach? (100 word limit)**

**How will you use technology to help people register for stimulus payments? (100 word limit)**

**We expect to have an online system where you can record in real time who you connect with via outreach, and any outcomes from that outreach (for instance, someone registers for the EIP, calls the EIP hotline, sets up a bank account, etc.) Will you have the capacity to regularly track your outreach efforts in this system? If not, please share why not and how you will be able to report your activities and outcomes. (100 word limit)**

**Budget**

**How much funding are you requesting? You may request up to $10,000. Please enter just the amount.**

**Please describe how you will use the funding to support outreach efforts (for instance, describe staff time dedicated to project, supporting technology or printing costs, etc.) (250 word limit)**

**Mini Grant Program FAQ**

**Q: What can I use the Mini Grant funds for?**

**A:** We like to think of the Mini Grant funds like this: if it will help increase the breadth or depth of outreach-- increasing the number of individuals reached, reaching those who are harder to contact, or enabling staff to reach a particular location-- then Mini Grant funds can probably be used for it. For example, the mini grant funds could be used for marketing, incentives, outreach staff salary, technology such as hotspots, laptops, etc.

**Q: My organization operates in an area that is not a target area. Are we still eligible?**

**A:** Organizations operating in non-target areas are eligible for a Mini Grant if you can describe how you plan to effectively engage the targeted communities that you do successfully reach. For example, if you reach a large number of those without internet access and you have an effective strategy for helping them file/ enroll for stimulus payments and get banked, you should apply.

**Q: We haven’t done much data collection in the past, are there any best practices for measuring and reporting interest and attendance for our event?**

**A:** We will provide an online portal for organizations to do real-time tracking of the number of people reached, the number of EIP submissions through the online portal, and additional items.

**For any questions regarding the Mini Grant Program that are not sufficiently covered here, please contact Kathryn Socha at ksocha@heartlandalliance.org for help.**