Dear WBDC Network:

The Women’s Business Development Center (WBDC) is reaching out to assure our WBDC network that we are taking all possible proactive measures to support and assist our clients with the economic impact on their businesses from necessary COVID-19 containment measures.

The WBDC is actively advocating for grant and loan solutions to ensure the financial sustainability of our clients. Since this is an evolving situation, we do not have all the answers at this time, but we will continue to keep our network up to date.

Below is the most recently updated announcement of what we know is currently available.

**IMPORTANT FEDERAL LEGISLATION**

Congress passed a $2.2 trillion program, the *Coronavirus Air, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act)*, which was signed into law on March 27, 2020 to provide economic relief for individuals, businesses, and the health care industry in response to the growing coronavirus pandemic. This comprehensive aid package includes direct payments to individuals, an expansion of unemployment insurance, and significant aid to large and small businesses.

**Federal SBA Loan Programs Under the CARES Act to Support Borrowers Across Our Region**

To support our clients across our 9-state region, the WBDC is helping clients navigate the recent U. S. Small Business Administration’s (SBA) authorization under the CARES Act to provide small businesses loans and grants through the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), the Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) program, and the SBA Debt Relief program. The loan programs provide low interest loans to small businesses suffering substantial economic injury as a result of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. In an effort to be proactive in addressing the needs of small businesses in our communities, for whom the economic impact of this disaster could be crippling in the short-term, the WBDC has created a comprehensive applicant guide for all SBA loan and grant programs that can be accessed at the link below:

- [WBDC Applicant Guide](#) for all SBA loans under the CARES Act
The Guide, which will be kept up to date with the most recent guidance from the SBA, provides all eligible small businesses a clear roadmap to access financial relief from SBA loan programs under the **CARES Act**. The Guide includes:

- *Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) Summary*
- **Small Business Owner’s Guide to the CARES Act**
  - Paycheck Protection Program
  - Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL) & Emergency Economic Injury Grants
  - Small Business Debt Relief Program

The Paycheck Protection Program is the cornerstone of the **CARES Act** and authorizes up to $349 billion in forgivable loans to small businesses to pay their employees during the COVID-19 crisis. It provides small businesses with funds to pay up to 8 weeks of payroll costs including benefits, interest on mortgages, rent, and utilities. You can find participating lenders at this [link](#).

The EIDL loan application portal has been updated. If you applied for an EIDL loan prior to March 29th or on the interim box.com solution, please apply again [here](#).

If you require additional guidance, call the WBDC to speak with a business advisor for assistance with the loan application.

Given the financial impact across the country on all businesses, particularly small businesses, it is important that you apply as soon as possible because of the limited pool of federal funds. If you need more funding after you have applied, additional supporting documents can be submitted with a request for an increase. It is important that submitted applications are complete since missing information will cause delays in processing.

### State-by-State Emergency Loan Programs

Each state in our region is establishing programs to support small businesses through the economic fallout from the COVID-19 outbreak. To help our clients, we have the listings for the known programs within our region below:

**Illinois:**

- **Illinois Small Business Emergency Loan Fund**

The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) and the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation (IDFPR) are establishing the Illinois Small Business Emergency Loan Fund to offer small businesses low interest loans of up to $50,000.

Businesses located outside of the City of Chicago with fewer than 50 workers and less than $3 million in revenue in 2019 will be eligible to apply. Successful applicants will owe nothing for six months and will then begin making fixed payments at a below market interest rate for the remainder of a five-year loan term. **Starting this Friday, March 27th, businesses will be able to express interest in a form. Click [here](#) to learn more.**

- **Illinois Hospitality Emergency Grant Program (Application due April 1)**
To help hospitality businesses, DCEO is launching the Hospitality Emergency Grant Program with $14 million drawn from funds originally budgeted for job training, tourism promotion, and other purposes. Grant funds are available to support working capital (like payroll and rent) as well as job training, retraining, and technology to support shifts in operations (like increased pick-up and delivery).

- Bars and restaurants that generated between $500,000 and $1 million in revenues in 2019 are eligible for up to a $25,000 grant, and bars and restaurants that generated less than $500,000 in revenues in 2019 are eligible for up to a $10,000 grant.
- Hotels that generated less than $8 million in revenues in 2019 are eligible for up to a $50,000 grant.
- Click here to apply.

➢ **Cook County Community Recovery Initiative**

Cook County has launched the Community Recovery Initiative to assist small businesses, nonprofits, and independent contractors struggling to make ends meet due to COVID-19 in Suburban Cook County. The Initiative has three major components: Community Recovery Fund, Technical Assistance Network, and National and Local Partners.

**Cook County Community Recovery Fund:** Targeted for small businesses and independent contractors and provides up to $20,000 in zero-interest loans to offer immediate relief. Applications for the Recovery Fund will be available mid-April.

**Technical Assistance Network:** Provides access to available financial products at the State of Illinois and federal levels; answers questions and helps navigate pathways; connects to business counseling and coaching; and assists with intake services, loan packaging, and process management.

**National and Local Partners:**

- American Business Immigration Coalition
- Chicago Community Loan Fund
- Chicago Neighborhood Initiatives
- Illinois Restaurant Association
- National Partnership for New Americans
- Women’s Business Development Center

Click here for more information on the Cook County Community Recovery Initiative.

➢ **City of Chicago Small Business Resiliency Fund**

$100 million in seed funding from the City of Chicago and philanthropic institutions and corporations created the Chicago Small Business Resiliency Fund. This Fund will provide neighborhood businesses impacted by this COVID-19 health crisis with emergency cash flow, low-interest loans with up to a 5-year maturity.

Eligible businesses must have experienced more than a 25% revenue decrease due to the impact of COVID-19 and have fewer than 50 employees and gross revenues less than $3 million. The City of Chicago will be partnering with its CDFI and microlending partners beginning on
March 31st, 2020 to accept applications from local businesses. We are assisting our clients in the following ways:

- Notifying clients to complete the interest form here so their issues and voices are heard.
- Informing business owners that more information will be available effective March 31st, 2020 when it becomes active and applications will go through CDFIs and microlenders.
- Providing business owners with financial technical support to qualify and prepare for the loan application.
- Requesting additional resources to expand the increasing financial technical assistance support needed by clients.

For more information on eligibility and how to apply, please see the City’s March 23 update here.

**Minnesota:**

- **Minnesota Emergency Loan Support**
  
  The Minnesota Department of Employment & Economic Development (DEED) has established a [Small Business Emergency Loan Program](#) to assist small businesses directly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The goal is to provide a source of working capital to help small businesses sustain operations during this difficult time.

  - Loans will range from $2.5K to $35K and will be based on the firm’s economic injury and financial need.
  - To be eligible for a Small Business Emergency Loan, the business must be able to demonstrate it was directly and adversely impacted by the conditions that precipitated the emergency declarations as noted in Executive Orders 20-04 and 20-08.
    - These include business entities that provide public accommodations, including but not limited to restaurants, bars, theaters, cinemas, fitness centers, gyms, amusement parks, bowling allies, country clubs, and sports clubs.

  For additional details about the program, eligibility requirements, and information regarding how to apply, please click [here](#).

- **Minnesota Small Business Loan Guarantee Program**

  The Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) now offers [the Minnesota Small Business Loan Guarantee Program](#). Summary of Program: This program provides a 80% loan guarantee for loans up to $250,000 made by a qualified economic development lender within this program. This program is intended to incent the private market to make loans to small businesses and provides the guarantee for those loan dollars. The state is providing a loan guarantee of $10 million which is likely to leverage between $20 and $25 million in lending by private banks.

  - Allowable loan uses must be exclusively in Minnesota and include machinery or equipment purchases, maintenance, or repair; expenses related to moving into or
within Minnesota; and working capital when the working capital is secured by fixed assets when possible.

- The funds can only be provided to Minnesota businesses with fewer than the equivalent of 250 employees.
- The program will provide an 80% guarantee up to a maximum of $200,000.
- A fee of .25 percent on the guarantee loan principal will be charged for each loan enrolled into the program.
- All loans will be made by lenders enrolled in the program - no loans will come directly from DEED.

For additional details about the program, eligibility requirements, and information regarding how to apply, click [here](#).

**Missouri:**

- **St. Louis Small Business Resource Fund**
  
The St. Louis Economic Development Partnership and the St. Louis Development Corporation are offering a zero percent interest loan of up to $5,000 for small businesses in the City of St. Louis and St. Louis County that have sustained economic damage due to the COVID-19 crisis. Loan details can be found [here](#).
  
  [Apply here](#). For questions about the program, please email bizhelp@stlpartnership.com.

- **St. Louis Community Foundation Regional Response Fund**
  
The St. Louis Community Foundation has established two funds to help small businesses and nonprofits.
  
  - **The Gateway Resilience Fund** will help provide short-term monetary relief to small locally owned businesses and their employees. The St. Louis Downtown Community Improvement District is also offering up to $5,000 in grants for downtown restaurants.
  
  - **The Regional Response Fund** was established to direct aid to local nonprofit organizations delivering services to people affected by the virus including children, the elderly, and isolated.

**South Dakota:**

- **South Dakota Emergency Loan Support**
  
The Governor’s Office of Economic Development (GOED) has established Governor Noem’s Small Business Relief Fund to assist small businesses directly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The goal is to provide a source of working capital to help small businesses sustain operations during this difficult time.
  
  - Loans will range from $5K to $75K
  
  - Applications will be evaluated on a “first come, first serve” basis
To be eligible for Governor Noem’s Small Business Relief Fund, the business must be able to demonstrate the following:

1. Be a small for-profit or non-profit business as defined by the SBA, but with less than 250 employees
2. Physical presence in South Dakota
3. Established prior to March 2020
4. Provide a certification from a South Dakota banker and/or South Dakota CPA that: he/she has reviewed recent financial condition of the applicant, that the applicant’s business has incurred economic injury as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the applicant needs the funds for South Dakota operations
5. Have a personal credit with a minimum score of 650; lower requires a special exception
6. Demonstrate 1:1 debt coverage ratio with the new debt factored under normal circumstances

For additional details about the program, eligibility requirements, and information regarding how to apply, click here.

NEW Wisconsin:

- Wisconsin Women’s Business Initiative Corporation (WWBIC) www.wwbic.com

WWBIC COVID-19 Fast Track Loan Program is focused on existing businesses looking for business financing during COVID-19. Business owners have two options to pick from depending on their needs: a line of credit or a term loan.

- Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) www.wedc.org

WEDC is making targeted grant funds available to small businesses suffering losses due to COVID-19. The Small Business 20/20 Program provides grant funds to approved community development financial institutions (CDFIs). Approved CDFIs will award grants of up to $20,000 to their existing loan clients to assist with cash-flow challenges resulting from COVID-19. Businesses that are not currently CDFI clients are not eligible to access these funds, but WEDC will work to expand access to funding through other programs as more resources become available. If you have more questions, view this FAQ page on SB20/20.

WBDC Direct Lending Program (Restricted for State of Illinois Clients)

With funding and grants directed towards Illinois-based businesses, we are supporting borrowers through the WBDC Direct Lending Program by:

- Deferring principal payments for the next three months and extending loan maturities for three months from original maturity dates.
- Requesting additional resources to expand the increasing financial technical assistance support needed by clients.
• Pursuing emergency funds to provide loans with longer principal grace periods, extended maturities, lower interest rates, collateral over advances, and faster underwriting standards.

Federal Tax Filing and Payment Due Date Extension

• **Filing season extension:** The federal income tax filing due date is automatically extended from April 15, 2020 to July 15, 2020. IRS news releases in English and Spanish are on the [special coronavirus page](https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/special-coronavirus-page).

• **Payment extension:** The IRS also has updated the [payment extension statement](https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/important-information-for-taxpayers-due-to-coronavirus) to July 15, 2020.

• **New business refundable credits:** Small and midsize employers can begin taking advantage of two new refundable payroll tax credits, designed to promptly and fully reimburse them, dollar-for-dollar, for the cost of providing coronavirus-related leave to their employees.

State-by-State Tax Filing and Payment Due Date Extensions

• **Illinois:** [Extended tax filing and payment due dates from April 15, 2020 to July 15, 2020](https://www.illinois.gov/tax/tax-filing-and-payment/due-date-extension.cfm)

• **Iowa:** [Extended tax filing and payment due dates to July 31, 2020](https://www.ia.gov/tax/tax-filing-and-payment/due-date-extension.cfm)

• **Kansas:** [Extended filing due date from April 15, 2020 to July 15, 2020 and will waive interest and penalties for payments made on or before July 15, 2020](https://www.ks.gov/States-and-Government/Taxation/Individual-Tax-Information/Extension-of-Filing-and-Payment-Due-Dates)

• **Minnesota:** [Extended tax filing and payment due dates from April 15, 2020 to July 15, 2020](https://www.revenue.state.mn.us/taxers-taxpayers/tax-filing-due-date-extension)

• **Missouri:** [Extended tax filing due date from April 15, 2020 to July 15, 2020 and penalties and interest will begin to accrue on unpaid balances as of July 16, 2020](https://oet.mo.gov/tax/tax-filing-and-payment/due-date-extension)

• **Nebraska:** [Extended tax payment due date from April 15, 2020 to July 15, 2020](https://www.revenue.ne.gov/tax/tax-filing-and-payment/due-date-extension)

• **North Dakota:** [Extended tax filing and payment due date from April 15, 2020 to July 15, 2020](https://www.dor.nd.gov/tax/tax-filing-and-payment/due-date-extension)

• **Wisconsin:** [Extended tax filing due date from April 15, 2020 to July 15, 2020 and penalties and interest will begin to accrue on unpaid balances as of July 16, 2020](https://www.revenue.wi.gov/tax/tax-filing-and-payment/due-date-extension)

As more information and assistance becomes available, we will share it with you. Do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or for financial assistance.