



COVID-19 Resources for Businesses

This document will be updated with the latest information and redistributed accordingly. Business Resources will also be updated daily on the **Anoka County Regional Economic Development website**:

<https://www.anokacountysuccess.org/covid-19-anoka-county-business-resources/>

Contact Jacquell Hajder, Anoka County Economic Development Specialist for any questions on the following resources. Jacquell.Hajder@co.anoka.mn.us 612-358-8925

WORKFORCE ASSISTANCE

DEED – Unemployment Insurance Information for Employers

On March 16, Governor Walz issued an executive order ensuring workers affected by COVID-19 have full access to unemployment benefits. The order also relieves taxpaying employers of benefit charges associated with COVID-19. This means a company's unemployment tax rate will not increase if your workers collect unemployment benefits due to COVID-19. If your workers apply for unemployment benefits, DEED will let you know. More information about Unemployment Insurance for employers: <https://www.uimn.org/employers/employer-account/news-updates/covid-19.jsp>

For employees not covered by unemployment insurance – both the State and Federal government are working on alternative assistance options. More information to come.

DEED – Rapid Response

Employers planning a closure or major layoffs as a result of the coronavirus can get help through the Rapid Response program. Rapid Response teams will discuss your needs with you, help avert layoffs if possible, and provide services to assist workers facing job losses. For more information, visit [DEED's Rapid Response](#) page or call 1-866-213-1422

<https://mn.gov/deed/business/starting-business/management-basics/considering-layoff.jsp>

DEED – Shared Work – Alternative to Layoffs

Employers experiencing a slowdown in their businesses or services as a result of the coronavirus impact on the economy may apply for the Unemployment Insurance Shared Work Program. This

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program allows employers to seek an alternative to layoffs - retaining their trained employees by reducing their hours and wages that can be partially offset with UI benefits. Workers of employers who are approved to participate in the Shared Work Program receive the percentage of their weekly UI benefit amount based on the percentage of hours and wages reduced, not to exceed 60 percent. Visit [Shared Work Program](#) to learn more:

<https://www.uimn.org/employers/alternative-layoff/index.jsp>

Anoka County Dislocated Worker Program – For permanent layoffs

Our Dislocated Worker program offers free services to help individuals find suitable employment and help take the stress and uncertainty out of the process. Workers may be eligible for this program if they are out of work through no fault of their own, are eligible for unemployment insurance, and are unlikely to return to your previous occupation or industry.

<https://anokacounty.us/dw>

BUSINESS FUNDING

SBA - Small Business Disaster Assistance Loan

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) is offering low-interest federal disaster loans for working capital to small businesses suffering substantial economic injury as a result of Coronavirus (COVID-19). This program is for small businesses and most non-profit organizations that have suffered directly by this disaster. Loans can be for up to \$2 million and may be used to pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable, and other bills that could have been paid had the disaster not occurred. Loans under \$25,000 can be made without collateral, loans over \$25,000 should be collateralized. However, the SBA will not decline a loan for lack of collateral. Find out more by visiting DisasterLoan.sba.gov

Small business owners are eligible to apply for an Economic Injury Disaster Loan advance of up to \$10,000. There is no cost to apply and no obligation to take the loan if approved. Please contact our Northeast Minnesota SBDC consultants for assistance with the application process if needed. They can be contacted directly or by signing up for service at www.nesbdc.org

SBA Loan Payment Deferrals

The CARES Act passed provides a 6-month debt forgiveness to the borrower for all 504, 7a, Community Advantage, Microloan borrows and Disaster Loans from the SBA.

Federal Paycheck Protection Program

The purpose of the Paycheck Protection Program is to help employers with less than 500 employees retain employees, at their current base pay. Loans can be used for payroll expenses from Feb 15, 2020 - June 30th, 2020. If employers keep all employees, the entirety of the loan will be forgiven. If an employer keeps a portion of employees, the loan forgiveness will be reduced by the percent decrease in the number of employees. The amount any small business is eligible to borrow is 250 percent of their average monthly payroll expenses, up to a total of \$10 million.

The terms of the loan not forgiven may differ on a case-by-case basis. However, the maximum terms of the loan feature a 10-year term with interest capped at 4 percent and a 100 percent loan guarantee by the SBA. You will not have to pay any fees on the loan, and collateral requirements and personal guarantees are waived. Loan payments will be deferred for at least six months and up to one year starting at the origination of the loan.

<https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/loans/paycheck-protection-program>

DEED Small Business Emergency Loan Program

DEED is offering emergency loans for small businesses that closed directly or indirectly from the Governor's Executive Orders 20-04 & 20-08 to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Qualifying businesses are eligible for loans from \$2,500 to \$35,000. Loans are zero interest, must be paid back monthly over five (5) years and the first payment will be deferred six (6) months with potentially partial forgiveness.

<https://mn.gov/deed/business/financing-business/deed-programs/peacetime/>

DEED Small Business Loan Guarantee Program

This loan program helps employers that may not have been eligible under the DEED Small Business Emergency Loan Program. DEED is not the lender, but it will work with lenders throughout the state to use the loan guarantees to support small business loans. These loan guarantees will facilitate loans for a variety of purposes and can be subordinate to other financing. 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 program will provide an 80% guarantee up to a maximum of \$200,000, therefore the maximum loan amount in the loan guarantee program would be \$250,000. The program is only employers with less than 250 employees are eligible.

<https://mn.gov/deed/business/financing-business/deed-programs/loan-guarantee/#2>

Entrepreneur Fund

Businesses with a current EF loan can sign up for a free consulting session as a starting point. Additionally, the Entrepreneur Fund has developed the [Small Business Relief Fund](#) to support businesses in our region hard hit by the Coronavirus pandemic. Funding will allow EF to provide financial grant assistance to business owners who are facing significant challenges but do not qualify for local, state or federal relief.

Find out more at <https://www.entrepreneurfund.org/entrepreneur-fund-approach-to-covid-19/>

Bank Loans

A majority of banks or credit unions have established new loan programs or are offering laxer repayment options on existing loans for both personal and business loans. Contact a local bank partner to see what assistance is available. The American Bankers Association has pulled together a list of banks that are offering special assistance at this time. This is updated daily.

<https://www.aba.com/about-us/press-room/industry-response-coronavirus#AlphaV>

GRANTS

Federal Disaster Loans & Emergency Economic Injury Grants

A small business is eligible for grant funds after applying for an SBA Disaster Assistance Loan. These grants provide an emergency advance of up to \$10,000 to small businesses and private non-profits harmed by COVID-19 within three days of applying for an SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL). To access the advance, you must first apply for an EIDL and then request the advance. The advance does not need to be repaid under any circumstance, and may be used to keep employees on payroll, to pay for sick leave, meet increased production costs due to supply chain disruptions, or pay business obligations, including debts, rent and mortgage payments. <https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/disaster-assistance>

Additional to the Federal Economic Injury Grants, many corporations and non-profits have developed grant programs to assist companies affected by COVID-19. Contact Jacquell Hajder, Anoka County Economic Development Specialist for a full list of grant options for businesses. Jacquell.hajder@co.anoka.mn.us 612-358-8925

TAX RELATED INFORMATION

U.S. Treasury Department

The Treasury Department and IRS are extending the due date for Federal income tax payments due April 15, 2020, to July 15, 2020, for payments due of up to \$10 million for corporations and up to \$1 million for individuals – regardless of filing status – and other unincorporated entities. Associated interest, additions to tax, and penalties for late payment will also be suspended until July 15, 2020. [Visit IRS.gov/coronavirus](https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus)

The State of Minnesota has also extended the state tax payments due April 15, 2020 to July 15, 2020.

Minnesota Department of Revenue –

The State Revenue Department is deferring the collection of Sales Tax payments due on March 20, 2020, with no late fees or penalties.

<https://www.revenue.state.mn.us/our-response-covid-19>

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

MCCD & Open to Business

Free Technical Assistance and loans for start-ups or Businesses in Anoka County

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U.S. Department of Labor

Workplace safety; wages, hours and leave; and more: <https://www.dol.gov/coronavirus>

Fair Labor Standards Act Questions and Answers:
<https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/flsa/pandemic>

Family and Medical Leave Act Questions and Answers:
<https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/fmla/pandemic>

Health Insurance Options for Laid-off Workers: <https://www.uimn.org/applicants/help-support/comm-organizations/healthcare.jsp>

- Anytime a Minnesotan loses health coverage, including employer-sponsored coverage, they are eligible to enroll in coverage through MNsure via a special enrollment period for the 60 days following the loss of coverage. (Details [here](#).) Additionally, if someone is eligible for Medical Assistance or MinnesotaCare, enrollment is available at all times, regardless of when they might have last had coverage. (Details [here](#).)

Metro North Chamber of Commerce

Business resource page: <https://www.metronorthchamber.org/>

Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/MetroNorthCares>

Minnesota Chamber of Commerce Toolkit – available to both members and non-members: <https://www.mnchamber.com/blog/covid-19-business-toolkit>

Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry - Info relative to the trades, license exams and workers compensation. <https://www.dli.mn.gov/updates>

Center for Disease Control and Prevention – planning guides for businesses:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/businesses-employers.html>

OSHA - Guidance on Preparing Workplace for COVID-19:
<https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3990.pdf>

EEOC - Pandemic Preparedness in the Workplace and the Americans with Disabilities Act:
https://www.eeoc.gov/facts/pandemic_flu.html

Central hub where individuals and families can access information on finding food, paying housing bills, or other essential services: Dial **2-1-1**, 651-291-0211 or 1-800-543-7709 or Text 'MNCOVID' to 898211

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