

UPDATE sent to Maura on March 13, 2020:

Thanks again for reaching out. Here's a status on where we are with the measures the US Small Business Administration is taking to address the challenges small businesses face due to the impacts of the coronavirus (COVID-19). While the situation is rapidly evolving, I'd like to share what resources are available now and those that are in the pipeline.

What's happened so far

The SBA has received authorization to provide small business assistance through the Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) program. This program can provide up to \$2M, low interest loans to businesses and private non-profits. The attached document discusses the EIDL program and provides high level information related to the loan caps, use of proceeds, and interest rates. It's important to recognize that the state has not yet received a declaration, so the EIDL program is not yet available to Illinois businesses and non-profits.

What's next

SBA is working with the State of Illinois to support their efforts to submit the Governor's request for a declaration. To accomplish this, the state is identifying businesses who have experienced substantial economic injury. This step is important as a county can only qualify if they either, have an identified business that has suffered economic injury, or the county is contiguous to a declared county. Once the state has pulled together its request, it goes to SBA for review. If a disaster is declared, the EIDL becomes available for Illinois businesses located in declared counties.

How you can help

- Help the state identify affected businesses – You can also help the disaster declaration process through your assistance in identifying affected business. The state of Illinois has created a portal to assist with this at: <https://form.jotform.com/200717156003039> Please forward to local economic development or small businesses to help aggregate this critical information.
- Stay informed – The Illinois District will send out updates as the situation evolves. We plan to share information via webinars, through twitter (@SBA_Illinois), and via email (www.sba.gov/updates). In addition, you can find continually updated information on this situation at www.sba.gov/coronavirus.

- Direct impacted small businesses to SBA – Even in the absence of a declaration, SBA has a broad range of programs that can help small businesses through these challenging times including business advisory and lending services. Call or email the Illinois District Office or go to www.sba.gov/il for more information. Local staff stand ready to assist.

Please forward any small business that needs assistance to our office. Our local contact information is:

Chicago Office: 312-353-4528

Springfield Branch: 217-747-8249

Email: Illinois.DO@sba.gov

SBA Disaster Assistance in Response to the Coronavirus

- The U.S. Small Business Administration is offering designated states and territories low-interest federal disaster loans for working capital to small businesses suffering substantial economic injury as a result of the Coronavirus (COVID-19). Upon a request received from a state's or territory's Governor, SBA will issue under its own authority, as provided by the Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act that was recently signed by the President, an Economic Injury Disaster Loan declaration.
- Any such Economic Injury Disaster Loan assistance declaration issued by the SBA makes loans available to small businesses and private, non-profit organizations in designated areas of a state or territory to help alleviate economic injury caused by the Coronavirus (COVID-19).
- SBA's Office of Disaster Assistance will coordinate with the state's or territory's Governor to submit the request for Economic Injury Disaster Loan assistance.
- Once a declaration is made for designated areas within a state, the information on the application process for Economic Injury Disaster Loan assistance will be made available to all affected communities as well as updated on our website: SBA.gov/disaster.
- SBA's Economic Injury Disaster Loans offer up to \$2 million in assistance per small business and can provide vital economic support to small businesses to help overcome the temporary loss of revenue they are experiencing.
- These loans may be used to pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable and other bills that can't be paid because of the disaster's impact. The interest rate is 3.75% for small businesses without credit available elsewhere; businesses with credit available elsewhere are not eligible. The interest rate for non-profits is 2.75%.

- SBA offers loans with long-term repayments in order to keep payments affordable, up to a maximum of 30 years. Terms are determined on a case-by-case basis, based upon each borrower's ability to repay.
- SBA's Economic Injury Disaster Loans are just one piece of the expanded focus of the federal government's coordinated response, and the SBA is strongly committed to providing the most effective and customer-focused response possible.
- For additional information, please contact the SBA disaster assistance customer service center. Call 1-800-659-2955 (TTY: 1-800-877-8339) or e-mail disastercustomerservice@sba.gov.
- Visit [SBA.gov/disaster](https://www.sba.gov/disaster) for more information.