

COVID-19 Small Business Assistance

To keep small businesses and nonprofits updated with the most recent information as it relates to economic assistance during COVID-19, this resource page has been created in an effort with the State of Connecticut, the Department of Economic and Community Development, and the Greater New Britain Chamber of Commerce. This should be considered a working document and will be updated as new resources become available.

State of CT COVID-19 Resource Pages: To keep apprised of the latest news on COVID-19, the State's response, the Governor's Executive Orders, and information as it relates to specific sectors of our community, please click [here](#). The State's **Division of Emergency Management** serves as a central location for CDC updates, travel advisories and updates from the Connecticut Department of Public Health. You can also view the State's Business Resource page by clicking [here](#).

Unemployment Assistance: The Connecticut Department of Labor (DOL) has relaxed the requirements for unemployment assistance during this time. An overview of these regulations can be found [here](#). To file an unemployment claim, please visit the [DOL website](#).

Business Response Unit: The Connecticut Department of Economic & Community Development (DECD) has created a COVID-19 Business Emergency Response Unit to field questions and assist businesses in navigating resources that have, and will be, created. A dedicated phone line has been created: [\(860\)500-2333](tel:8605002333), and you can also email the Business Response Unit at COVID19.JIC@ct.gov.

US Small Business Administration Loan: The US SBA approved Connecticut's request for disaster relief for small businesses and nonprofits. Loans up to \$2 million dollars are available, with interest rates between 2.75% (nonprofits) and 3.75% (small businesses). To apply for a loan, please visit the [US SBA website](#). For free, confidential, application assistance, please visit the Connecticut Small Business Development Center's website [here](#).

Connecticut Bridge Loan Program: The Department of Economic & Community Development (DECD) has announced a Bridge Loan Program for small businesses. The loans will be for a maximum amount of \$75,000 or three months of operating expenses – whichever is less, with a 0% interest rate, and a term of up to 18 months. An overview of the loan program can be viewed in this [Hartford Business Journal article](#). Applications will be handled through the DECD. Please click [here](#) to view information on the application process. Questions regarding the application may be sent to decductrecovery@ct.gov (preferred), or through the hotline number [\(860\)500-2333](tel:8605002333).

Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Support (CARES) Act: On March 27, 2020 US Congress approved the CARES Act providing additional relief options for small business, nonprofits, and local and State governments. Two aspects of CARES aimed at helping small businesses survive this time are the Payroll Protection Program (PPP) and the Emergency Injury Disaster Loan Program (EIDL). An overview and comparison of the two can be seen [here](#).

-PPP applications will be handled by local, certified, lenders of the US Small Business Administration. Please click [here](#) to find a local lender. Applications can be submitted beginning Friday, April 3, 2020.

-EIDL applications will be handled directly by the US Small Business Administration. To view requirements and begin an application, please click [here](#). Additionally, you may contact the Connecticut branch of the [Small Business Development Center](#) for free and confidential loan assistance.

Reimbursement of Medical Leave Costs: The Connecticut Department of Insurance is offering full-reimbursement for COVID-19 medical leave costs for small and medium-sized businesses. To view the news release and contact information to begin the reimbursement process, please click [here](#).

Tax Filing Extension: The Connecticut Department of Revenue has extended the filing deadline for certain tax returns in order to support businesses during this time. To view this information, please click [here](#). Additionally, the IRS has also extended their filing deadline. To view that press release and stay apprised of Federal updates, please click [here](#).

Mortgage Relief Program: On Tuesday, March 31, 2020, Gov. Lamont announced a partnership with over 50 banks and credit unions in Connecticut, allowing for up to a 90-day grace period for mortgage payments for those impacted by COVID-19. Please read the release [here](#).