



# Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Dear Business Owner,

Sarasota County is committed to supporting your business's efforts to minimize interruption and be fully operational as soon as possible.

## **New updates:**

- For text alerts from Sarasota County Government, text **SRQCOVID19** to **888777**.
- Up-to-date county information at [Sarasota County's COVID-19 webpage](#).
- Statewide information at the [Florida Department of Health's dedicated COVID-19 webpage](#).

## **FL DEO Business Damage Assessment Survey**

On March 12, 2020 Gov. Ron DeSantis announced the activation of the Business Damage Assessment survey to assess the impact of COVID-19 on Florida's local business operations. The survey, managed by the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO), will evaluate businesses affected by COVID-19 and the impacts the virus has had on the local economy so actions to implement appropriate relief programs can begin. The Business Damage Assessment Survey can be taken online.

## **SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loan Program**

The Small Business Administration's Economic Injury Disaster Loan program provides small businesses with working capital loans of up to \$2 million to help overcome the temporary loss of revenue. 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.

Email: [disastercustomerservice@sba.gov](mailto:disastercustomerservice@sba.gov)

Phone: 1-800-659-2955

## **SBDC Emergency Bridge Loan Program**

The Florida Small Business Emergency Bridge Loan Program provides short-term, interest-free working capital loans that can "bridge the gap" between the time a major catastrophe hits and when a business has secured longer term recovery resources. The program is currently available to small business owners located in all Florida counties statewide that experienced economic damage as a result of COVID-19.

For questions regarding the Emergency Bridge Loan Program, please contact the Florida Small Business Development Center (SBDC) Network Headquarters.

Email: [Disaster@FloridaSBDC.org](mailto:Disaster@FloridaSBDC.org)

Phone: 813-905-5800

### **FL DEO Short Time Compensation Program**

The Short-Time Compensation program is a voluntary employer program designed to help employers maintain their staffs by reducing the weekly working hours during temporary slowdowns instead of temporarily laying off employees.

If your employer establishes a short-time compensation plan and you meet the qualifications to file a re-employment assistance claim in the state of Florida, you will receive a partial re-employment check to supplement your reduced paycheck.

Email: [Florida DEO Email Form](#)

Phone: 850-245-7105

### **FL DEO Reemployment Assistance**

If your employment has been negatively impacted because of mitigation efforts to stop the spread of COVID-19, you may be eligible to receive Reemployment Assistance.

For questions regarding the DEO Reemployment Assistance Program, please contact the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) Reemployment Assistance Contact Center during the hours of 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM EST, Monday through Friday.

Email: [Florida DEO Email Form](#)

Phone: 1-800-204-2418

### **Bartender Emergency Assistance Program**

This program is meant to aid service industry personnel experiencing financial difficulties as a direct result of the outbreak. Eligible applicants can receive a grant to help pay their bills.

Email: [foundation@usbg.org](mailto:foundation@usbg.org)

Phone: N/A

### **Restaurant Workers' Community Foundation**

This nonprofit group, created by and for restaurant workers, has formed a COVID-19 Crisis Relief Fund specifically to help restaurant employees as more businesses decide or are mandated by cities and states to close their doors. The program helps maintain payroll during closures or re-opening once the crises has passed.

Email: [covidhelp@restaurantworkerscf.org](mailto:covidhelp@restaurantworkerscf.org)

Phone: N/A

### **One Fair Wage Emergency (Tipped) Workers Support Fund**

This fund provides free cash assistance to restaurant workers, delivery drivers and other tipped workers and service workers who are seeing their income decline during this disaster or aren't able to work because of quarantines or other health concerns. To get help, complete the online application form, and an organizer will contact you within 7-10 days.

## Additional COVID-19 Key Links:

- [Centers for Disease Control](#): The Centers for Disease Control continues to update guidance on COVID-19.
- [Enterprise Florida](#): The Official Economic Development Organization for the State of Florida.
- [Florida Chamber of Commerce](#): The Florida Chamber of Commerce is an organization devoted to the advocacy of private businesses in the State of Florida.
- [Florida Department of Economic Opportunity](#): The state and federal programs administered by DEO help support local businesses, engage talented job seekers and enhance our state's diverse communities.
- [Florida Small Business Development Center](#): State designated as Florida's principal provider of business assistance, the Florida SBDC provides tools and expertise to help Florida's small businesses succeed.
- [IRS Coronavirus Tax Relief](#): The IRS has established a special section focused on steps to help taxpayers, businesses and others affected by the coronavirus.
- [Manasota SCORE](#): Is a non-profit resource partner of the Small Business Administration.
- [Small Business Administration](#): The SBA is a United States government agency that provides support to entrepreneurs and small businesses to plan and respond.
- [U.S. Chamber of Commerce](#): The largest business organization representing the interests of more than three million businesses of all sizes, sectors, and regions. They count on the chamber to be their voice in Washington, D.C.

