

COVID-19 RESOURCES FOR BUSINESSES IN ANOKA COUNTY

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
- Contact your local city partner by clicking on your business jurisdiction and finding your local contact. <https://www.anokacountysuccess.org/resource-guide>

BUSINESS FUNDING

FEDERAL SBA Resources

<https://www.sba.gov/blog/covid-19-resources-small-businesses>

SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL)

Loans for up to \$2 million, 3.75% interest for businesses, 2.75% for nonprofits. The first payment is deferred for 12 months and can be extended over 30 years. 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 application has been simplified and can be completed 100% online at: www.sba.gov/disaster.

SBA EIDL Grants - Businesses applying for an EIDL loan can request up to \$10,000 be disbursed quickly prior to the official loan offer. The amount need not be repaid under any circumstances regardless of the loan decision. The form to apply is online here: <https://covid19relief.sba.gov/#/>

SBA Express Bridge Loans

These loans allow small businesses who already have a business relationship with an SBA Express Lender to quickly access up to \$25,000.

Working With People To Improve Lives

 1201 89th Avenue NE, Suite 235 ▲ Blaine, MN 55434 ▲ www.anokacounty.us/jtc

763-324-2300 ▲ FAX: 763-324-2294 ▲ TTY/TDD: 711

SBA Debt Relief

As part of SBA's relief efforts, the agency will automatically pay the principal, interest, and fees of current 7(a), 504, and microloans for a period of six months. SBA will also automatically pay the principal, interest, and fees of new 7(a), 504, and microloans issued prior to September 27, 2020.

SBA Export Loans

SBA also works with lending partners to provide SBA-guaranteed export loans. These loans – such as Export Express loans – can help exporting businesses respond to opportunities and challenges associated with trade, including COVID-19.

**** To check the status of an application that was submitted and not funded for either program contact: disastercustomerservice@sba.gov | 800-659-2955 or Minneapolis.mn@sba.gov 612.370.2324**

STATE OF MINNESOTA Resources

<https://www.sba.gov/blog/covid-19-resources-small-businesses>

MN Small Business Loan Guarantee 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.

How to Apply: You will apply directly with a participating lender listed here:

<https://mn.gov/deed/business/financing-business/deed-programs/loan-guarantee/index.jsp>

MN 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.

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

BANK OR CREDIT UNION LOANS

A majority of banks or credit unions have established new loan programs or are offering laxed repayment options on existing loans for both personal and business loans. Contact a local bank partner to see what assistance is available.

ADDITIONAL GRANTS

Many corporations and non-profits have developed grant programs to assist companies affected by COVID-19. Contact Jacquell Hajder for a full list of grant options for businesses.

TECHNICAL & LOCAL ASSISTANCE

Open to Business

For free confidential, technical assistance and business advising offered by Open to Business in partnership with Anoka County – contact Carrie Mikkonen [_cmikkonen@mccdmn.org](mailto:cmikkonen@mccdmn.org)

Updated 11-23-2020 - Jhajder

Business 4 Business MSP Regional Coalition

The Business4Business (B4B MSP) coalition will connect small businesses with local resources from public agencies and private sector partners, including technical and financial assistance to provide immediate relief. Applications will open in early 2021.

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

Elevate Minnesota

In addition to the Business 4 Business MSP Coalition, employers can benefit from a regional partnership and access the following:

- Technical Assistance
- Peer-to-Peer Roundtables
- Topic-Driven Webinars

Employers in Anoka County can register - <https://www.elevatebusinesshc.com/home>

WORKFORCE ASSISTANCE

MN – Unemployment Insurance Information for Employers

Employers unemployment tax rate will not increase if workers collect unemployment benefits due to COVID-19. More information about Unemployment Insurance for employers:

<https://www.uimn.org/employers/employer-account/news-updates/covid-19.jsp>

MN – Pandemic Unemployment Insurance Information for Employers

For employees that were not traditionally covered under traditional unemployment insurance are advised to now apply for Pandemic Unemployment Insurance (PUI). Apply online here:

https://www1.uimn.org/ui_applicant/applicant/login.do

MN – 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>

MN – Shared Work – Alternative to Layoffs

An alternative to unemployment and layoffs, employers can retain their trained employees by reducing their hours and wages that can be partially offset with UI benefits. 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.

<https://anokacounty.us/dw>

TAX RELATED INFORMATION

IRS EMPLOYEE RETENTION CREDIT

Summary of Program: An alternative to the Paycheck Protection Program, the Employee Retention Credit is a refundable tax credit against certain employment taxes equal to 50 percent of the qualified wages an eligible employer pays to employees after March 12, 2020, and before January 1, 2021. Eligible employers can get immediate access to the credit by reducing employment tax deposits they are otherwise required to make. Also, if the employer's employment tax deposits are not sufficient to cover the credit, the employer may get an advance payment from the IRS. The maximum credit is \$5000 per employee.

How to apply: You can claim the credit through your regular IRS tax payment process. To request an advance you can submit Form 7200.

PAYROLL TAX

Employer portion of security tax for payroll, which is 6.5%, on hold for now. Half to be paid back 12/31/21, the other half 12/31/22. Self-employed individuals will have 50% of the 'employer equivalent' of their self-employment taxes deferred as well, with 25% due by December 31, 2021, and the remaining 25% due by December 31, 2022. Track carefully and be prepared to pay back. May also be some payroll credits. However, business owners who have debt forgiven under the PPP are ineligible for this benefit.

Federal Taxes - U.S. Treasury Department

The Treasury Department and IRS extended the due date for Federal income tax payments to July 15, 2020 and forgave late fees and associated interest. [Visit IRS.gov/coronavirus](https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus)

Section 2302 of the CARES Act allows employers to defer payment and deposit of the employer share of social security tax during the period beginning on March 27, 2020 and ending on December 31, 2020. Employers can defer payment until December 31, 2021 for 50 percent of the tax and defer payment until December 31, 2022 for the remaining 50 percent of the tax.

State Business Taxes - Minnesota Department of Revenue

Resource from the Department of Revenue on additional time that is available to file and pay some Minnesota business taxes. <https://www.revenue.state.mn.us/our-response-covid-19>

CARES ACT

The Cares Act offers financial relief to employers, individuals and real estate establishments.

- To view the full bill, please visit the following website:
<https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/3548/text?q=product+update>

Additional State and Federal Relief Packages are being discussed daily. Anoka County Regional Economic Development, its area cities, chambers and Job Training Center will work hard to release any new resources that become available to employers.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

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>

Chamber of Commerce

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

Additional to the State Chamber, many of your local chamber partners are promoting businesses that are still open with revised services – or providing additional support during this time of crisis.

- **MetroNorth Chamber of Commerce**– (Blaine, Ham Lake, Coon Rapids, Lino Lakes areas)
Business resource page: <https://www.metronorthchamber.org/>
Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/MetroNorthCares>
- **Anoka Area Chamber** (Anoka, Ramsey, Nowthen, Oak Grove, Coon Rapids Area)
<https://www.anokaareachamber.com/>
- **East Bethel Chamber of Commerce**
<https://www.eastbethelchamber.com/>
- **Forest Lake Area Chamber of Commerce (Forest Lake, Columbus areas)**
<https://forestlakechamber.org/> - Join their business resources call
- **Ham Lake Chamber of Commerce**
<https://www.hamlakeareacc.org/>
- **Quad Area Chamber** (Circle Pines, Centerville, Lino Lakes and Lexington areas)
<https://www.quadareachamber.org/>
- **St Francis Area Chamber of Commerce**
<https://www.stfranschamber.org/>
- **Twin Cities North Chamber** (Fridley, Spring Lake Park, Columbia Heights, Blaine areas)
<http://www.twincitiesnorth.org/>

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

MN DEED Homepage for COVID-19 Industry Guidance

<https://staysafe.mn.gov/industry-guidance/index.jsp>

So given these options, where should you start?

1. First, it is recommended you contact your insurance company. You may have access to benefits you've paid into through your policy that could be helpful during this time. In addition, reach out to your accountant who may guide you through the COVID-19 resources available.
2. Next, before pursuing financial assistance for your business review this helpful guide from the Federal Trade Commission on the topic of business financing. Be mindful of the business implications and risk of any business financing options and also be aware of potential scams.
<https://www.ftc.gov/news-events/blogs/business-blog/2020/04/small-business-financing-considerations-borrowers-lenders>
3. Next, call your bank or credit union. They will have advice for you on:
 - a. Their own resources
 - b. Any SBA programs they have access to
 - c. They may refer you to local lending programs such as those available through non-profits
4. If you have been denied credit by a bank or the SBA, and/or do not use a bank and/or do not have insurance on your business:

You may call a lender in the Small Business Loan Guarantee program. You can view lenders on the following webpage:

<https://mn.gov/deed/business/financing-business/deed-programs/loan-guarantee/enrolled-lenders.jsp>

5. You can call your city or county to discuss these resources listed above and learn about any local programs available to you.