

Resources for Small Business in Georgia Affected by COVID-19

NATIONAL RESOURCES

Amazon

[Neighborhood Small Business Relief Fund](#)

Amazon is offering grants to affected businesses in South Lake Union, Regrade and Bellevue impacted by the coronavirus.

Facebook

Facebook has launched a [small business grants program](#) offering \$100 million in cash grants and ad credits for up to 30,000 small businesses.

Google

Offering [free access](#) to its advanced Hangouts Meet video-conferencing capabilities to all G Suite customers until July 1 so businesses can stay connected with their teams and vendors.

H.R.6201

[Families First Coronavirus Response Act](#)

Details: Worker Protections — The package requires employers to provide two weeks paid sick leave and up to three months of paid family leave for employees affected by the virus, the cost of which could then be claimed by the employer as a tax credit.

Hello Alice

[Emergency Small Business Grants](#)

Online resource site Hello Alice is offering \$10,000 grants to businesses affected by COVID-19.

LISC

[Rapid Relief and Resiliency Fund](#)

This fund will inject much-needed, flexible resources into historically under-invested communities. These are the places that are suffering most from the economic fallout gripping our nation due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It provides immediate and longer-term resources in three critical areas:

- **Small business support:** Entrepreneurs and small businesses in the communities we serve are at a high level of risk and need fast access to grants and patient, flexible loan capital—in addition to help connecting with government assistance—in order to remain viable, help their local economies remain intact and reconstruct following these challenging times.
- **Organizational support** for our community-based partners: In times of adversity such as these, neighbors turn to their local community organizations—CDCs, CBOs, financial empowerment entities, etc. These groups are the delivery systems for resources and services to residents, especially those most vulnerable to the impact of

COVID-19. **By providing our partners with grants, working capital and other assistance**, we can help them stay functioning, stay strong, outlast this pandemic and enable their communities to weather this crisis with emergency rental assistance, help applying for unemployment aid and a gamut of other supports.

- **Access to technology:** Never before has this been more critical, both for our local partners who must serve clients remotely, and for residents who need to work, attend school and connect with the outside world online. Our support will ramp up technological infrastructure, improve broadband access and cybersecurity, provide technical assistance for groups using meeting and other communications platforms, and much more.

Small Business Association

Paycheck Protection Program

The Paycheck Protection Program prioritizes millions of Americans employed by small businesses by authorizing up to \$349 billion toward job retention and certain other expenses.

Small businesses and eligible nonprofit organizations, Veterans organizations, and Tribal businesses described in the Small Business Act, as well as individuals who are self-employed or are independent contractors, are eligible if they also meet program size standards.

Under this program:

- Eligible recipients may qualify for a loan up to \$10 million determined by 8 weeks of prior average payroll plus an additional 25% of that amount.
- Loan payments will be deferred for six months.
- If you maintain your workforce, SBA will forgive the portion of the loan proceeds that are used to cover the first 8 weeks of payroll and certain other expenses following loan origination.

Economic Injury Disaster Loans and Loan Advance

In response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, small business owners in all U.S. states, Washington D.C., and territories are eligible to apply for an Economic Injury Disaster Loan advance of up to \$10,000. To apply for a COVID-19 Economic Injury Disaster Loan, click [here](#).

The SBA's Economic Injury Disaster Loan program provides small businesses with working capital loans of up to \$2 million that can provide vital economic support to small businesses to help overcome the temporary loss of revenue they are experiencing. The loan advance will provide economic relief to businesses that are currently experiencing a temporary loss of revenue. Funds will be made available within three days of a successful application, and this loan advance will not have to be repaid.

FAQs:

Who Qualifies?

Businesses, renters, and homeowners located in regions affected by declared disasters.

What are the Loans for?

Loans cover repairs and replacement of physical assets damaged in a declared disaster and small business operating expenses after a declared disaster.

Can I also apply for the proposed SBA Debt Relief – 7(a) loan if I have received SBA Disaster Loan?

NO, you cannot qualify for the proposed loan if you already have taken an SBA Disaster Loan. As currently proposed, you can do one or the other.

[SBA Debt Relief – \(pending enactment\)](#)

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act provides immediate relief to small businesses with SBA 7(a), 504, and microloans. For existing borrowers, SBA will cover all loan payments on these SBA loans, including principal, interest, and fees, for six months. This relief will also be available to new borrowers who take out loans within six months of the enactment of the CARES Act.

Under this program:

- The SBA will also pay the principal and interest of new 7(a) loans issued prior to September 27, 2020.
- The SBA will pay the principal and interest of current 7(a) loans for a period of six months.

You are eligible if:

- You have an SBA 7(a), 504, or microloan loan (**Paycheck Protection loans and SBA disaster loans are not eligible—but payments are already deferred under those loans**);
- You apply for and receive an SBA 7(a), 504, or microloan within six months of enactment of the CARES Act.

[SBA Express Bridge Loans](#)

[Express Bridge Loan Pilot Program](#) allows small businesses who currently have a business relationship with an SBA Express Lender to access up to \$25,000 with less paperwork. These loans can provide vital economic support to small businesses to help overcome the temporary loss of revenue they are experiencing and can be a term loans or used to bridge the gap while applying for a direct [SBA Economic Injury Disaster loan](#). If a small business has an urgent need for cash while waiting for decision and disbursement on Economic Injury Disaster Loan, they may qualify for an SBA Express Disaster Bridge Loan. Terms: Up to \$25,000, Fast turnaround, Will be repaid in full or in part by proceeds from the EIDL loan. Find an Express Bridge Loan Lender by connecting with [your local SBA District Office](#).

UberEats

UberEats is [waiving delivery fees](#) for all orders from independently-owned restaurants to keep them in business as many cities begin to mandate closure of storefronts.

GEORGIA RESOURCES

Invest Atlanta

[Economic Assistance for Atlanta Businesses Affected by COVID-19](#)

Invest Atlanta has established a Business Continuity Loan Fund (BCLF) with \$1.5 million of funding from the City of Atlanta. The fund will offer small businesses zero-interest loans to address a lack of working capital and cash flows as a result of reduced consumer demand, the ability to fulfill product or service orders and other economic conditions.

Georgia Department of Labor

[FAQ on COVID-19-related unemployment claims](#)

The Georgia Department of Labor has posted a FAQ on emergency rules temporary/partial unemployment insurance benefits related to the coronavirus. [Read it here](#).

The employment law firm Fisher Phillips has posted an analysis of Georgia's and Atlanta's response to the outbreak. [Click here to read it](#).

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS RESOURCES

[Centers for Disease Control Business Resources](#)

[CDC - About the Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has assembled a comprehensive website for people to learn about the ways they can prepare and protect themselves from the Coronavirus. There is also useful information on what the symptoms of this disease are, the latest updates on reported cases and more information and resources for the community.

[CDC - Interim Guide for Businesses and Employers](#)

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has created a guide for business owners on the best strategies employers should use to limit the impact of COVID-19 on their business and to decrease the spread of this disease. This is a comprehensive guide that should be read and used by all employers across the country.

[CDC - Cleaning and Disinfection Recommendations](#)

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has put together best practices for cleaning and disinfection for employers, individuals and communities.

[CDC recommended cleaning products](#)

[FEMA Emergency Planning Exercises](#)

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) offers free, downloadable exercises that businesses can use to prepare for an emergency like COVID-19

[FDIC - Resources and Information for Bankers and Consumers](#)

The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) has put together a list of articles and links to other resources aimed at helping consumers recover from a national emergency.

[FEMA Business Continuity Plan](#)

Helpful templates and resources to make sure your business is ready to prepare for a national emergency.

[Leeway from Financial Institutions:](#)

Banks and credit card companies are aiding customers experiencing financial hardship due to coronavirus related business closures. Customers may have late fees waived or receive assistance with minimum payments. Financial institutions encourage customers to contact customer service for assistance.

[Wells Fargo, Capital One, Citi, American Express](#)

[Score:](#)

Small business disaster resources and individual business counseling.

[US Chamber of Commerce - Combating the Coronavirus](#)

A guide to inform and equip businesses with the most important and up-to-date information to prevent the spread of the virus and prepare businesses for the near and long-term impact.

[Women Impacting Public Policy:](#)

Policy Updates & Business Resources from Women Impacting Public Policy

[World Health Organization](#)

Information about COVID-19

Common Issues Small Businesses May Encounter:

Capital Access – Incidents can strain a small business's financial capacity to make payroll, maintain inventory and respond to market fluctuations (both sudden drops and surges in demand). Businesses should prepare by exploring and testing their capital access options so they have what they need when they need it. See SBA's capital access resources.

Workforce Capacity – Incidents have just as much impact on your workers as they do your clientele. It's critical to ensure they have the ability to fulfill their duties while protected.

Inventory and Supply Chain Shortfalls – While the possibility could be remote, it is a prudent preparedness measure to ensure you have either adequate supplies of inventory for a sustained period and/or diversify your distributor sources in the event one supplier cannot meet an order request.

Facility Remediation/Clean-up Costs – Depending on the incident, there may be a need to enhance the protection of customers and staff by increasing the frequency and intensity by which your business conducts cleaning of surfaces frequently touched by occupants and visitors. Check your maintenance contracts and supplies of cleaning materials to ensure they can meet increases in demand.

Insurance Coverage Issues – Many businesses have business interruption insurance; Now is the time to contact your insurance agent to review your policy to understand precisely what you are and are not covered for in the event of an extended incident.

Changing Market Demand – Depending on the incident, there may be access controls or movement restrictions established which can impede your customers from reaching your business. Additionally, there may be public concerns about public exposure to an incident and they may decide not to go to your business out of concern of exposing themselves to greater risk. SBA's Resources Partners and District Offices have trained experts who can help you craft a plan specific to your situation to help navigate any rapid changes in demand.

Marketing – It's critical to communicate openly with your customers about the status of your operations, what protective measures you've implemented, and how they (as customers) will be protected when they visit your business. Promotions may also help incentivize customers who may be reluctant to patronize your business.

Plan – As a business, bring your staff together and prepare a plan for what you will do if the incident worsens or improves. It's also helpful to conduct a tabletop exercise to simulate potential scenarios and how your business management and staff might respond to the hypothetical scenario in the exercise. For examples of tabletop exercises, visit FEMA's website at: <https://www.fema.gov/emergency-planning-exercises>



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