

COVID-19 RESOURCES – NORTH IDAHO

Issued by the Joint Business Service Providers

Bulletin #58 – April 30, 2021

Business & Community Leader

What's GOOD for our SCHOOLS
is GOOD for BUSINESS

 **VOTE YES**

Tuesday, May 18

The Post Falls Chamber supports
Our School Districts Levies

Levy dollars allow school districts to bridge the gap between state funding and the cost of meeting the educational expectations of our community. Ensure our students continue to receive a quality education in a safe and supportive environment

Levy dollars help fund essential programs and opportunities such as:

- **Safety:** School resource officers, high school campus safety
- **Health:** School nurses, mental health resources, family support
- **Staffing:** Recruiting and keeping quality teachers and staff
- **Classroom Support:** Instructional assistants, classroom supplies
- **Skilled Trades:** Pathways to careers in an evolving economy
- **Enrichment:** Sports, music, arts, extracurricular activities
- **Transportation:** Buying new, safer school buses
- **Technology:** Additional student devices, tech support

State and federal funding only provides about 75% of what it takes to fund our schools.

This levy proposal **will not increase** the projected taxes for the average Lakeland, Coeur d'Alene or Post Falls taxpayer's school district taxes.

**Kootenai County
Election Information
www.kcgov.us**

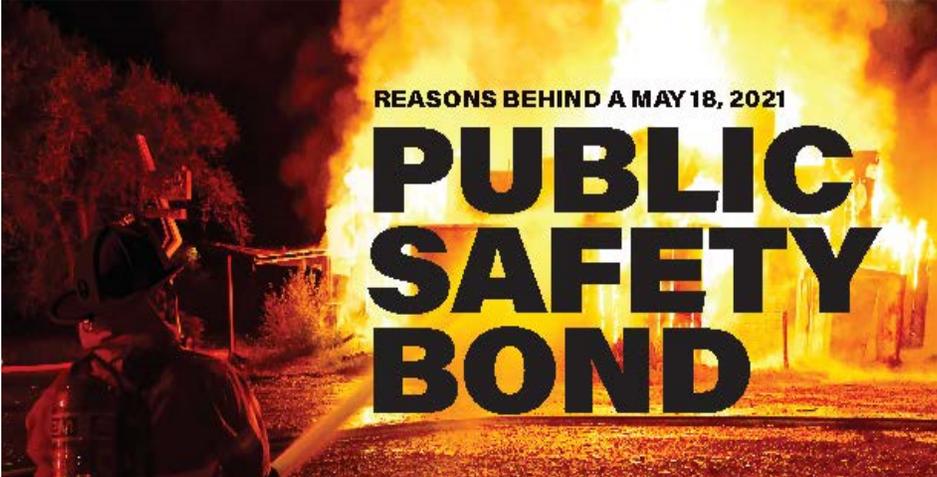
Need a COVID-19 Vaccine?

The Pfizer vaccine is now available to all persons 16 years old or older who live or work in Idaho. To schedule an appointment, call 208.209.3230 or click the link below:

WWW.NWSH.COM

Public Safety Bond

May 18, 2021



REASONS BEHIND A MAY 18, 2021

PUBLIC SAFETY BOND

SERVICE	SAFETY	COMMUNITY
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Faster response times for emergency calls• Enhanced service to our growing district• Alignment of stations to better meet our community needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Meet the growing demands of our region• Augment training campus for area first responders• New apparatus to meet needs of a diverse community	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 34.5% rise in population from 2010 to 2020• 63% increase of emergency response calls over 10 years• Growth of the currently underserved areas in Kootenai County

VOTING INFO	PROJECTS INCLUDED IN THE BOND						
<p>Election Day: May 18, 2021</p>	<table border="1"><thead><tr><th>REPOSITION</th><th>ADDITIONAL</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>KCFR Station #3 Charleville & Prairie Ave. (North East Post Falls)</td><td>KCFR Station #5 East Seltice Way (South East Post Falls) includes improvements to the Training Campus</td></tr><tr><td>KCFR Station #4 Kathleen & 4th St. (Kootenai County Fair Grounds)</td><td>Fire Truck</td></tr></tbody></table>	REPOSITION	ADDITIONAL	KCFR Station #3 Charleville & Prairie Ave. (North East Post Falls)	KCFR Station #5 East Seltice Way (South East Post Falls) includes improvements to the Training Campus	KCFR Station #4 Kathleen & 4th St. (Kootenai County Fair Grounds)	Fire Truck
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KOOTENAI COUNTY
IDAHO
FIRE & RESCUE

Information for polling places and early absentee voting is available from: apps.idahovotes.gov/YourPollingPlace

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT: KOOTENAIFIRE.COM

NEWS RELEASE



U.S. Small Business
Administration

PRESS OFFICE

Release Date: April 17, 2021

Release Number: 21-29

[Blogs](#) & [Instagram](#)

Contact: Press_Office@sba.gov

Follow us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#),

SBA Announces Official Restaurant Revitalization Fund Application and Guidelines

Economic relief prioritized for underserved communities

WASHINGTON – SBA [Administrator Isabella Casillas Guzman](#) today announced key details on application requirements, eligibility, and a program guide for the Restaurant Revitalization Fund (RFF). The restaurant industry has been among the hardest-hit sectors during the economic downturn caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. To help bring jobs back and revive the industry, the American Rescue Plan, signed into law by President Joe Biden, established the \$28.6 billion Restaurant Revitalization Fund at the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). The SBA will administer the funds to the hardest-hit small restaurants.

“Today, we are starting the process to help restaurants and bars across the country devastated by the pandemic, and this is our message: Help is here. With the launch of the Restaurant Revitalization Fund, we’re prioritizing funding to the hardest-hit small businesses – irreplaceable gathering places in our neighborhoods and communities that need a lifeline now to get back on their feet,” said SBA Administrator Isabella Casillas Guzman. “And, thanks to clear directives from Congress, we’re rolling out this program to make sure that these businesses can meet payroll, purchase supplies, and get what they need in place to transition to today’s COVID-restricted marketplace.”

Administrator Guzman emphasized, “We’re also focused on ensuring that the RRF program’s application process is streamlined and free of burdensome, bureaucratic hurdles – while still maintaining robust

oversight. Under my leadership, the SBA aims to be as entrepreneurial as the entrepreneurs we serve – and that means meeting every small business where they are, and giving them the support, they need to recover, rebuild and thrive.”

Under this announcement, details on application requirements, eligibility, and a program guide are now available in English at www.sba.gov/restaurants or in Spanish at www.sba.gov/restaurantes.

Ahead of the application launch and over the next two weeks, the SBA will establish a seven-day pilot period for the RRF application portal and conduct extensive outreach and training. The pilot period will be used to address technical issues ahead of the public launch. Participants in this pilot will be randomly selected from existing PPP borrowers in priority groups for RRF and will not receive funds until the application portal is open to the public.

Following the pilot, the application portal will be opened to the public. The official application launch date will be announced at a later date. For the first 21 days that the program is open, the SBA will prioritize reviewing applications from small businesses owned by women, veterans, and socially and economically disadvantaged individuals. Following the 21-day period, all eligible applicants are encouraged to submit applications.

The groundwork for this announcement is the result of a comprehensive effort to reach out to diverse stakeholders in order to understand the needs and barriers restaurants face in accessing emergency relief aid.

“Local restaurants and bars are being served very good news today,” said Erika Polmar, Executive Director of the Independent Restaurant Coalition. “These guidelines were crafted by the SBA after conversations with independent restaurant and bar operators across the country. We are grateful to the SBA for their hard work to make this process as accessible as possible in a short period of time. It is clear the SBA and the Biden Administration care deeply about ensuring businesses struggling the most can quickly and effectively use this relief program, and we look forward to continued conversations and collaboration to ensure this fund works as intended for the independent restaurant and bar community.”

Community business leaders from underserved communities also welcomed RRF assistance as much-needed economic relief and are working with their broad membership bases to navigate the grant application process.

“In addition to historically having less operating liquidity and revenue than almost any other small business demographic, Black-owned restaurants received significantly less stimulus funding during the COVID-19 pandemic, heightening challenges and leading to disproportionate closures,” said Ron Busby, Sr., president and CEO, U.S. Black Chambers, Inc. “The USBC believes this initiative and collaboration with the SBA will bring needed resources and relief to these often underserved businesses to aid in stabilization, recovery and ultimately, strengthen our economy.”

In addition to restaurant groups and leading advocacy groups for underserved business communities, the SBA has engaged national and state trade associations, and other small business stakeholders in recent weeks to understand their concerns about relief programs.

“Small and independent craft breweries are vibrant community gathering places that can be found in nearly every congressional district in the U.S. and contribute to manufacturing, hospitality, retail, tourism, and agricultural industries,” said Bob Pease, president and CEO, Brewers Association. “We are pleased to work with the SBA to promote the Restaurant Revitalization Fund landing page and its available resources, and assist the breweries hit hardest by COVID-19 secure much needed additional relief to help them survive the pandemic and prepare for the restart of the economy.”

At all levels, the SBA will continue engaging with stakeholder communities to inform and design delivery of financial assistance programs. As the SBA builds and prepares to roll out the program, this dedicated [SBA website](#) is the best source for up-to-date information for eligible restaurants interested in the RRF.



Citylink Regional Transportation- Mobility Survey

Citylink North has launched a survey to garner partner and public input on regional transportation needs for their Integrated Mobility app. Information received will also be particularly critical and on point as they develop their strategic service planning and consider the significant growth in our region.

The survey is estimated to take only 10 minutes. Please take a few minutes to complete this important survey and help spread the word!

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CitylinkTransportation>

Please click link (speed tests) at very bottom of article to take broadband speed test...

Knowing what is currently available will help us make it better!

Idaho Commerce needs your help mapping the State of Idaho's broadband infrastructure! The Idaho Department of Commerce is working with [Ookla to gather up to date speed test data for Idaho](#). Collecting speed test data is a way for the Department of Commerce to see anonymous regional data on internet speeds.

Currently, the best way for the Department of Commerce to see if broadband speeds are available in a community (25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload) is to consult the [FCC's Form 477 Map](#). This data is a little unreliable since the FCC only requires that an internet service provider confirm they provide service to one location in a census block, not all the locations (households) in a census block, nor verify the speeds being delivered.

These tests will help the Idaho Department of Commerce better understand areas of Idaho that currently do not have access to broadband by providing another layer of data. This will provide additional opportunities for communities to help them apply for grants (federal or state), help with the broadband planning process (identifying needs), or assist with recruiting internet service provider partners who were previously unaware of the lack of broadband in the community.

So please take this [speed tests](#) and encourage others in your community to as well.

***New information titles are in bold, purple font**

Need to Know



In partnership with SBDC at North Idaho College
the Post Falls Chamber present

The Business in the Know Series

AMERICA'S
SBDC
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH EBA
POST FALLS CHAMBER
AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Increase Customer Retention, Increase Your Profit

May 6th, 8am

Registration Link:

<https://business.idahosbdc.org/reg.aspx?mode=event&event=80410017>

Build Your Business Using Linked In

May 13th, 8am

Registration Link:

<https://business.idahosbdc.org/reg.aspx?mode=event&event=80410018>

Do You Know the Steps to Take to Increase Profits?

May 20th, 8am

Registration Link

<https://business.idahosbdc.org/reg.aspx?mode=event&event=80410019>

Drive Profit for Your eCommerce Site

May 27th, 8am

Registration Link:

<https://business.idahosbdc.org/reg.aspx?mode=event&event=80410020>

How Do I Know My Digital Marketing is Working?

June 3rd, 8am

<https://business.idahosbdc.org/reg.aspx?mode=event&event=80410021>



May 8th is Buy Idaho Day!

Register your business below and let us help connect you to the community for Buy Idaho Day!

<https://buyidaho.org/events/buy-idaho-day-may-8th-2021/>

Why Buy Idaho?

If every Idahoan spent \$100 at a locally owned business, on Buy Idaho Day, together we would generate over \$10 million in tax revenue. That money is directly reinvested into our community to build our roads, schools, support our first responders, and beautify our cities. By choosing to shop local, you are allowing \$0.64 of every dollar you spend to stay in Idaho. Your investment provides your neighbor with a paycheck...that paycheck is spent at the local market...and that money will continue to be reinvested in our community 7X!

Build Community Character!

By supporting Idaho's independent businesses, we are contributing to the colorful character of our communities. We can experience the unique vibe of a town by seeing the creations that come from it's makers. By supporting these small businesses, we help weave the fabric of community culture that sets it apart and makes a "must see" spot on the map.

Create jobs!

Local businesses create jobs. By supporting our local establishments, you are creating job security for our neighbors, reinvesting in the growth and viability of our community, and creating a sustainable and desirable place to call home.

- **Sustainable Transportation Funding Needed to Build Idaho's Future** You will spend almost as much time in traffic in some parts of Idaho as you would in Seattle, San Francisco or Los Angeles [Learn more here](#)
- **Idaho's Federal stimulus: Where it went, where it's going** the Governor's Coronavirus Financial Advisory Committee did its best to spend Idaho's \$1.25 billion in federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act funding [Read article here](#)
- **NIC: Venture Network NEW Amazon Small Business Academy Online Offering - Winter 2021** cover the fundamentals of online business strategies, marketing, merchandising, inventory management, and more FREE! [Register here](#)
- **Federal Resources for U.S. Small Businesses** Welcome to the official federal resource website for U.S. small businesses affected by COVID-19 (Coronavirus). You can view relevant federal agency resources, access the latest news, and search for a Small Business Advisor near you [Learn more here](#)
- **MoFi announces COVID loan program for businesses** A northwest organization started a new COVID-19 loan program [Read more here](#)
- **COVID Cases Rising, but Housing Market Remains Hot** discusses the impact COVID-19 has had on small businesses and potentially will have in the future [Read more here](#)
- **Idaho OKs contract to distribute low-income education money** Idaho officials approved a contract to distribute \$50 million in federal coronavirus emergency money to low-income families to help children learn during the coronavirus pandemic [Read article here](#)
- **Opportunity for Idaho Companies to Virtually Meet with Idaho's Mexico Trade Office** discuss market strategies, challenges, opportunities, and overall trends in Mexico [Schedule virtual meeting here](#)
- **Small Business Recovery Fund** The Shoshone, Benewah and Kootenai County's Small Business Recovery Fund provides microgrants to small businesses with zero to five employees (including owners) in Shoshone, Benewah and Kootenai Counties who did not qualify for, would not benefit from, or missed the opportunity to receive Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL), Paycheck Protection Program Funding (PPP), the Idaho Rebound Grant, or other state funding). The funds will cover limited expenses such as rent/mortgage and utilities. [Learn more & Sign-up here](#)

NIC Venture Center: NEW Amazon Small Business Academy Online Offering - Spring/Summer 2021 North Idaho College, along with Tinderbox Marketing, have once again partnered with the Amazon Small Business Academy program to bring you a four week online course which will cover the fundamentals of online business strategies, marketing, merchandising, inventory management, and more. Stay tuned for more information regarding the course...

- **#IdahoMakersUnite:** A statewide initiative highlighting accessibility and inclusion in education, has pivoted to respond to Idaho's urgent public health need due to COVID-19 crisis [Learn more here](#)
- **Nearly \$50 million awarded for broadband projects to support remote learning, economic development** Gov Brad Little announced the Idaho Department of Commerce awarded \$48.9 million in federal coronavirus relief funds for 102 projects across Idaho that support improved broadband infrastructure, equipment, and services [Read article here](#)
- **Urban flight presents opportunities for Idaho communities** With the onset of a global pandemic, big cities can feel claustrophobic [Read here](#)
- **PPP Forgiveness Process Underway, Other SBA Programs Continue to Serve Small Business Needs** SBA Approved 31,056 PPP Loans Valued at \$2.59 Billion in Idaho
- **Covid-19 Small Business Resources** The Office of Advocacy will share small business resources and information related to the coronavirus pandemic as we receive them [Click here](#)
- **EIDL Grant Advance Program for Small Businesses is Out of Money** While SBA is still accepting COVID-19 related Economic Injury Disaster Loans the grant/advance component has hit its budget limit. [Read here](#)
- SBA and Treasury Announce **New EZ Forgiveness Applications for the Paycheck Protection Program** [Click here](#)
- **Consumer sentiment is evolving as world begins to open** As restrictions lift and pockets of spending return, consumer behavior begins to adapt to the next normal [Click here](#)
- **Announcing the ONE Idaho Campaign** to highlight the resilience and ingenuity of Idaho businesses and encouraging practices crucial to protecting our communities, workplaces and citizens while keeping

- our economy open. [Please click here](#)
- **Senate Passes to extend Payroll Protection Program (PPP) Small-Business Loan** [Click here](#)
 - **What you need to know (and do) to qualify for PPP loan forgiveness** [Click here](#)
 - **SBA Releases New Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) Report** The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) released an updated [Paycheck Protection Program \(PPP\) Report](#) detailing total data from both rounds of PPP funding through May 16.
 - **U.S. Treasury Website - [click here](#).**
The www.treasury/coronavirus website was updated. You can find the debt forgiveness application here: [Click here](#).
 - **Small Firms Report more success with second-round Paycheck Protection Program** The second round of Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) funding to help small businesses affected by COVID-19 economic disruption is lasting longer and appears to be doing a better job of going to the people it's intended to help than the first round did.
 - These three wonderful **non-profit organizations are providing funding for the most vulnerable** in our region. To learn more about these programs and to donate, please check these links:
 - [Idaho Community Foundation](#)
 - [Innovia Foundation](#)
 - [CDA Covid-19 Relief Fund](#)

Economic Relief

- **Small Business Stimulus Funding – Restaurants, Food & Beverage**
Eligible entities that have experienced pandemic-related revenue loss include:
 - Restaurants;
 - Food stands, food trucks, and food carts;
 - Caterers;
 - Bars, saloons, lounges, and taverns;
 - Snack and nonalcoholic beverage bars;
 - Bakeries, brewpubs, tasting rooms, taprooms, breweries, microbreweries, wineries, and distilleries at which on-site

sales to the public comprise at least 33% of the gross receipts;

- Inns at which on-site sales of food and beverages to the public comprise at least 33% of gross receipts; and
- Licensed facilities or premises of a beverage alcohol producer where the public may taste, sample, or purchase products.

I encourage eligible folks to review the information [here](#) and the sample application [here](#). The application Preparing a version of the sample application and gathering supporting documents will assist in the application process, as the funds may be expended very quickly

- **Rocky Mountain Power:** The Rocky Mountain Power Foundation is offering grants of up to \$10,000 (with most ranging between \$2,000 and \$5,000) proposals from health, safety, and wellness organizations in Utah, Wyoming, and Idaho, including youth organizations, senior citizen centers, dependency and prevention programs, and related efforts [Learn more & apply here](#)

MoFi Gets \$2.1 Million Wells Fargo Grant to Expand

Program Read The Thrive program is providing flexible working capital loans to nearly bankable businesses looking for a bridge to the other side of the pandemic [Learn more here](#)

- **Idaho Commerce - The New Stimulus Package: What it Means for You** Congress has recently approved, and the President has signed, the "American Rescue Plan Act," a new \$1.9 trillion stimulus package. The new package provides direct funding to restaurants and bars, changes to PPP, EIDL and the Shuttered Venue Operator Grant Program (SVOG), jobless benefits and expands three tax credits [Learn more here](#)
- **Women Entrepreneur Grants** A Link to a list of grants supporting women entrepreneurs. 15 Small business grants all women entrepreneurs should apply for [Click here](#) **Non-Profit Security Grant Program (NSGP) Grant Funds Available for Security**

Enhancements and Activities Grant competition for Idaho Non-Profit organizations to increase security measures [Learn more here](#)

- **SBA Expected to Accept Streamlined Forgiveness Applications**
March 5 Earlier this year the SBA released it's simplified forgiveness process for loans of \$150,000 or less with revised [Form 3508S](#).
- **Walmart Foundation Community Grant:** Walmart is accepting applications for grants of up to \$5,000 will be awarded in support of local nonprofit organizations within the service area of individual Walmart or Sam's Club stores for projects that benefit the community [Guidelines & application here](#)
- **USDA Community Connect Grant Program** to provide financial assistance in the form of grants to eligible applicants that will provide, on a "community-oriented connectivity" basis, broadband service that fosters economic growth and delivers enhanced educational, health care, and public safety benefits [Learn more & apply here](#)
[Register here](#)
- **INL Tech-Based Economic Development Grants** INL's Economic Development mission is to stimulate economic development, support new business growth and recruit new talent, and support entrepreneurship throughout Idaho [Click here for Application](#)
- **New PPP Forgiveness for Loans \$50,000 or Less**
The SBA and Treasury released a simpler loan forgiveness application for PPP loans of \$50,000 or less. This action streamlines the PPP forgiveness process to provide financial and administrative relief to America's small businesses [Click here for Application](#)
- **CdA Small Business Relief Fund Supplemental Application**
The City of Coeur d'Alene is implementing a small business grant program for COVID-19 relief. Governor's Coronavirus Financial Advisory Committee (CFAC) created this grant to help local businesses and organizations affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, enabling cities and counties to provide aid within their communities. [Learn more here](#)
- **CARES Act Funding & New Programs Fuel Idaho Manufacturing Rebound** As Idaho's EDA University Center, *TechHelp* recently received CARES Act funding [Read here](#) to help defray the costs of essential training, support, and consultation activities with Idaho manufacturers [Application](#)
- **CENSUS GRANT** LOR Foundation Offers \$50,000 in Instagrants for Rural Census Efforts [Apply here](#)

- **Idaho's COVID-19 Disaster Dislocated Worker Grant** This grant allows the Idaho Department of Labor to pay 100% of the wages for eligible workers at a qualified, non-profit worksite in an occupation(s) that can help mitigate the coronavirus' impact in the community [Register to learn more here](#)
- **COVID Response: Three new, FREE small business programs** loan options created through the Small Business Administration (SBA) – the CARES Act [Learn more here](#)
- **Basics of PPP Loan Forgiveness and the SBA PPP Loan Forgiveness Platform** [Watch webinar here](#)
- **Local Foundation and Economic Development Corporations Establish the Kootenai, Shoshone and Benewah Counties Small Business Recovery Fund** This is for small businesses who have not received funding from other existing CARES related funding [Click here for details & application](#)
- **Some federal COVID-19 loan programs winding down** As the federal government's Paycheck Protection Program nears its end, more than 60,000 Idaho businesses have received loans or grants [Read more here](#)
- **How Small Firms Can Protect Finances in Reopening Economies** [Read here](#)
- **SBA Guide to PPP Loans** Free Zoom Seminar on the new PPP Loan Program including forgiveness and potential changes you should be aware of [Click here](#)
- **Idaho Research and Development Tax Credit** The Idaho R&D Tax Credit allows a taxpayer who makes expenditures in research and development activities in Idaho to claim an income tax credit. [Click here](#)
- **Navigate Financial Impacts During COVID-19** The Employee Retention Tax Credit (ERTC) is a significant opportunity for many health care providers that have continued to pay wages and health plan expenses to employees through the COVID-19 pandemic. [Read more here](#)
- **SBA Reopens EIDL and EIDL Advance Program** To further meet the needs of U.S. small businesses and non-profits, the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) reopened the Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) and EIDL Advance program portal to all eligible applicants experiencing economic impacts due to COVID-19 [Read more](#)

- **PPP Flexibility Flyer** [Click here to print](#)
- **Enactment of the Paycheck Protection Program Flexibility Act**
This bill will provide businesses with more time and flexibility to keep their employees on the payroll and ensure their continued operations as we safely reopen our country. [Click here](#)
- **Idaho Rebound Cash Grants for Self Employed** [please click here](#)
- **Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP)- Farmers and Ranchers** Payment structure and how agricultural businesses can apply for assistance, please visit [here](#)
- **CARES Act. SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loan Emergency Advance (EIDL).** This loan advance will provide up to \$10,000 of economic relief to businesses that are currently experiencing temporary difficulties. This is also potentially forgivable. For information, [please click here](#). An additional \$10B for EIDL advances and \$50B for loans was approved on the latest bill. This is a direct application via the SBA website. Continue to check the website and your emails for the status of your application
- **CARES Act. SBA Debt Relief.** SBA debt relief for existing loans, and loans approved prior to September 27, 2020. 1) SBA will automatically pay the principal, interest, and fees of current 7(a) loans for a period of six months.
 - If interested in a new loan, check with PACNI or your SBA-approved bank for deadlines.
- **Other SBA, USDA & RLF Loan Programs** Micro Loans from \$1,000 to \$25,000; IRP/USDA Loan Program; RLF Loan Program; SBA 504 Programs. Loan programs that existed prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. For more information, [please click here](#).
- **SBA information in Spanish,** [please click here](#).
- **Save Small Business Fund,** a grantmaking initiative funded by corporate and philanthropic partners, providing \$5,000 in one-time, supplemental cash grants to employers across the US, with 3-20 employees in economically vulnerable communities. Limited funds. To learn more, [please click here](#).
- **Yelp's Covid-19 Response and Support for Local Businesses** Yelp announced \$25 million in relief, primarily focused on supporting independent local restaurant and nightlife businesses, in the form of waived advertising fees, and free advertising, products and services

[during a limited period](#). For additional information, [please click here](#).

- **Hagadone Media Group Grant** A grant program has been created built on matching advertising funds to assist locally owned businesses during these challenging times. The grant is available up to \$10,000 of matching advertising each month. [Restrictions apply](#). For more details, [please click here](#).
- **Business for All Grant.** Apply for grants up to \$50,000 to support business growth, including a \$10,000 emergency COVID-19 Business for All Grants to help small businesses in crisis. Funds are limited. For more details, [please click here](#).
- **Avista Assistance.** If you're experiencing economic hardship due to the unprecedented challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, Avista encourages you to contact their office at (800) 227-9187 to discuss how they can help, or you can also log in to [your account](#) to choose the best plan for you.

Events & Services

The Idaho Small Business Virtual Contracting Symposium

Business Sponsorship Opportunities & Bid-Matching Service!

The Idaho PTAC joined by Idaho SBDC & Innovate Idaho present:

The Idaho Small Business Virtual Contracting Symposium

Join the Idaho PTAC for their annual conference
Wed., May 12 & Thurs., May 13, 2021

Get more event details & register today!
<http://bit.ly/ISBVCS2021>

AMERICA'S
PTAC
IDAHO

The symposium will provide training on topics that could potentially increase your revenues during this COVID pandemic. The federal government is expected to spend \$300 billion dollars this year on purchasing goods and services from businesses like yours. We are here to get you started!

The PTAC, along with guest speakers, are providing training on subject matters such as GSA schedule updates, How the SBA helps you, Joint Ventures to gain bigger contracts, Cybersecurity, and SBIR grants for businesses. The line-up is awesome and will offer you the ability to grow your contracting opportunities. The Idaho PTAC wants to impact our communities and state! This starts with helping your business stay strong during these difficult times.

You can find additional information about our line-up and cost to attend this informative event happening May 12-13 here:

<http://bit.ly/ISBVCS2021>



[Try TechHelp LMS At a Discount Through May 31](#)

TechHelp is delighted to unveil their [Learning Management System or LMS](#) that allows clients to take a growing number of manufacturing-related courses online at their own pace, space, and time. TechHelp's LMS gives Idaho Manufacturers access to a flexible, interactive online platform that makes learning convenient, fast, fun, productive, engaging, cost-effective, and trackable. Until the end of May 2021, enter the code "IMA2021" during checkout to take a course at a discounted price.



Our growing offering of online LMS courses includes:

- [Introduction to Lockout Tagout](#) – 15-45 Minutes
- [Current Good Manufacturing Practices](#) – 3-4 Hours
- [Food Allergen Shift Meeting](#) – 15 Minutes
- [Food Allergen SME Training](#) – 3-4 Hours
- [Introduction to Food Manufacturing for Entrepreneurs](#) – 4-5 Hours

Enter the code IMA2021 during checkout for your course discount.

If you have any course ideas or questions, please contact [Catherine](#) at 208-426-2181 or catherinecantley@techhelp.org.

- **Building your Brand with the 4R's: Reputation, Responsibility, Recruitment and Reach** Historic change. It's all around us. The stay-at-home economy. The accelerated pace of technology. The rise of purpose. And with each of those, everyone – as employees, as consumers, as business partners, as investors – is looking to brands to lead the way and meet the moment [Register here](#)
- **Idaho Manufacturing Alliance: Expanding Your Reach with Exporting** Learn from a panel of experienced companies who are successfully exporting. Further your company's reach through new markets Save the Date **May 4, 2021** at 8am PST
- **Idaho Business Review Breakfast Series: Legislative Wrap-Up May 11th** conversation will focus on the **2021 Legislative Session**. Between property taxes, a surplus, COVID and a new Legislature, this year's session was unlike any other. Our panel will discuss the business ramifications of the session [Register here](#)
- **Onward & Upward with Grace & Gratitude: A Women's Collective Conference May 14, 2021** at the Best Western CDA Inn Hosted by The North Idaho Alliance, Soroptimist, The Hayden Chamber of Commerce, Women's Council of Realtors. Expect an amazing full-day conference to re-unite us, network & learn, open our perspectives, and uplift our spirits [Register here](#)
- **In Partnership with SBDC at NIC, the Post Falls Chamber Presents The Business in the Know Series: 2021 Winter Class Schedule** All Classes are from 11am-12:30pm on Thursday's [Registration Link](#)
- **Grant Writing and Grant Management Training Online** If you're ready to learn how to find and write grants you've come to the right place. Beginning and experienced grant writers and administrators from city, county and state agencies as well as nonprofits, K-12,

- colleges and universities are encouraged to attend [Register here](#)
- **In Partnership with SBDC at NIC, the Post Falls Chamber Presents The Business in the Know Series: 2021 Winter Class Schedule** All Classes are from 11am-12:30pm on Thursday's [Registration Link](#)
- **Idaho Business Review: Breakfast Series-Tech Trends** Idaho's technology sector was one of the few bright spots of 2020. Our panel will discuss what needs to happen for this to continue in 2021 [Register here](#)
- **Our GEM Coeur d'Alene Lake Collaborative: Speaker Series** Expert-led discussions on local water health issues [Register here](#)
- **Urban Land Institute: 2021 Virtual Spring Meeting** Engage in candid discussions about the direction of the real estate industry with the people who shape it [Register here](#)
- **Register for the Idaho Career Job & Career Fair** Create meaningful engagement by meeting job seekers safely in-person [Information here](#)
- **Tech Trends** Conversation will center around Idaho's technology sector which, was one of the few bright spots of 2020. Our panel will discuss what needs to happen for this to continue in 2021 [Register here](#)
- **Pandemic Friendly Classes Offered at GIZMO-CDA** available to students and community members. Clay/Pottery, Holiday Tag making, Bonsai Art, Project-Based Learning Kits, etc. [Click here for more information](#)
- **Idaho Economic Forecast 2020-2024** DIVISION OF FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT Administrator Executive Office of the Governor Information provided by William Jhung, Regional Director, Idaho Small Business Development Center (ISBDC) [Read forecast](#)
- **North Idaho Events: North Idaho Job Fair** The largest pool of eager job seekers of all time! [Email to register](#)
- **U of I: Inspire Idaho** Walks the reader through the four phases of learning to code [Learn more here](#)
- **IgniteMatch.works** In response to the tremendous increase in interest in the region from talent in Seattle, Silicon Valley and beyond, Ignite has created IgniteMatch.works for leading businesses in our region to secure the best employees and for qualified candidates to find jobs in the area. [Learn more here](#)
- **Express Employment:** Larger companies more optimistic about hiring

in second half of 2020 [Read more here](#)

- **Small Business Directory** Encourage people across the country to shop locally. Customers can search by ZIP code and business type to get connected. [Sign up FREE here](#)
- **How to keep "Zoom-bombers" away from your virtual event** While virtual event technology has done a fantastic job of bringing once canceled events online, it can also open up the possibility of uninvited people trying to exploit your event content [Read tips here](#)
- **Prevent Zoom Fatigue from Your Virtual Event** After months of attendees sitting through different video calls, how can you keep them engaged at your next virtual event? [Read here](#)
- **Warehousing and Distribution: Under the Microscope** Who saw this coming earlier this year? Material shortages. Supply chain interruptions. Distribution networks halted. Amidst a worldwide pandemic. [Read more here](#)
- **Consumer Sentiment and Behavior Continue to Reflect the Uncertainty of the COVID-19 Crisis** [Read more here](#)
- **The Impact of Behavioral Drives in a Remote Workplace** Get actionable tips for tailoring the way you motivate your remote employees based on their behavioral styles. [Read more here](#)

Compliance and Risk Management Considerations during the COVID-19 Pandemic Excellent compliance & risk management resource as you adapt your business for COVID. Click here

[Back to Business Playbook: Compliance and Risk Management Considerations during the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)

- **Submit your business information and we'll get it up on a special page for everyone to see.**

A collaborative effort between the:

- The Coeur d'Alene Convention & Visitors Bureau
- the Coeur d'Alene Chamber,
- the CDA Downtown Association,
- and the Coeur d'Alene Press

We have created a page that will list your business name, phone number and website so that locals and future tourists will know who is open for business. [SUBMIT YOUR BUSINESS INFORMATION](#)

- **Help Close the Digital Divide for Idaho**

Let's ensure that every Idaho student has an equal opportunity to learn during this crisis. Idaho Business for Education's (IBE) Community Activation Project: One Idaho - Every Student Matters is collecting devices and distributing laptops to students throughout the state to help them complete their schoolwork. Information [available here](#).

Employment Resources

The following are links and resources for "Reopening your Business and Creating a Safe Work Environment" They range from a 10-point guide from OSHA to a comprehensive list of action items to keep your employees, suppliers, and customers safe. To download a Word version of the guidelines, [please click here](#). (Look under "Additional Information" on the right column –Reopening and Safe Work Guidelines).

- **Three Key Factors for Businesses to Forecast, Plan, and Drive Revenue from the Next Government Stimulus** Many Americans have begun receiving their third stimulus check from the government in less than a year. In a recent webinar, Andrew Duguay, chief economist at Prevedere, discussed the potential impacts on the business environment this year and the key areas of focus for business planning in 2021 [Watch now](#)
- **10 Questions You Should Ask Your Remote Employees to Keep them Engaged** These ten questions can be used to facilitate more meaningful conversations and continue building a strong connection with your remote teams [Learn more here](#)
- **PRWeek Convene: Employee Engagement** A virtual event 3/31 that will provide a playbook for communicators at all levels to do their part in helping ensure their teams can be equally productive and proud of the organizations they represent [Register here](#)
- **IMA: Creating the Business Culture you Desire** As they discuss creating growth-oriented workplace environments that motivate and retain excellent employees [Register here](#)
- **Cut Through the Noise: Hire Accurately in 2021** Finding the candidate that has the right combination of job and culture fit is never easy—especially in a saturated candidate market. Learn how using behavioral data to ensure accurate hires that last [Register here](#)

- **The Secret to Success for Manager Effectiveness** [Register here](#)
Key Learnings:
 - Why your managers are really struggling today and how you can help
 - What can you do to make your managers more effective
 - How to have more meaningful and impactful 1:1s
- **Idaho Department of Labor: Job Corps Event** Job Corps is looking for employers to participate in an event featuring panel discussions in which reps will talk about their companies and potential careers, as well as answer questions [Learn more here](#)
- **The Future of the Office** There is much concern about the future of commercial office space. There is no denying that the work from home trend is real and the impacts will be felt in the short and long term in different ways around the world [Learn more here](#)
- **Empowering Managers in the New World of Work** Empathy, self-awareness, and an understanding of behavioral data are more important now than ever — especially for managers of remote employees [Register here](#)
- **Keys to Business Acquisition: Do Your Homework and Get Help When You Need It** As a business owner, it is critical to know what you are getting into at the very beginning of the acquisition process and the only way to do that is do develop a detailed plan [Read article here](#)
- **Kootenai County - Idaho Office of Emergency Management** Expanded "Preparing Your Business for Pandemic" business planning guide, digital version, can be accessed here: [Click here for Guide](#)
- **SWIMA - PPE Resources for your business: Idaho PPE Exchange** [Learn more here](#)
- **SBA, Idaho SBDC Connect Clients to Resources** [Read more here](#)
- **Firm Develops Venspirator to Prevent, Mitigate COVID-19** A new breathing apparatus [Read more here](#)
- **COVID-19 is shattering cyberattack records** The daily inundation of misinformation, misconceptions and misunderstandings has given cybercriminals an endless buffet of cyber-based ammo to iterate their attacks [Click here to read](#)
- **Small Business Resource Guide** [Click here to read](#)

- **Back to the office: Keys for safely returning people to the unknown** With plans continually evolving, you may wonder when's the right time to return to the office. Here are some tips [Read more here](#)
- **The Future of Healthy Buildings:** Learn about the WELL Building Standard, the leading tool for advancing health and well-being in buildings globally [Click here](#)
- **Could Your Business or Nonprofit Use Some FREE PPE supplies?** [Click here](#)
- **COVID-19 Q&A - Insights for Employers and Workplace** [Click here to read](#)
- **Navigating COVID-19 with Empathy** [Click here to read](#)
 - **Purpose: Shifting from Why to How** [Click here to read](#)
 - **Guarding your credit during times of COVID-19 coronavirus** [Click here to read](#)
 - **Leaving the office: Keeping the conference room** [Click here to read](#)
 - **COVID Related Templates for Businesses:** The toolkit has templates that a company can customize on things like visitor policies & logbooks, posters for the workplace, etc. [Click here](#)
 - **COVID Resource Page:** Industry-specific guidance for re-opening, return-to-work policy templates, government agency recommendations, HR/benefits FAQ's, news announcements and more. [Click here](#)
 - **Matching Marketing Grant:** Funds can be used toward print or digital advertising [See here for details](#)
- **New Resource Center with COVID guidance:** industry-specific guidance for re-opening, return-to-work policy templates, government agency recommendations, etc. [Click here](#)
- **The Restart - 8 Actions CEOs can take to ensure safe and successful relaunch:** [Click here](#)
- **Inland Biz Strong NOW INCLUDES NORTH IDAHO!**

Tailored resources specific to help businesses mitigate economic challenges due to COVID-19. This new digital tool helps determine which local, state, and federal programs are available based on information they select for their business. Access the tool online by following this [link](#).

- **Idaho Dept. of Health & Welfare.** To support Idaho's workforce who need child care during the COVID-19 pandemic, the [Idaho Child Care Emergency Grant](#) is providing child care business owners with the means to open or reopen and continue operating. These funds can be used to cover eligible expenses incurred for months open and providing childcare, during March 2020 through July 2020.

- **Ideas to consider to maintain a safe work environment.**

Source: Tips for Manufacturers, www.ogletree.com; OSHA Guidelines, 10-steps

- To view the original article, [please click here](#).

- **OSHA's Ten Steps to Reduce Exposure to Coronavirus for a Safe Work Environment**

- To see the OSHA 10-Step Guidelines poster, [please click here](#).
- To view the CDC Coronavirus Fact Sheet about how it spreads and how to prevent transmission, [please click here](#).

- **Reopening & Operating Your Business with a Safe Work Environment**

Source: A local existing business, information has been modified to be more generic

- To view this guideline, [please click here](#). On the right column, click "Reopening and Safe Work Guidelines."

- **Other Resources to help you develop guidelines for a safe work environment**

- OSHA Publications: [Guidance on Preparing Workplaces for COVID-19](#).
- [National Restaurant Association - Reopening Guidance](#)
- [National Retail Federation - Operation Open Doors](#)
- [National Association of Home Builders - Job-site Safety and Record-keeping Guidance](#)
- [Recommended Guidance for Businesses](#)
- [Guidance for Childcare Providers](#)
- [Wynn Las Vegas Health & Sanitation Program](#)
- OSHA: [Key OSHA standards for COVID-19](#)
- US Chamber of Commerce Foundation: [Workplace Tips for](#)

[Employees](#)

- [Emergency Prevention Measures for Physical \(Social\) Distancing in Food Manufacturing Facilities as Related to COVID-19](#) *(updated March 26, 2020: Source: Food Northwest)*
- CDC Safety Video to Stop the Spread of Coronavirus in Construction Zones can be found [here](#) and another [here](#).
- U. S. Department of Labor - [COVID-19 and The American Workplace](#). The Site contains:
 - [Temporary Rule](#): Paid Leave under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act
 - Fact Sheets: FFCRA- Employee: [English](#) and [Spanish](#)
 - Fact Sheets: FFCRA- Employer: [English](#) and [Spanish](#)
 - Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA or Act): Posters: [English](#) and [Spanish](#)
- **Sample Forms and Communications for Employers**
 - [Employee Leave Request Form](#)
 - [Sample Employee Questionnaire](#)
 - [Sample Telecommuting Policy](#)
 - For additional sample forms, [please click here](#).

Thank you, Murray Group for sharing these samples.

- **Webinar that discusses the expanded tuition benefits** under the CARES Act and how it has impacted employers and employees alike. To see the webinar, [please click here](#). To get a copy of the slide deck, [please click here](#). Thank you, Advanced Benefits for sharing these links.
- For additional business and employer guides, please see the following links:
 - [Interim Guidance for Businesses and Employers](#)
 - [Information for Communities, Schools, and Businesses](#)
 - [Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection Recommendations – Community Facilities](#)
 - [Guidance for Preparing Workplaces for Coronavirus](#)

- [OSHA Resources for Workers and Employers on COVID-19](#)
- [Get Your Workplace Ready for COVID-19](#)
- [Risk Management for COVID-19](#)
- [Disinfectants for Use Against COVID-19](#)

Sourcing, Supply Chain & Research

Please check the SWIMA link regularly, they are continuously adding new sourcing information.

- **SWIMA** sourcing requests and manufacturing-specific resources related to COVID-19 [Learn more here](#)
Manufacturing-specific Business Resources:
 - PPE Resources for Your Business
 - Idaho PPE Exchange
- **Sourcing Request for Medical Equipment Production and Supplies.** If you have machinery and capacity, [please click here](#) to find out more or go to www.swima.org for all known sourcing and products request.
- On a larger scale, the [National Association of Manufacturers](#) and [Business Roundtable](#) have joined forces **to address Critical Shortages**. To learn more and complete the survey sourcing capacity, [please click here](#).
- National Institute of Health (**NIH**) **3D Print Exchange**. To see designs for PPE and devices in support of the Covid-19 public health emergency, [please click here](#).
- **Idaho PPE Exchange (IPX)**. New site focused on connecting producers and those in need for small quantities. To learn more, [please click here](#).
- **Idaho TechHelp** is a part of the National Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP). They can assist manufacturers with most business operations and workforce needs, including product design and development, food manufacturing & safety, plant operational issues, business continuity, supply chain issues, and supplier scouting/matchmaking. They encourage you to call them for assistance. To learn more, [please click here](#).

- **Listing of other agencies looking for vendors and suppliers.** To see last week's list of that includes FEMA, NIH, and others, [please click here](#). (This links you to BSP Joint Info Sheet #4, Issued 4/17/2020)

Articles & Videos

- **After Challenging Year, Idaho Education Needs Our Support** The past 13 months have presented enormous challenges for students, parents, teachers, and school administrators. The sudden changes in work life, home life and social life, along with new ways of learning and instructing, have firmly placed the COVID-19 pandemic as one of our most difficult life experiences [Read article here](#)
- **Idaho Businesses Share Insight into Recovering, Rebounding** Idaho businesses are saying they are hopeful with the return to Stage 3 of reopening, and Idaho's rebounding is looking good, economic experts are saying [Read article here](#)
- **Express Employment Professionals: 1 in 3 Hiring Decision-Makers Predict Remote Work is the New Normal** A majority of employees at U.S. companies regularly worked from home in 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic, an arrangement 1 in 3 (35%) hiring decision-makers say will become the new normal [Read article here](#)
- **Small Business Administration Adjusts COVID Aid Programs** U.S. Small Business Administration has made a number of changes to its Paycheck Protection Program and other federal aid programs intended to help American small businesses survive the COVID-19 pandemic [Read article here](#)
- **With Economy Poised for Best Growth Since 1983, Inflation Lurks** Federal stimulus and Covid-19 vaccinations have led to boosts in outlook for GDP and consumer prices in survey of economists [Read article here](#)
- **Decade of Government Statistics Offer Good, Bad News** While the Idaho seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate was a lean 3.5% in January 2021, this was 0.9% higher than the 2.6% rate of January 2020 [Read article here](#)
- **Time for Idaho Businesses to Step Up, Lead from the Front** Idaho is on the verge of producing students who will not possess the workplace skills, those ever-important soft skills that lead to a happy

and motivated workforce that Idaho employers expect [Read article here](#)

- **Idaho Small Businesses See Only Modest Economic Recovery**
Long-term trends are emerging on the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on Idaho's small businesses, based on data gathered by the U. S. Census Bureau [Read article here](#)
- **A Word with Governor Brad Little on Transportation Funding**
Improving Idaho's transportation system has long been one of Gov. Brad Little's goals, but he has held off on proposing specific programs until this year [Read article here](#)
- **Governor Little Lays Out Plan for Using New Round of Federal Stimulus** Little has strong words about how he believes Idaho has been penalized for its strong economic recovery and low unemployment [Read article here](#)
- **Retail Speaks: Seven Imperatives for the Industry** Every retailer, to some degree, has long had a sense of what the future of retail could look like: consumers shopping from anywhere at any time on their computers or mobile devices, stores morphing into showrooms or fulfillment centers, products being shipped out for home delivery at ever-increasing speeds, digitization everywhere [Read article here](#)
- **Legislative Struggles with Unpopular Property Tax Bill SB 1108aa** will lower the rate at which property taxes increase; but not because of placing new construction and annexed properties on the tax rolls [Read article here](#)
- **Business Needs the Legislature to Fund Idaho's Universities**
Idaho's colleges and universities are consistently rated among the best public postsecondary schools in the nation. Unfortunately, there is now an effort to weaken our higher education institutions by cutting their funding [Read article here](#)
- **Express Employment: Remote Workforce-To Bring or Not Bring Them Back, That Is the Question** As restrictions slowly lift in some areas, the lingering question remains: do businesses attempt to bring back in-person employees; and if they do, what does the timeline look like? [Read article here](#)
- **Cda Press: Why are people continuing to move to Coeur d'Alene in 2021** Whether you like it or not, Coeur d'Alene is becoming an increasingly popular location to move to [Read article here](#)
- **BOMA: Most Real Estate Markets Rebounding from COVID** Idaho Building Owners and Managers Association theme was real estate:

What the market is currently like and how the pandemic events of 2020 affected it [Read article here](#)

- **Express Employment Professionals: Wages Expected to Jump in 2021, Benefits Hold Steady** Aside from some lawmakers calling for a \$15 minimum wage, forecasts are encouraging for a market-driven increase in employee wages, while benefits are largely expected to remain the same in 2021 [Read article here](#)
- **COVID's effect on Idaho retail foot traffic patterns** Foot traffic mapping is one of the new information products that has gained widespread attention during the pandemic. In many cases, this data demonstrates the large impact that COVID-19 has had on retail [Read article here](#)
- **Idaho Returns to Stage 3 But Vaccines are Still Scarce** Idaho will post a new website starting on Feb. 8 that will report for all seven public health districts and for every enrolled vaccine provider organization how many vaccines each has received and how many vaccination shots each has given [Read article here](#)
- **Rising Home Values Explained** discusses how the supply side can have greater effect as housing listings fall short of local demand [Learn more here](#)
- **Proposed Property Tax Legislation Doesn't Help Homeowners** It's no secret property taxes are one of the biggest concerns for many of Idaho's homeowners [Read article here](#)
- **COVID-wary travelers using short-term rentals instead** The short-term vacation industry was booming before the onset of the pandemic, but did the realities of 2020 hurt the industry? Despite shutdowns or perhaps because of them resort towns in Idaho have seen a different picture [Read article here](#)
- **With 2021 in full swing, navigating questions around the COVID-19 vaccine** and what the year ahead has in store for business owners and their workers these resources are free [Resource Page](#)
- **How PPP forgiveness loans helped local businesses in 2020** Navigating stay-at-home orders and having little clarity around safety precautions for continued operations, many previously booming businesses were facing waves of uncertainty [Read article here](#)
- **Rise in multifamily living boosts self-storage units** Self-storage is extremely attractive because there is so much population growth in Idaho [Read article here](#)
- **Express Employment Professionals: Hiring Plans Show Business May Be Rebounding After Tumultuous 2020** Just one year ago, only 31% of hiring decision-makers said they planned to increase their

company's number of employees, but signs of life emerged over the next 12 months as that percentage increased to 39% in the second half of 2020 [Read article here](#)

- **Economist: Kootenai Region Lags Rest of Idaho in Some Areas** how the pandemic affected the nation, the state and the local economy, with an emphasis on Kootenai County [Read more here](#)
- **Residential Real Estate expected to continue upward trend** A few economic metrics suggest that the pandemic housing market in Idaho will persist for most of 2021 [Read article here](#)
- **Financial Institutions banking on growth in 2021** Banks got a late Christmas present the evening of Dec. 27 from President Donald Trump when he signed a stimulus bill to extend the Payroll Protection Program into 2021 [Read article here](#)
- **Building on Idaho: Construction in 2021** Idaho has growing pains, especially for roads [Read article here](#)
- **Study: Idahoans bumming out about working from home** Why are some employees working from home so dissatisfied? Environment could be one reason, from “frustratingly small workstations” to outside distractions, such as “screaming neighborhood kids” [Read article here](#)
- **Are you a U.S. Government Contractor (or Planning to be) and do you Have Questions about the CMMC Certification Process?** Cyber Self Defense has been receiving a large number of calls regarding the CMMC process for Government [Read article here](#)
- **Idaho health care in 2021: A light at the end of the tunnel?** The new stimulus bill, which was signed by President Donald Trump on Dec. 27, contains several health care and COVID-19 measures for 2021, as well as multiple law changes that will go into effect in 2022 [Read article here](#)
- **Gap between mortgage rate Treasury yield slowly closing** The exceptional gap that opened in the spread between the 10-year Treasury yield and the 30-year fixed-rate mortgage rate in March has now closed to its narrowest since the beginning of the pandemic [Read article here](#)
- **New videos posted: A video series of insights about leading in this economic climate** Having the tools, resources, and skills to respond effectively is becoming a key competency [Please click here](#)

- **Idaho's In-Migration on the Rise in Middle, Upper Class** Idaho's in-migration is noticeably increasing, industry experts say, and is particularly attracting upper-middle and middle-class households, in addition to previously reported new homeowners [Read article here](#)
- **SBDC Online tool provides critical support for small businesses during COVID-19 pandemic** Covid-sb.org facilitates access to tailored assistance from local small business advisors across the country [Read more here](#)
- **Urban Renewal** In Idaho in particular, because the state's cities and counties generally don't have local option taxing authority, urban renewal is one of the few tools that city planners have to raise money for projects [Read article here](#)
- **Pandemic brings opportunities to local businesses** [Read article here](#)
- **Internal Controls to Protect Your Business against Fraud – Especially Now** Fraud can devastate a company's resources quickly, and those who've experienced such a loss are quick converters to the importance of fraud mitigation techniques and internal controls [Read article here](#)
- **What's ahead for the major global industries in 2021** [Read article here](#)
- **Some local retailers benefiting from pandemic spending habits** According to the National Retail Federation, one in five holiday shoppers typically travel for the holidays but will stay home instead this year [Read article here](#)
- **Utilizing Technology to Overcome COVID Challenges** While everyone wants to return to the normalcy of last year, the benefits, convenience and safety of cash management technologies are truly demonstrating their value in this unprecedented time [Read more here](#)
- **Housing permit trends show construction season of catch-up** Based on building permit activity, Idaho statewide housing construction started the year slowly and gradually picked up over the summer, increasing every month [Read article here](#)
- **Where were most COVID-19 job losses in Idaho?** It's been well advertised that Idaho has made a remarkable recovery from the economic downturn created by the COVID-19 pandemic, especially in terms of employment [Read article here](#)
- **Rural health coops challenged by connectivity, distancing** [Read article here](#)
- **Tips to help you stay safe online, from the Department of Finance**

An increase in online activity corresponds with greater consumer exposure to cyber-attacks and scammers seeking to exploit victims

[Read more here](#)

- **Small manufacturing firms continue to drive Idaho economy**
Locally in Idaho, there were nearly 60,000 manufacturing jobs. Of those, 47% were employed by small firms [Read article here](#)
- **Fewer Idaho residents file unemployment claims** The number of Idaho residents applying for unemployment dropped by 10% [Read here](#)
- **How COVID Has Impacted Small Businesses** Techniques that have helped small businesses adapt to pandemic operations [Read here](#)
- **When A Recession Comes, Don't Stop Advertising** Often times when a recession happens, businesses, fearful of declining revenue, begin to cut back in various areas, including their ad spending [Read more here](#)
- **Urban flight presents opportunities for Idaho communities** When it comes to places to live, work, and raise a family, Idaho has been a best-kept secret for a long time [Read here](#)
- **Guide to Conquering A Business Crisis.** Discusses Cash Management, Pricing and Cost Containment, Supply Chain Management, and Marketing. Idaho SBDC. To see the guide, [please click here](#). (Right column, under "Additional Resources.")

Other Resources

Local Resources

- [Panhandle Health District Covid-19 Information](#)
- [Kootenai County Covid-19 Updates](#)
- [CDA Chamber Covid-19 Updates](#)
- [North Idaho Covid-19 Relief Fund](#)
- [Idaho Community Foundation](#)
- [Innovia Foundation](#)
- [United Way of North Idaho](#)

State Resources

- [Governor's Office: Covid-19 Webpage](#)
- [Idaho Small Business Development Center \(SBDC\)](#)
- [Idaho Commerce, Covid-19 Resources](#)
- [Idaho Travel Advisories](#)
- [Idaho Unemployment Benefits](#)
- [Idaho TechHelp](#)

National Resources

- [Families First Coronavirus Response Act: Employer Paid Leave Requirements](#)
- [CARES Act](#)
- [Small Business Administration \(SBA\)](#)
- [US Department of Treasury Covid-19 Action](#)
- [IRS Coronavirus Tax Relief & Economic Impact Payments](#)
- [SBA Small Business Guide for Covid-19 Relief](#)
- [SBDC Small Business Covid-19 Resource Guide](#)
- [USDA Rural Development Covid-19 Measures](#)
- [FDIC Guide for Banking Institutions & Consumers](#)
- [JP Morgan Chase Philanthropic Grants](#)
- [NIST Manufacturing Extension Partnership \(MEP\)](#)
- [US Chamber Coronavirus Small Business Survival Guide](#)
- [US Travel Association Covid-19 Resources](#)
- [US Senate Committee on Business & Entrepreneurship Paycheck Protection Program](#)
- [Senator Risch's Office: Guide for Navigating Covid-19 Resources](#)

Idaho Congressional Delegation:

[US Senator Mike Crapo](#)

610 Hubbard St., Ste 209
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814
Local Contact: Juli Smith
juli_smith@crapo.senate.gov

[US Senator Jim Risch](#)

610 Hubbard St., Ste 213
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814
Local Contact: Stefany Bales
Stefany_Bales@Risch.senate.gov

[US Congressman Russ Fulcher](#)

1250 W Ironwood Dr, Coeur d'Alene,
ID 83814
Local Contact: Marc Kilmer
Marc.Kilmer@mail.house.gov

- [IEDC \(International Economic Development Council\) Covid-19 Stimulus Bill](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control \(CDC\)](#)

Joint Local & Regional Business Service Providers

[Coeur d'Alene](#), [Post Falls](#), [Hayden](#) & [Rathdrum](#) Chambers of Commerce

NIC [Venture Center](#) & [Workforce Training](#) * [Avista Utilities](#) * [Idaho SBDC-Cd'A Office](#)

[Panhandle Area Council of North Idaho](#) * [Innovia Foundation](#) * [United Way of North Idaho](#)