

COVID-19 RESOURCES – NORTH IDAHO

Issued by the Joint Business Service Providers

Bulletin #1 – March 27, 2020

Greetings! The Joint Business Service Providers Leadership is committed to working together to provide you with resources to stay informed. We know this event has greatly impacted your business. So, we're compiling the information flooding into our offices to give you a 'One-Stop Info Sheet' for all the available funding and resources. Please note that information is changing rapidly; so, please check links regularly for any changes. We are all 'working from home' and continue to help all of you. Please don't hesitate to contact any of us, if you have questions and concerns. All of our organizational links are in the grey bar at the end of page 3.

NON-PROFITS

Non-Profits serving low income and the most vulnerable in our communities, there is funding available. For details, please follow these links:

- [Idaho Community Foundation](#)
- [Innovia Foundation](#)
- [United Way of North Idaho](#)

Need to Know

- **Stay-Home Mandate.** Governor Brad Little issued the order 3/25/20. For a list of "[essential businesses](#)," FAQ's, and other details, [please click here](#).
- **Unemployment Benefits.** If you've been laid off recently, Idaho Labor wants you to file for unemployment benefits as soon as possible. For details, [please click here](#).
- **Sourcing Request for Medical Equipment Production and Supplies.** Governor Brad Little, Senator Crapo, and several states are looking for companies that can help produce medical equipment and products. 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.

Economic Relief

- **SBA Disaster Loans.** Small business owners in all U.S. states, Washington D.C., and territories are currently eligible to apply for a long-term, low-interest loan due to Coronavirus (COVID-19). This is the fastest resource for small businesses. For forms and instructions, [please click here](#).
- **SBA Express Bridge Loan.** This supplement's SBA direct disaster loan program and authorizes SBA Express Lenders to provide expedited SBA-guaranteed bridge loan financing up to \$25,000 to small businesses in disaster declared areas. For more information, [please click here](#).
- **Employer Tax Credits for Covid-19 Paid Leave.** Employers with fewer than 500 employees may begin to use two new refundable payroll tax credits to obtain the cost of providing coronavirus-related leave to their employees. For published IRS and DOL Guidelines, [please click here](#).
- **Loan Deferment.** Check with your local banks and credit unions for possible "Relief Solutions." Options vary and range from skipping payments to waiving late fees. Most are working one-on-one with clients.
- **PACNI Revolving Loan.** The Panhandle Area Council of North Idaho is still processing loans. PACNI is also offering loan deferments, if you have a current loan with them. For loan and contact information, [please click here](#).

Events & Services

Virtual Town Hall. North Idaho COVID-19 Business Leaders Call. Tentatively, April 2nd. Time TBD. For Zoom Meeting information and update on the call, [please click here](#).

- **Free Weekly Grocery Delivery for Seniors.** Super 1, Heart of Business, TDS, Uncle Dan's, & KCYP are launching a free weekly senior food delivery program throughout Kootenai County. Plans are to have it in place by the 30th. More information to follow.

- **NIC Online Courses.** Do you want your employees to take online course while they're working from home? Or do you want to learn something new? You have options! For a full list of available online courses, [please click here](#).
- **Gizmo, Makers Space & Products Lab.** NIC Venture Center along with GIZMO-CDA have the capacity to help you design and develop products from concept to prototype. For information, about what they can do for you, [please click here](#).

What You Can Do

- **Donate Money. Assist Seniors. Be Kind.**
 1. Please donate to the three foundations offering assistance in our region.
 2. Check on a senior neighbor and offer to get groceries for them –but practice social distancing to keep them safe.
 3. Be Kind. Share. Don't Hoard.
- **Order Out Tonight. Buy Gift Cards. Support Local Restaurants.** Call your favorite restaurants to see if they're offering curbside pick-up or delivery.
- **Do the Five. Help Stop Coronavirus.**
 1. Hands. Wash your hands often.
 2. Elbow. Cough into your elbow.
 3. Face. Don't touch your face.
 4. Space. Stay six feet away from anyone.
 5. Home. Stay there.

Other Resources

- [State of Idaho Covid-19 Business Resources](#)
- [Families First Coronavirus Response Act: Employer Paid Leave Requirements](#)
- [Resources for Small Businesses from SSTI](#)
- [Resources for Small Business from the US Chamber](#)

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](#)
[Inland NW Partners](#) * [Cd'A Area Economic Development Corporation/Jobs Plus, Inc.](#)

Covid-19 Resources from [SSTI](#)

(From the State, Science, Technology and Innovation Organization – These are funding opportunities for small businesses, as well as opportunities for companies engaged in science, research and development.)

Congress passes \$2 trillion emergency aid package

The third package of emergency assistance related to COVID-19 is currently making its way through Congress, having passed the Senate and being expected to pass the House. The legislation includes additional emergency loans and tax credits for retaining employees, as well as near-term aid for individuals, small businesses, and some of the most affected industries. While relatively little assistance is directly relevant to science- and innovation-related business development, many broader small business provisions can still be of assistance to these companies. [Read more](#) |

Resources for small business dealing with COVID-19

The fallout from COVID-19 is growing as unemployment numbers skyrocket, small businesses are faced with closures, and employers try to protect both their business and employees. A just-released national study conducted by America's Small Business Development Centers (SBDC) and Thryv Inc., found that 69 percent of U.S. small businesses have already experienced a large drop in demand due to the coronavirus pandemic and 60 percent believe demand will continue to decline. States, too, have seen their budget situations take a dramatic turn and universities have had to send students home. Below you will find some of the resources available to businesses and universities in dealing with COVID-19 pressures, as well as new funding opportunities from federal agencies for those seeking assistance. For more information on how states are responding, several organizations are posting daily updates and are referenced below.

Small business and entrepreneurial services support

- **Small Business Administration (SBA)** has [guidance for businesses](#), and is offering low-interest [Economic Injury Disaster Loans](#) (EIDLs) for businesses and non-profits impacted by coronavirus (COVID-19).

- The **FDIC** has provided [guidance](#) to banking institutions and consumers affected by COVID-19 and encouraged financial institutions to work constructively with borrowers and customers in affected communities.
- The Department of Labor has issued [guidance](#) on the **Families First Coronavirus Response Act: Employer Paid Leave Requirements**.
- **Facebook** is offering \$100 million in [small business grants](#) across 30 countries.
- **JPMC** is including \$8 million in [philanthropic grants](#) assist small businesses vulnerable to significant economic hardships in the U.S., China and Europe.
- **SBDC** has a [resource page](#) listing help for small businesses and encourages them to contact their [local SBDC](#) for assistance as well.
- The **CDC** provides [interim guidance](#) for businesses and employers to plan and respond to COVID-19.
- The **U.S. Chamber of Commerce** has put together a [list of resources](#) for businesses.
- **NIST Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP)** centers are providing [services](#) to small- and medium-sized manufacturers such as connecting businesses that are pivoting their production in response to the coronavirus to new supply chains, connecting firms with state resources, advising companies on new operational issues, and providing workforce support.

Federal resources

- Information from the **Treasury Department** includes [updates](#) to tax payment deadlines, coronavirus-related paid leave assistance, and other steps being taken to combat the disease.
- **U.S. Department of Agriculture** Rural Development has implemented [several measures](#) to help residents and businesses in rural communities affected by COVID-19.

Science and Research & Development Resources

- **Department of Health and Human Services (including National Institutes of Health and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)** has [announced](#) that funds may be available for Administrative Supplements to meet increased costs that are within the scope of the approved award.
- **NIH** has [released](#) a Notice of Special Interest regarding the Availability of Urgent Competitive Revisions for Research on the 2019 Novel Coronavirus to highlight the urgent need for research on the 2019 novel Coronavirus.
- The **NSF**'s coronavirus [resource page](#) provides guidance to researchers in the NSF community regarding new application deadlines, information on administrative assistance and supplemental funding, and other funding opportunities dedicated to coronavirus.
- The **NSF** is [accepting proposals](#) to conduct non-medical, non-clinical care research on different aspects of COVID-19.
- The **NSF** released a Dear Colleague Letter [inviting](#) Rapid Response Research proposals and supplemental funding requests to existing awards that address COVID-19 challenges through data and/or software infrastructure development activities.