

Resources for Small Businesses & Non-Profits During the COVID-19 Emergency

Office of Senator Jason Lewis

Last updated: 3/25/2020

STATE ACTIONS AND RESOURCES

MA Office of Housing and Economic Development

- [COVID-19 Resources and Guidance for Businesses](#) (This is the Baker administration's main landing page for business support during the COVID-19 emergency)
- [COVID-19 Essential Services FAQs](#)
- If the function of your business is not listed, but you believe that it is essential, you may request designation as an essential business [here](#).

MA Department of Revenue (DOR)

- Sales and Use Taxes: Due dates for the filing of returns and making payments for sales and use taxes have been changed for some vendors. Review the details of the [emergency regulation amendment](#).
- Room Occupancy Excise for operators: Due dates for the filing of returns, and making payments, for room occupancy excise have been changed for some operators. This does not apply to intermediaries. Review the details of the [emergency regulation amendment](#).
- Meals Tax and Room Occupancy Excise: Late File and Late Pay Penalties will be waived for meals vendors, operators, and intermediaries that do not qualify for the relief mentioned above under "Room Occupancy Excise for operators." See [Technical Information Release 20-2](#) for details.
- State tax filing deadline: Discussions are ongoing about whether to delay the April 15 deadline.

MA Growth Capital Corporation (MGCC)

- The MGCC authorized a \$10 million fund to provide emergency capital of up to \$75,000 for businesses and non-profits with under 50 full-time and part-time employees. Loans are immediately available and no payments will be due for the first six months.
- The first \$10 million authorization was depleted during the first week of availability, but the MGCC is expected to recapitalize the fund with an additional \$10 million.

MA Department of Unemployment Assistance (DUA)

- [Information on Unemployment and Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)
- The fastest way to file a claim is to [apply for unemployment benefits online](#). If you need help filing your unemployment claim, please [use this form to contact DUA](#).
- The Legislature is discussing additional steps to expand access to unemployment benefits (the one-week waiting period for benefits has already been waived).

Office of Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey

- [Frequently Asked Questions About COVID-19: Employee Rights and Employer Obligations](#)

With any additional questions or concerns, contact Senator Jason Lewis at Jason.Lewis@masenate.gov or (617) 722-1206.

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FEDERAL ACTIONS AND RESOURCES

U.S. Small Business Administration's Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) program

- [SBA Disaster Loan Assistance Portal](#)
- Small businesses, private non-profit organizations of any size, small agricultural cooperatives and small aquaculture enterprises that have been financially impacted as a direct result of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) since Jan. 31, 2020, may qualify for Economic Injury Disaster Loans of up to \$2 million to help meet financial obligations and operating expenses which could have been met had the disaster not occurred. Any interested business needs to apply directly to the SBA.
- The deadline to apply for an Economic Injury Disaster Loan is **Dec. 18, 2020**.

U.S. Department of Labor Dislocated Worker Grants

- \$100 million in Dislocated Worker Grants (DWGs) available to help address the workforce-related impacts related to COVID-19.
- DWGs will provide eligible participants with both disaster-relief employment and employment and training activities. These participants can include dislocated workers, workers who were laid-off as a result of the disaster, self-employed individuals who are unemployed or underemployed as a result of the disaster, and long-term unemployed individuals.
- The full advisory is [here](#).

Pending Coronavirus Stimulus Bill (expected to be passed by the U.S. Senate on 3/25/2020)

- Cash assistance for eligible individuals: Eligible individuals would receive \$1,200 checks from the federal government, with married couples receiving \$2,400 and parents getting \$500 for every child younger than 17. The payments would start scaling down for those who earn more than \$75,000 annually, and any individual with an annual income above \$99,000 would not qualify for a check.
- Dramatic expansion of Unemployment Insurance benefits: The extended and expanded UI program in this agreement increases the maximum unemployment benefit amount by \$600 per week above one's base unemployment compensation benefit and ensures that workers who are laid-off or out of work, on average, will receive their full pay for four months. It ensures that all workers are protected whether they work for small, medium or large businesses, along with the self-employed and workers in the gig economy.
- Forgivable small business loans: allocates more than \$375 billion to forgivable loans and grants to small businesses and non-profits so they can maintain their existing workforce and help pay other expenses during this crisis, like rent, a mortgage or utilities. The self-employed, independent contractors, and sole proprietors are eligible for assistance. Businesses that have existing SBA loans will also have relief from the burden of paying those loans with a new policy of the SBA instead paying the principal, interest, and fees for a 6-month period. The business assistance program, totaling nearly \$500 billion in

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total, bans companies receiving that support from stock buybacks until one year after the payments stop.

- Support for health care providers: \$100 billion for a new program to provide direct aid to health care institutions on the front line of this crisis—hospitals, public entities, not-for-profit entities, and Medicare and Medicaid enrolled suppliers and institutional providers—to cover costs related to this public health crisis. Also includes \$16 billion to replenish the Strategic National Stockpile supplies of pharmaceuticals, personal protective equipment, and other medical supplies, which are distributed to State and local health agencies, hospitals and other healthcare entities facing shortages during emergencies; and \$1 billion for the Defense Production Act to bolster domestic supply chains, enabling industry to quickly ramp up production of personal protective equipment, ventilators, and other urgently needed medical supplies.
- Disaster aid to local and state governments and nonprofits: \$30 billion for the Disaster Relief Fund to provide financial assistance to state and local governments, as well as private nonprofits providing critical and essential services.
- Other emergency appropriations: Additional funding totaling \$180 billion for a wide range of other hard-hit programs and services like food assistance, the National Guard, and home heating assistance.

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