

Resources for Massachusetts Businesses During COVID-19

(as of 4.23.2020)

Financial Resources

Loans: Massachusetts business owners will have until Dec. 18, 2020 to apply for an [Economic Injury Disaster Loan \(EIDL\) through the U.S. Small Business Administration](#). Small businesses, private nonprofits, small agricultural operations and small aquaculture enterprises that have taken a financial hit since Jan. 31 as a direct result of the coronavirus pandemic may qualify for the loans of up to \$2 million. The loans carry an interest rate of 3.75 percent for small businesses, and 2.75 percent for nonprofits. The [MA Small Business Development Center Network](#) can assist businesses with applying for these loans. The state's [MGCC Small Business Relief Fund](#) is closed for applications and encourages businesses to use the SBA EIDL program. Check the state's [COVID-19 business guidance](#) regularly for updates.

The **Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act** was signed into law on Friday, March 27th. The act offers **Paycheck Protection Program Emergency Small Business Loans** (emergency SBA 7(a) loans). These loans provide funding for special emergency loans of up to \$10 million for eligible nonprofits and small businesses with 500 or fewer employees, permitting them to cover costs of payroll, operations, and debt service, and provides that the loans be forgiven in whole or in part under certain circumstances. Note: These are in addition to the SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL), which are available to nonprofits of any size. SBA developed a [guide](#) on how to apply. Click [here](#) for a list of SBA resources related to this and other assistance. On April 6th the MA Division of Banks issued [guidance](#) to banks for implementing the PPP. Check with your local bank to see if they are able to help you or [look for a lender on the SBA website](#) who can. **Note: As of April 22nd the SBA is not accepting new PPP applications due to reaching the limit of the current appropriation. Congress is currently considering a relief package that would increase the appropriation. Check the [SBA website](#) for updates.**

Another program created by the CARES Act is the **Employee Retention Tax Credit**, which is available to all businesses and tax-exempt organizations. A business could take advantage of this in lieu of the SBA PPP Loan Program. This program allows a 50% refundable tax credit on up to \$10,000 in wages per employee, per quarter. There is an advance option for this credit, which can be applied for, with additional forms, guidance and FAQs which can be found [here](#) and [here](#). Note there are two conditions that need to be met to apply and they include:

- The business is fully or partially suspended due to a government order during the COVID-19 outbreak, OR;
- A decline in 50% plus gross receipts, until gross receipts recover to 80% of a quarter in a prior year (2019).

The [Massachusetts Small Business Association \(SBA\) Office website](#) has resources on its lending programs including the Paycheck Protection Program. [TSNE Mission Works](#) has also published a blog that is being updated regularly with information on how to apply for the Paycheck Protection Program, particularly if you are a non-profit organization.

Tax Relief: Small local businesses have been granted [administrative tax relief](#) by the Commonwealth in the form of postponing regular sales, meals and room occupancy taxes that would be due in March, April and May to June 20th. All penalties and interest that would apply are waived, as well. Additional detail related to state tax filing and payment extensions and penalty relief for businesses can be found on the **Department of Revenue** website [here](#).

COVID-19 Relief Coalition: Attorney General Maura Healey, along with a coalition of lawfirms, non-profits and government agencies have come up with legal and financial resources to support small businesses and non-profits during the pandemic. These include **emergency loans and pro-bono legal assistance**. Click [here](#) to learn more.

Businesses Interested in Donating or Selling Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

The Commonwealth has developed an [online portal](#) for businesses seeking to either donate or sell PPE to help the health care community confront COVID-19.

The Massachusetts Workforce Association (MWA) is the voice for the Commonwealth's workforce development system, encompassing an array of partners and stakeholders, including the MassHire Career Centers and Workforce Boards.

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The leaders of the **Advanced Manufacturing Collaborative** and the Baker-Polito Administration have set up the **Manufacturing Emergency Response Team (M-ERT)** led by MassTech Collaborative to mobilize, organize, and operationalize critical path work streams necessary for Massachusetts manufacturers to pivot their operations to produce needed materials in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Click [here](#) to learn more if you are interested in participating.

Essential Services

Governor Baker issued an Executive Order on March 23rd requiring all businesses and organizations that do not provide “COVID-19 Essential Services” to close their physical workplaces and facilities to workers, customers and the public. These businesses are encouraged to continue operations remotely. **On March 31st, this order was extended until May 4, 2020.** Information about the order can be found [here](#). Here is an [FAQ](#) that is being updated on an on-going basis by the Exec. Office of Housing and Economic Development.

Unemployment Assistance

Employers impacted by COVID-19 may request up to a 60-day grace period to file quarterly reports and pay contributions. To stay up-to-date on regulatory guidance such as this, check this state [website](#).

More information for employers and workers on unemployment assistance can also be found [here](#).

Information on how to file an unemployment claim can be found [here](#).

An FAQ for employers by the Division of Unemployment Assistance can be found [here](#).

Employers who have questions related to unemployment insurance, can e-mail: UIEmployerHelp@detma.org

Work Share Program

[Work Share](#) is a program that offers businesses an alternative to layoffs, where employees work reduced hours while collecting unemployment benefits to supplement their lower wages. More information about this program and others can be found under “Additional Resources” on the bottom of the MassHire BizWorks website [here](#).

Rapid Response

The state’s [Rapid Response](#) team works closely with businesses to avert layoffs.

Families First Coronavirus Response Act Employer Paid Leave Requirements

The Commonwealth’s Paid Family and Medical Leave benefits will not be available until January 2021. In the meantime, the federal government enacted paid leave requirements to respond to the pandemic. [This is the guidance](#) from the Wage and Hour Division of the U.S. Dept. of Labor, along with an [FAQ](#) on the FFCRA. [This is a summary](#) from the IRS.

Other Resources

The [U.S. Chamber of Commerce](#) has developed a detailed guide for businesses responding to COVID-19. It includes a communications toolkit, guidance for employers and employees, an interactive workplace flyer builder and more.

The [Boston Business Journal](#) has produced a website with resources for businesses, including local relief funds.

[MassMEP](#) (manufacturing extension partnership) has a page with resources targeted at manufacturers.

Congressman Seth Moulton's office has developed a [resource guide for businesses](#) that will be updated regularly here. More resources from his office can be found [here](#). Also, check your local congressperson’s website for their resource guides.

MEMA Emergency Operation Center Private Sector Hotline

The number for the hotline is **508-820-2094**. This hotline is staffed Monday through Friday, 8AM - 4PM.

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