

COVID-19 Resources for Businesses

This document will be updated with the latest information and redistributed accordingly.

Contact any of the Central Minnesota Jobs and Training Services, Inc. (CMJTS) business service coordinators for any questions on the following resources:

Bridget Paulson, serving Kandiyohi, McLeod, Meeker, and Renville counties

bpaulson@cmjts.org

320-290-7685

Tim Zipoy, serving Sherburne and Wright counties

tzipoy@cmjts.org

612-325-7791

Rebecca Perrotti, serving Chisago, Isanti, Kanabec, Mille Lacs, and Pine counties

rperrotti@cmjts.org

320-247-9319

Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED)

Visit the COVID-19 Information for Employers and Businesses page on the DEED website for more resources related to business assistance, Unemployment Insurance and FAQs. DEED is the state's principal economic development agency, promoting business recruitment, expansion and retention, workforce development, international trade and community development. A guide for Minnesota Small Businesses who need help can be found here:

<https://mn.gov/deed/newscenter/press-releases/?id=425890>

DEED – Unemployment Insurance Information for Employers

On March 16, Governor Walz issued an executive order ensuring workers affected by COVID-19 have full access to unemployment benefits. The order also relieves taxpaying employers of benefit charges associated with COVID-19. This means a company's unemployment tax rate will not increase if your workers collect unemployment benefits due to COVID-19. If your workers apply for unemployment benefits, DEED will let you know.

More information about Unemployment Insurance for employers:

<https://www.uimn.org/employers/employer-account/news-updates/covid-19.jsp>

For employees not covered by unemployment insurance: Both the state and federal government are working on alternative assistance options. More information to come.

DEED – Rapid Response

Employers planning a closure or major layoffs as a result of the coronavirus can get help through the Rapid Response program. Rapid Response teams will discuss your needs with you, help avert layoffs if possible, and provide services to assist workers facing job losses. For more information, visit DEED's Rapid Response page or call 1-866-213-1422.

<https://mn.gov/deed/business/starting-business/management-basics/considering-layoff.jsp>

DEED – Shared Work – Alternative to Layoffs

Employers experiencing a slowdown in their businesses or services as a result of the coronavirus impact on the economy may apply for the Unemployment Insurance Shared Work Program. This program allows employers to seek an alternative to layoffs—retaining their trained employees by reducing their hours and wages that can be partially offset with UI benefits. Workers of employers who are approved to participate in the Shared Work Program receive the percentage of their weekly UI benefit amount based on the percentage of hours and wages reduced, not to exceed 60 percent. Visit [Shared Work Program](https://www.uimn.org/employers/alternative-layoff/index.jsp) to learn more.

<https://www.uimn.org/employers/alternative-layoff/index.jsp>

CMJTS Dislocated Worker Program – For Permanent Layoffs

Our Dislocated Worker program offers free services to help individuals find suitable employment and help take the stress and uncertainty out of the process. Workers may be eligible for this program if they are out of work through no fault of their own, are eligible for unemployment insurance, and are unlikely to return to your previous occupation or industry.

<https://www.cmjts.org>

SBA – Small Business Loans

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) is offering low-interest federal disaster loans for working capital to small businesses suffering substantial economic injury as a result of coronavirus (COVID-19). This program is for small businesses and most non-profit organizations that have suffered directly by this disaster. Loans can be for up to \$2 million and may be used to pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable, and other bills that could have been paid had the disaster not occurred. Loans under \$25,000 can be made without collateral, loans over \$25,000 should be collateralized. However, the SBA will not decline a loan for lack of collateral. Find out more by visiting <https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/disaster-assistance>.

There is no cost to apply and no obligation to take the loan if approved. Please contact our Northeast Minnesota SBDC consultants for assistance with the application process if needed. They can be contacted directly or by signing up for service at <http://www.nesbdc.org>.

DEED Small Business Emergency Loan Program

DEED is offering emergency loans for small businesses that closed directly or indirectly from the Governor's Executive Orders 20-04 and 20-08 to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Qualifying businesses are eligible for loans from \$2,500 to \$35,000. Loans are zero interest, must be paid back monthly over five (5) years and the first payment will be deferred six (6) months with potentially partial forgiveness.

<https://mn.gov/deed/business/financing-business/deed-programs/peacetime>

Entrepreneur Fund

Businesses with a current EF loan can sign up for a free consulting session as a starting point. Additionally, the Entrepreneur Fund has developed the **Small Business Relief Fund** to support businesses in our region hard hit by the Coronavirus pandemic. Funding will allow EF to provide financial grant assistance to business owners who are facing significant challenges but do not qualify for local, state or federal relief. Find out more at

<https://www.entrepreneurfund.org/entrepreneur-fund-approach-to-covid-19>.

U.S. Department of Labor

Workplace safety; wages, hours and leave; and more: <https://www.dol.gov/coronavirus>

Fair Labor Standards Act Questions and Answers:

<https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/flsa/pandemic>

Family and Medical Leave Act Questions and Answers:

<https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/fmla/pandemic>

Bank Loans

A majority of banks or credit unions have established new loan programs or are offering laxer repayment options on existing loans for both personal and business loans. Contact a local bank partner to see what assistance is available.

Resource Assistance

To ensure you access the correct financial resources for your business, please contact the regional Economic Development person in your area:

Jordan Zeller, East Central Regional Development Commission serving Chisago, Isanti, Kanabec, Mille Lacs, and Pine counties: jordan.zellar@ecrdc.org or 320-679-4065 ext. 29

Duane Northagen, Wright County: dnorthhagen@wrightpartnership.org or 763-477-3086

Dan Weber, Sherburne County: dan.weber@co.sherburne.mn.us or 763-765-3007

Eric Day, Mid-Minnesota Development Commission serving Kandiyohi, McLeod, Meeker, and Renville counties: eric.day@mnrdc.org or 320-235-8504 ext. 225

Initiative Foundations

Southwest Initiative Foundation (Kandiyohi, McLeod, Meeker, and Renville counties)
800-594-9480 or info@swifoundation.org

Initiative Foundation (Chisago, Isanti, Kanabec, Mille Lacs, Pine, Sherburne, and Wright counties)
877-632-9255 or info@ifound.org

Tax Related Information

U.S. Treasury Department

The Treasury Department and IRS are extending the due date for Federal income tax payments due April 15, 2020, to July 15, 2020, for payments due of up to \$10 million for corporations and up to \$1 million for individuals—regardless of filing status—and other unincorporated entities. Associated interest, additions to tax, and penalties for late payment will also be suspended until July 15, 2020. Visit <https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus>.

The State of Minnesota has also extended the state tax payments due April 15, 2020 to July 15, 2020.