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This just in...

The big news today is that over \$100 billion in Paycheck Protection Program funding is still available as of this writing. If you haven't explored how the PPP could help your business, reach out to your banker to learn more - see below for more information.

As we continue to move into the "new normal" of doing business, the EDC is standing by to help you with whatever you need - sourcing PPE, technical assistance, referrals to partners like SCORE and the SBDC.

Just let us know!

Victoria

In this issue:

[Community Forum](#)

[PPP Has Funds](#)

[Unemployment Claims](#)

[WWSBE Grant Recipients Announced](#)

[Weekly Programming Updates](#)

[IslandsStrong.com](#)

[IslandsKnowledge.com](#)

[Sign up for a free farm listing](#)

[Census](#)

EDC Community Forum

The EDC invites interested residents of San Juan County to join in a weekly *San Juan Islands Community Forum* starting Wednesday, May 20th, from 6-7pm via Zoom video conference. The event will be presented in partnership with San Juan County government and the Town of Friday Harbor.



Each week, the *San Juan Islands Community Forum* will cover different topics of interest to residents of the islands, and allow for conversation with elected officials, local health and social experts and community leaders. On Wednesday, May 27th, the Forum will cover the topic of Business, Jobs, and the Economy. We'll start the conversation with a quick dive into data, move into what we're hearing about from our businesses, and start a conversation on how we can start to strengthen and diversify our economy to reduce future catastrophic downturns.

For more information and the Zoom link, please visit

<https://www.sanjuansedc.org/CommunityConversation>

[- Back to top -](#)



Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) Still Has Funding

As of this writing, the PPP still has funding available to small businesses that qualify. These loans, which can be forgiven by using 75% of the loan amount toward payroll, are applied for directly via business banks. Our local banks including Heritage, Islanders, Banner, and Washington Federal have been servicing local businesses and may be able to help you. For those who have already applied, we are still waiting on forgiveness guidance to be issued from Treasury but the forgiveness application is now available online:

<https://www.sba.gov/about-sba/sba-newsroom/press-releases-media-advisories/sba-and-treasury-release-paycheck-protection-program-loan-forgiveness-application>

If you have questions about the forgiveness application please reach out to us.

[- Back to top -](#)

ESD update on Fraudulent Unemployment Claims

The Employment Security Department (ESD) is continuing to combat fraudsters who are using personal data from data breaches (including the Equifax breach several years ago and other bank and retail data breaches) to file unemployment claims in victims' names.

From ESD: "As part of our effort to combat the dramatic increase in applications for fraudulent benefits, some current customers who have applied for, and are receiving, unemployment benefits will need to verify or provide certain information. We apologize for any hardship, confusion and delay this is causing. We are working quickly to address any issues."

If you are an employer and suspect fraudulent activity is happening in your workers' names, or if you are a worker and believe someone has used your personal information to open a claim, please report it here:

<https://esd.wa.gov/unemployment/unemployment-benefits-fraud>.

[- Back to top -](#)

WWSBE Grant Recipients Announced

Commerce, EDC announce local recipients of the Working Washington Small Business Emergency Grant

The Washington State Department of Commerce and the Governor's office, in partnership with the EDC, have announced the recipients of the Working Washington Small Business Emergency Grant (WWSBEG) in San Juan County. The program was created to provide small grants to businesses with 10 or fewer employees, to help them survive the downturn caused by Covid-19.

21 businesses in San Juan County – on Lopez, Orcas, San Juan and Shaw Islands – have been awarded grants totaling \$149,699. The grants were awarded from the Governor's emergency fund and will allow businesses to pay for essential expenses like rent.

For more information, go to: <https://www.sanjuansedc.org/wwsbeg-announced/>.

[- Back to top -](#)

Weekly Programming Updates

Our weekly Business Recovery call on Wednesday 5/27/20 from 10a-11a will feature Michael Ervick, the Small Business Liaison at Governor's Office for Regulatory Innovation and Assistance. He will be discussing business

recovery.

For Zoom link, go to <https://www.sanjuansedc.org/business-call/>

Wednesday evening from 6p-7p we will host our County Community Forum, see announcement above.

Thursday 5/27 will be another edition of our lunchtime "Chat 'n' Chew" Virtual Small Business discussions, from 12-1245pm. Thursday's topic will be announced soon. We have cancelled the Tuesday edition for the time being. For Zoom link, go to <https://www.sanjuansedc.org/chatnchew/>.

As always, please follow us on Facebook for the latest updates and announcements: <https://www.facebook.com/SanJuansEDC/>

[- Back to top -](#)

Islands Strong



Shop all of your favorite San Juan Islands retailers and hosts at our new giftcard site, www.IslandsStrong.com!

[- Back to top -](#)

IslandsKnowledge.com

Does your business need help to get your business online or to up your tech game? Or are you an information professional who wants to connect with local clients? The islandknowledge.org directory is a great place to start.

[- Back to top -](#)

Sign Up for a FREE Farm Listing

San Juan Islands farms are urged to sign up for a free listing here: <https://forms.gle/8uA89gvavDpxQ6id8> . Consumers may view real-time farm hours and information here: <https://islandgrowsnj.com/san-juan-county-farm-directory/>.

[- Back to top -](#)

It's Census time! While it's hard to think about devoting even a minute to anything other than your business right now, it's critically important that everyone fill out the census form. **Census data is used to determine programs and funding for our community.** Click here for info: <https://my2020census.gov/>