

Local, State, and SBA Economic Impact and Financial Resources

This document includes information on:

[MassHire Rapid Response Layoff Aversion and WorkShare Program](#)

[Sole Proprietor / Self Employed Unemployment](#)

[LOCAL & STATE RESOURCES \(Including Greater Lowell Chamber, Community Teamwork's Entrepreneurship Center, Middlesex 3 Coalition\)](#)

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[M-ERT \(Manufacturing Emergency Response Team\)](#)

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These links and resources are provided to help local businesses respond to the economic impact of the COVID-19 Health Crisis. The most important message we can convey is that all organizations unanimously agree that businesses should NOT DELAY COMPLETING AN APPLICATION.

If you need help, there are many links in this document that can direct you to more information or in-person assistance. You can also contact Eric Salerno, Tyngsborough's Planner/Economic Development Director at esalerno@tyngsboroughma.gov.

UPDATE 4/27/2020:

The second round of funding for the Paycheck Protection Program is now live (as of Monday, April 27th). The Boston Fed has created a [web page](#) with resources for New England smaller businesses including nonprofits to aid them in applying to this program.

It is anticipated that the second round of funding will run out quickly and that it is essential that applicants connect with a **financial institution** able to process their PPP loan immediately.

The resource page includes:

- An info sheet describing the program
- Links to other resources including program information and loan applications in 19 languages
- A list of **technical assistance providers** indicating they are able to help small businesses/nonprofits apply for the PPP
- A list of **financial institutions** that are able to process PPP loans for non-customers

You can visit the page here:

<https://www.bostonfed.org/in-the-region/covid-19-resources/paycheck-protection-program.aspx> .

The TA providers and FI lists will be updated as new organizations are identified, so please check back regularly in the coming days.

Finally, to make it easier to identify whether one of the financial institutions on the list may be able to help a particular small business, I am including a list of their branch locations below. Please see the full list on the website for contact information.

Financial Institutions with Capacity to Process PPP Loans for non-customers

[\(visit the list here for updates\)](#)

Massachusetts

GFA Federal Credit Union

Main branch: Gardner, MA

Other branches in MA: Ashburnham, Keene, Hubbardston, Leominster, Rutland, Winchendon

Branches in NH: Petersborough, Rindge

Leader Bank

Main Branch: Arlington, MA

Other branches: Belmont, Boston Seaport, Burlington, Cambridge,

North Brookfield Savings Bank

Main branch: North Brookfield, MA

Other branches: East Brookfield, West Brookfield, Ware, Palmer, Belchertown, Three Rivers

Pittsfield Cooperative Bank

Main branch: Pittsfield

Other branches: Dalton, Great Barrington

Reading Cooperative Bank

Main branch: Reading

Other branches: North Reading Andover, Burlington, Wilmington, Wakefield

Workers Credit Union (offers translation in Spanish, Portuguese, and Vietnamese)

Main Branch: Fitchburg

Other branches: Athol, Chelmsford, Monty Tech, Gardner, Groton, Lancaster, Leominster, Lunenburg, Orange, Townsend, Westford, Worcester Planit

Note: Branches offered for informational purposes and may or may not indicate the financial institution's service area. Many financial institutions have temporarily closed branches in response to COVID so it is suggested that you contact these institutions via phone or email.

MassHire Rapid Response Layoff Aversion and WorkShare Program

Many organizations are adjusting workforce hours and laying off employees. We're listing MassHire's [Rapid Response Team](#) early in this list since they provide your business with assistance to determine the right economic and employment options for your situation. This program helps you identify the resources available to you to avoid layoffs. They can also work directly with your employees.

If layoffs and reduction in hours is inevitable or already taken place at your business, the **WorkShare Program** is a flexible option that can help your business lower payroll for the entire company (or a small unit or department) while those employees receive unemployment benefits to supplement their reduced wages.

Visit: mass.gov/service-details/rapid-response-layoff-aversion

Visit: <https://www.mass.gov/workshare-for-employers>

Rapid Response Contacts:

Norca Disla-Shannon, RapidResponse Coordinator Northeast Region
Norca.disla-shannon@detma.org // (978) 722-7013

Ken Messina, Rapid Response Services Manager, Statewide
Ken.messina@detma.org // (617) 626-5703

MassHire also provided an Excellent Source of Organized Small Business Resources:
<https://www.mass.gov/doc/rapid-response-covid-19-employer-information/download>

Sole Proprietor / Self Employed Unemployment

UPDATED 4/21/2020:

Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) is now live: For Individuals Not Covered Under Traditional Unemployment Insurance (Self-Employed, Gig Economy Workers, Others)

LINK: [Apply for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance](#)

Overview: Up to 39 weeks of unemployment benefits will be available for individuals not covered under traditional unemployment insurance like the self-employed or gig workers or those who do not qualify for lack of wages.

PUA is a program open to the following individuals:

- Self-employed individuals, including gig workers, freelancers, and independent contractors
- Those seeking part-time employment
- Claimants that have an insufficient work history to qualify for benefits
- And claimants that have been laid off from churches and religious institutions and are not eligible for benefits under state law

All accepted applications will initially receive the minimum weekly benefit amount, plus an additional \$600 Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) weekly benefit. Once a worker's wages are verified, weekly benefit amounts may increase. Weekly benefits, including any increase to your weekly benefit amount, will be retroactive to January 27, 2020, or the date when you became unemployed, whichever is more recent, as long as you became unable to work because of a COVID-19 related reason.

Please note that, initially, the system can only pay benefits retroactively to the week ending March 14, 2020. Eligible workers will be able to certify for and to request benefits retroactively to January 27, 2020 if their dates of unemployment make them eligible.

Additional Information on Unemployment During COVID-19: Check for updates at www.mass.gov/unemployment/covid-19.

Traditional Unemployment

- [Filing for Unemployment Insurance](#)
- [COVID-19 unemployment information](#)

1099 Contractors, Self-Employed, Gig Workers, etc.

- [Pandemic Unemployment Assistance \(PUA\)](#)
- [SBA EIDL Loan](#)
- [Mass Cultural Council COVID-19 Relief Fund for Individuals](#)

LOCAL & STATE RESOURCES (Including Greater Lowell Chamber, Community Teamwork's Entrepreneurship Center, Middlesex 3 Coalition)

Many of these organizations will be continuously updating information related to helping your business survive the economic impact of the COVID-19 health crisis. Please visit their websites for additional information or to reach out to people who want to help you.

Community Teamwork Entrepreneurship Center Daily Office Hours for Disaster Relief Help

Community Teamwork is located in Lowell (but serves the region) and is offering dedicated time to speak with a live person who can help with questions and walk you through the SBA application and give you immediate support.

Entrepreneurship Center Website: <https://www.growyourbusinessatcti.org/>

UPDATED 4/21/2020:

Additional Funding Resources: <https://www.growyourbusinessatcti.org/national-resources>

The Entrepreneurship Center is also offering daily sessions:

2:30pm-3:30pm Monday-Friday

Business Assistance & COVID-19 Responses

Visit their website above for details.

Middlesex 3 Coalition

<https://www.middlesex3.com/covid-19-resources/>

Greater Lowell Chamber of Commerce:

<https://greaterlowellcc.org/2020/03/covid19-coronavirus-resources/>

<https://greaterlowellcc.org/2020/04/small-business-funding-grants-loans/>

MassMEP (Mass Manufacturing Extension Partnerships)

All of the state Manufacturing Extension Partnerships, including the one in Massachusetts, have formed a national network to offer supply chain solutions to the manufacturers disrupted by the efforts to stem the spread of Coronavirus.

- The network, launched in March, enables MEPs in any state to put out a call on behalf of one of its manufacturers to find creative solutions to issues like supply shortages.
- MEPs are public-private partnerships in all 50 states funded in part by the U.S. government to provide advocacy and services like education and training to individual companies.

MassMEP Contact:

Phone: (508) 831-7020

Website: <https://massmep.org/>

M-ERT (Manufacturing Emergency Response Team)

The leaders of the Baker-Polito Administration's Advanced Manufacturing Collaborative established the Manufacturing Emergency Response Team (M-ERT) to assist in the response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The M-ERT's Mission: 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.

If your organization is interested in joining the effort, please fill out the form located at <https://masstech.org/M-ERT> and an M-ERT member will reach out.

- If your organization is NOT located in Massachusetts, we invite you to fill out this form as well. This information will be critical for coordinating parallel efforts of other state and federal initiatives.
 - Only one response per organization should be submitted. Please coordinate a central contact for organizing your organization's response.
 - Organizational contacts should be available to coordinate the deployment of production assets, testing assets, and/or represent the entity. If the person completing the form is not this person, there is space provided for additional contact information.
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SBA RELIEF PROGRAMS (PPP, EIDL)

Apply as soon as possible. Even if you are uncertain, it's recommended to complete the application now since you'll have up to 6 months to make a final decision about taking the loan.

SBA Local District Office Contact:

Lisa Gonzalez Welch // lisa.welch@sba.gov // (617) 565-5588

The Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) (Available from April 3rd)

This is a loan program designed to provide a direct incentive for small businesses to keep workers on the payroll. Loans are up to \$10M, with a 1% interest rate and a 2-year maturity; there are no payments for the first six months.

- **Who can apply?** Businesses, non-profits, Veterans organizations, Tribal concerns, sole proprietorships, self-employed individuals, and independent contractors, with 500 or fewer employees.
- **When can I apply?** The Paycheck Protection Program will be available beginning on Friday, April 3rd. Applications must be submitted by June 30, 2020.
- **How do I apply?** You can apply for the Paycheck Protection Program through any existing SBA 7(a) lender or through any participating federally insured depository institution, federally insured credit union, or Farm Credit institution. Ask your local lender if it is participating in the program.
- **What else should I know?** The SBA will forgive loans if all employees are kept on the payroll for eight weeks and the money is used for payroll, rent, mortgage interest, or utilities. The program will be available retroactive from February 15, 2020, so employers can rehire their recently laid-off employees through June 30, 2020.
- **Read more here:** <https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/loans/paycheck-protection-program-ppp#section-header-4>

If you wish to begin preparing your application, you can download a copy of the [PPP borrower application form](#) to see the information that will be requested from you when you apply with a lender.

For more information on the Paycheck Protection Program please

visit: <https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/loans/coronavirus-relief-options/paycheck-protection-program-ppp>

The Economic Injury Disaster Loan Advance is a Loan Advance of \$10,000 that is available to applicants who have been approved for an Economic Injury Disaster Loan; it does not need to be repaid, so you can think of the Advance as a grant for business expenses.

- **Who can apply?** If you have applied or intend to apply to the Economic Injury Disaster Loan program, you can also apply for a Loan Advance.
- **When can I apply?** The Loan Advance is available now.
- **How do I apply?** Visit [the SBA's website](#) to [submit an application](#) for the Economic Disaster Injury Loan and Loan Advance.
- **What else should I know?** Please note that you should submit an application at the above link, even if you've previously submitted an EIDL application prior to the Loan Advance being available.

- **Read more**
here: <https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/loans/coronavirus-relief-options/economic-injury-disaster-loan-emergency-advance>

The SBA is also offering **Debt Relief** to small businesses. Under this relief, the SBA will pay the principal and interest for six months beginning March 27th, 2020 for qualifying new and current holders of 7(a) loans.

- **Who can apply?** Businesses who already have a covered 7(a) SBA loan or receive a 7(a) SBA loan prior to September 27, 2020.
- **When can I apply?** This relief is applied for covered loans beginning with payments due after March 27, 2020.
- **How do I apply?** Reach out to your SBA lender to discuss how this debt relief applies to your SBA loan.
- **What else should I know?** This debt relief is available only to 7(a) loans and not to loans made under the Paycheck Protection Program, 504 loans, or microloans.
- **Read more**
here: <https://www.sba.gov/page/coronavirus-covid-19-small-business-guidance-loan-resources#section-header-4>

Don't forget that you can still apply for two other Small Business Administration loan programs:

- **Economic Injury Disaster Loans** are available through the SBA website; apply [here](#). EIDL loans can be up to \$2M, with interest rates of 3.75%, and are for businesses whose revenues were adversely impacted by the coronavirus outbreak.
 - The **Express Bridge Loan Program** is available to businesses that have an existing business relationship with an SBA-approved lender; speak to your lender about accessing this option while you await a decision on long-term financing.
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Information about the CARES Act

The CARES Act is a law passed in response to COVID-19 and provides historic emergency relief to families, businesses, health care providers and local governments.

While there are many components of the Act, the unemployment portions include:

Unemployment Insurance Provisions

- Creates a new Pandemic Unemployment Assistance program (through December 31, 2020) to help those not traditionally eligible for Unemployment Insurance (UI), including self-employed individuals, independent contractors, those with limited work history and those who are unable to work as a result of the Coronavirus public health emergency.
- Provides additional \$600/week payment to each UI or Pandemic Unemployment Assistance recipient through the end of July 2020.
- Provides an additional 13 weeks of unemployment benefits to help those who remain unemployed after state unemployment benefits run out.
- Provides states with temporary, limited flexibility to hire temporary staff or re-hire former staff to quickly process unemployment claims.

To learn more information about the CARE Act please visit the Senate Committee's [Guide to the CARES Act](#).