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TO: SMW Clients

FROM: Pam Kasemeyer
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DATE: March 31, 2020

RE: Information for Businesses Related to COVID-19

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Maryland and the Federal Government have developed several financial programs to assist businesses during this uncertain time. To better assist our clients in navigating these programs, we have put together a compilation of websites with information on available programs. For many of these programs, such as those under the federal CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security) Act, additional guidance should be released within the next 30 days.

Maryland Resources

The [Maryland Department of Commerce](#) has developed the following programs for businesses with 50 or fewer employees. Each program link contains the requirements for each program and a link to submit your program application.

- **Maryland Small Business COVID-19 Emergency Relief Loan Fund** - This \$75 million loan fund (for for-profit businesses only) offers no interest or principal payments due for the first 12 months, then converts to a 36-month term loan of principal and interest payments, with an interest rate at 2% per annum.
[Learn more.](#)
- **Maryland Small Business COVID-19 Emergency Relief Grant Fund** - This \$50 million grant program for businesses and non-profits offers grant amounts up to \$10,000, not to exceed 3 months of demonstrated cash operating expenses for the first quarter of 2020.
[Learn more.](#)
- **Maryland COVID-19 Emergency Relief Manufacturing Fund** - This \$5 million incentive program helps Maryland manufacturers to produce personal protective equipment (PPE) that is urgently needed by hospitals and health-care workers across the country.
[Learn more.](#)

The [Maryland Department of Labor](#) has issued guidance to both employers and employees on unemployment insurance and paid sick leave benefits. Unemployment benefits for new classifications per the CARES Act cannot be processed yet by the Maryland Department of Labor. The Department is currently working on updating IT systems to comply with the new Act.

- An FAQ on who qualifies for unemployment insurance benefits, including for employees whose hours have been reduced but who have not been terminated, can be found [HERE](#).
- The Department also has a [Work Sharing Program](#) that can be used during this time.

Please also refer to the information before on sick leave and family medical leave (FFCRA).

Federal Resources

[Small Business Guide](#) – This guide is a comprehensive document describing programs available to small businesses, certain non-profits and other business developed under the CARES Act. Programs include the Payroll Protection Program, Emergency Economic Injury Grant and Small Business Debt Relief Program as well as others. The document includes a FAQ for each program as well as information on how to apply. An additional FAQ regarding these emergency relief programs can be found [HERE](#) from the Maryland Department of Commerce.

Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) – The United States Department of Labor has distributed the following information regarding required paid sick leave and family medical leave. More guidance is scheduled to be released in April.

- [Employee Fact Sheet](#)
- [Employer Fact Sheet](#)
- [FAQ](#)
- [DOL Poster](#)

The IRS has also developed a dedicated webpage for COVID-19 for both businesses and individuals regarding tax payments and filing deadlines. Click [HERE](#).

Other Information

Governor Hogan’s Executive Orders with Interpretive Guidelines - [HERE](#)

Updates from the Maryland Department of Health on COVID-19 - [HERE](#)