

The SmallBiz Quarterly

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Greetings District Business Community,

Last week, Mayor Bowser issued [Mayor's Order 2020-063](#) to extend the state of emergency and public health emergency for Washington, DC through May 15, 2020, as the District continues to fight the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19).

The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted our lives, our businesses and our economy. We find ourselves in unprecedented times. But one thing that remains ever-constant is the strength and tenacity of the entrepreneurial spirit that drives our small business community. The Department of Small and Local Business Development (DSLBD) is working tirelessly to support the broadest

coalition of small business and stakeholders. Our goal in this first month has been to garner as much financial support, technical support, and information possible and to share it regularly with the entire business community.



FINANCIAL SUPPORT

On March 15, we closed our Robust Retail round of funding. Thanks to additional support from Mayor Bowser, DSLBD was able to award almost \$800,000 to more than 100 businesses. I'm proud to say that thanks to the hard work of my team many of grantees received these critical funds faster than anyone expected!

Locally, DSLBD worked with our Main Streets to reprogram their budgets which created an increase of \$600,000 of available grant dollars across Main Street programs to support COVID-19 distressed businesses in their unique commercial corridors. So, we are encouraging businesses that are located within a Main Street to reach out and see if any of that grant funding is still available.

There are several other private sources of grant funding and resources. The following link will take you to additional sources of COVID-19 related grant funding and resources: [Click here](#)

Another source of COVID-19 support is the Small Business Administration. DSLBD serves as the liaison for the Bowser Administration to the SBA for these critical resources. Team DSLBD has been working hard with the District's federal and local partners to inform District businesses of available resources and assist them with as they apply for these emergency funding options:

- **Payment Protection Program (PPP)** - This loan program provides loan forgiveness for retaining employees by temporarily expanding the traditional SBA 7(a) loan program. [Learn more](#)

- **Emergency Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) & Emergency Loan Advance**- The Economic Injury Disaster Loan program provides working capital loans of up to \$2 million that can provide vital economic support to help qualified small businesses and private nonprofit organizations overcome the temporary loss of revenue as a result of the COVID-19 virus outbreak. The emergency loan advance will provide up to \$10,000 of economic relief to businesses that are currently experiencing temporary difficulties. [Learn more](#)
- **SBA Express Bridge Loans** - Enables small businesses who currently have a business relationship with an SBA Express Lender to access up to \$25,000 quickly. [Learn more](#)
- **SBA Debt Relief** - The SBA is providing a financial reprieve to small businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic. [Learn more](#)
- You can listen to a recordings from past Teletownhall that DSLBD co-hosted with the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development (DMPED) at:
 - Q&A with the SBA [Click here](#).
 - Q&A with the International Economic Development Council (IEDC) [Click here](#).

Additionally, the SBA's Disaster Customer Service Line is now open 24/7 at **800.659.2955**

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

If you need any additional assistance in the SBA application process, please do not hesitate to contact DSLBD's DC PTAC Team at dsldb.ptac@dc.gov or **202.727.3900 (select option #7)**.

I echo the Mayor's words in reminding you that now is an ideal time to reach out to your lending partner and/or landlord to ask about accommodations with your debt repayment plan and/or use of space agreement.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Understanding the impact of the COVID-19 global pandemic, the DSLBD is working with federal and local partners to create a comprehensive digital workshops and seminars that will provide subject matter expertise on various business-related topics unique to the current crisis and post-crisis. Please standby for additional updates as they become available.

And as Mayor Bowser says, "We are all in this together and we will all get through this together."

Sincerely,
Director Kristi Whitfield



RESOURCES THROUGH THE SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION (SBA)

CORONAVIRUS FUNDING OPTIONS

[Click here to learn more about available SBA loan and debt relief options.](#)

Our nation's small businesses are facing an unprecedented economic disruption due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

To learn more about the relief options available for your business, [Click here](#).

Additionally, the SBA's Disaster Customer Service Line is now open 24/7 at 800.659.2955

LOCAL ASSISTANCE

When faced with a business need, use the [SBA's Local Assistance Directory](#) to locate the office nearest you.

RESOURCES THROUGH THE DC GOVERNMENT

Learn more about the District's Response to the COVID-19, visit: <https://coronavirus.dc.gov/>

Learn more about resources for your business during the COVID-19 emergency, visit:

- **General Business Resources:** <https://coronavirus.dc.gov/page/business-and-non-profit-resources>
- **Business Recovery Resources:** <https://coronavirus.dc.gov/recovery-business>

If you need any additional assistance in the SBA application process, please do not hesitate to contact DSLBD's DC PTAC Team at dslbd.ptac@dc.gov or 202.727.3900 (select option #7).

OTHER PRIVATE SOURCES OF GRANT FUNDING AND RESOURCES

GRANTS AVAILABLE TO ALL DC BUSINESSES

- [2020 Small Business COVID-19 Program Grants \(Thryv Small Business Foundation\)](#)
- [Artist Relief Grants \[Artist Relief\]](#)
- [Facebook Small Business Micro Grants \[Facebook\]](#)
- [Hello Alice Emergency COVID-19 Business for All Grants \[Alice, Verizon\]](#)
- [LiftFund COVID-19 Grants and Loans \[LiftFund\]](#)
- [Red Backpack Fund for Women-owned Businesses \[SPANX\]](#)
- [Shea Moisture Minority Business Fund \[Shea Moisture\]](#)
- [Sistemomics Empowerment Grant DUE 4/26/2020 \[NC100BW-DC\]](#)
- [Southern Smoke Emergency Relief Program \[Southern Smoke\]](#)
- [State-by-State Resource Guide for Music Professionals \[Billboard\]](#)
- [Verizon Small Business Recovery Fund \[LISC\]](#)

FREE AND DISCOUNTED SIGNS, MARKETING AND PRINTING

- [Discounted Restaurant Menu Printing \[UPS Store Tenleytown\]](#)
- [Free Advertising Local, Independent Businesses \[Orange Barrel Media, IKE Smart City\]](#)
- [Free Banners and Posters for Essential Businesses \[BaseCamp DC\]](#)
- [Free Banners from Minuteman Press](#)
- [Free Marketing Posters for DC Businesses \[Mosaic Express\]](#)
- [Free Signs for Essential Businesses \[Gelberg Signs\]](#)
- [Free Social Distancing Tools/Signs for Essential Businesses \[Project SAFE, EIS\]](#)
- [Freelance Artists Emergency Funding Sources \[Freelance Artist Resource Producing Collective\]](#)
- [Freelancers Relief Fund \[Freelancers Union\]](#)
- [Google Ad credits for Small and Medium-sized Businesses COVID-19 Relief \[Google\]](#)
- [Yelp Marketing and Delivery Service Fees Waived and Free \[Yelp\]](#)

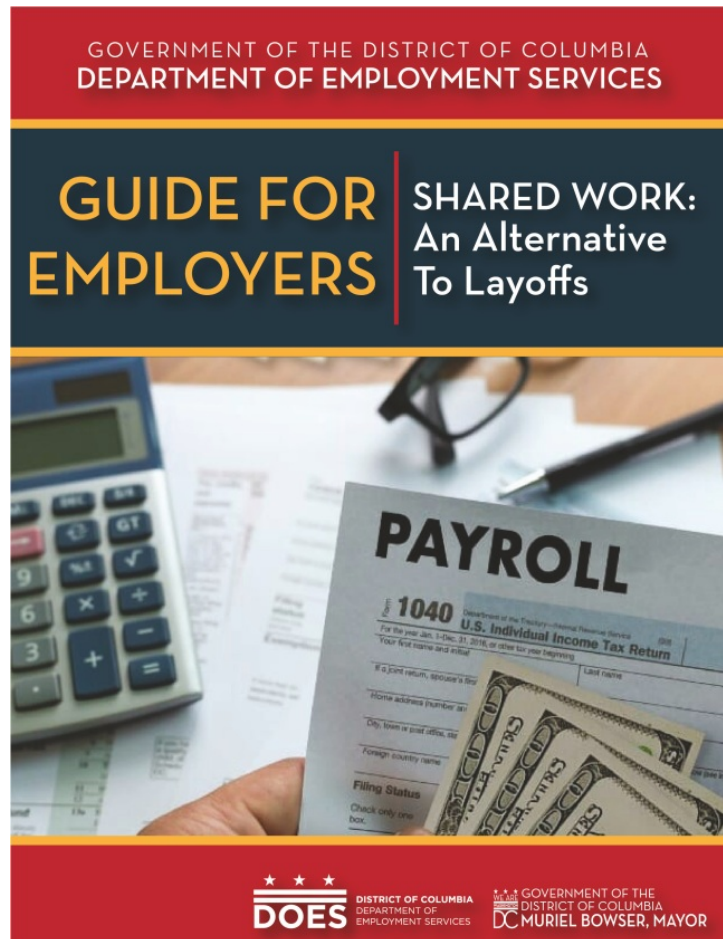


DC SMALL BUSINESS RECOVERY MICROGRANTS

On March 24, Mayor Muriel Bowser and the Council of the District of Columbia announced a \$25 million investment in the COVID-19 Recovery Effort as the DC Small Business Recovery Microgrants Program, which is administered through DMPED.

The "COVID-19 Response Emergency Amendment Act of 2020" effective March 17, 2020 allowed for the creation of the program to offer grants to help cover expenses such as employee wages and benefits accounts payable, fixed costs, inventory, rent, and utilities. The application period closed on April 1. The DMPED team is currently working diligently to review all applications and expects to begin making award decisions by the end of April.

You can read more about the program [Click here](#).



GUIDE FOR EMPLOYERS - SHARED WORK

The District of Columbia Shared Work Unemployment Compensation Program (Shared Work Program) as enacted from the "Keep D.C. Working Act of 2010," is an alternative to layoffs for employers experiencing a reduction in available work. DC Council passed emergency legislation, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, which revised original program requirements.

The Shared Work program is available to all District businesses that meet the established eligibility criteria, and benefits both the employer and employee. With an approved Shared Work Plan, employers can avoid the operational challenges of a full layoff during a temporary slowdown. Employees benefit by avoiding the economic hardship of full unemployment, remaining employed while also being eligible for partial unemployment compensation. Additional program information and the application are available on the does.dc.gov website.

[CLICK HERE TO DOWNLOAD SHARED WORK - GUIDE FOR EMPLOYERS](#)

IMPORTANT NOTICE

SPECIAL NOTICE: TEMPORARY CHANGES IN SBE QUARTERLY REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Effective immediately and until further notice, the requirement to have a Public Notary notarize Vendor Verification Forms (VVF) signed by SBE subcontractors is temporarily suspended during the COVID-19 Emergency Declaration Period and until further notice. All SBE quarterly reporting will be subject to the online verification process detailed below.

SBE Subcontractors must complete and sign VVFs each time payment is received from a prime contractor for services performed. Once the VVF has been signed by the SBE subcontractor, the signed VVF must be transmitted to the prime/contractor.

The prime contractor must then electronically submit the attached attestation form with the signed VVF from each subcontractor attached. The VVF does not need to be notarized. The signed VVF and corresponding attestation form will be used in lieu of the previous Public Notary requirements.

If you have any additional questions in regards to this process please contact your designated compliance specialist or Ariel Giles, Compliance and Enforcement Manager, at ariel.giles@dc.gov.

DOWNLOAD ATTESTATION FORM

THE DC BUSINESS TOOLKIT

If you have not gotten the chance yet, check out the [DC Business Toolkit](#). The DC Business Toolkit is an interactive online portal that centralizes the vast number of business assistance resources that are available citywide through DSLBD, sister agencies and service providers. This allows District businesses and residents exploring entrepreneurship to quickly find and use these tools to open, operate and grow their business in the District of Columbia.

Additionally, the DC Business Toolkit helps businesses promote themselves to prospective customers and make unique B2B connections with local vendors. Some examples of business assistance resources include funding, classes, forms, regulatory guidance, coaching.



LEARN MORE

DC DEPARTMENT OF SMALL & LOCAL BUSINESS
DEVELOPMENT (DSLBD) | [Website](#)

