

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Business Assistance

FAQ

FOR ALL YOUR FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL RESOURCES, PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBPAGE AT
https://youredc.com/grow_your_business/wr

The Economic Development Council of St. Lucie County is committed to keeping our business community informed with the most current information available to assist your business and employees during this challenging time. Our COVID-19 Business Assistance Resource Web Portal is available and continually updated with all federal, state and local resources at your fingertips. We encourage you to share with your employees and local connections.

ACCESS TO CAPITAL

The **Small Business Administration (SBA) activated the Economic Injury Disaster Loan Program (EIDL)** for the State of Florida. This program provides low-interest loans for profit and non-profit businesses that have been impacted by COVID-19. The program provides loans up to \$2 million with an interest rate cap of 3.75% (2.75% for non-profits) and up to 30 year term. For more information and application information on the EIDL program, please visit <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela/Information/EIDLloans>.

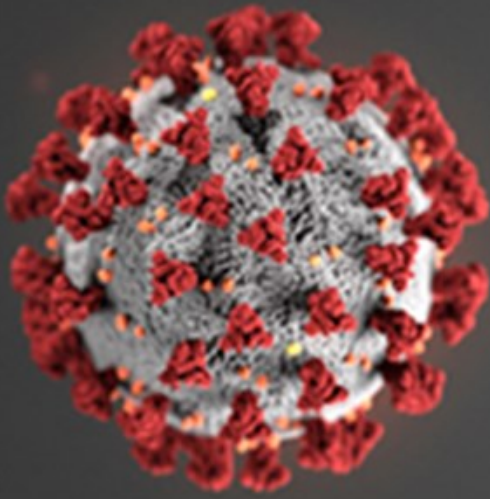
The **Small Business Development Center (SBDC) Small Business Bridge Loan Program** is accepting applications until May 8th. This short-term loan program offers up to \$50,000 at 0% interest for 12 months. For program information please visit www.floridadisasterloan.org. You can apply for the loan online, or can print the application ([print application](#)) and email to Tom Kindred, SBDC Regional Director at tkindred@irsc.edu.

BUSINESS ASSESSMENT SURVEY

The **Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) Business Damage Assessment Survey** has been activated to assess the impact of COVID-19 on Florida's local business operations. The survey will evaluate businesses affected by COVID-19 and the impacts the virus has had on the local economy so actions to implement appropriate relief programs can begin. The Business Damage Assessment Survey can be taken online at <https://floridadisaster.biz/>. Please take a moment to complete the survey as we need the feedback to provide comprehensive information about the impacts of COVID-19 to our federal, state and local partners.

FOOD FOR FAMILIES

The **Boys and Girls Club of St. Lucie County (BGCSLC)** and **Treasure Coast Food Bank (TCFB)** have begun an extensive campaign to help assist the over 75% of children in St. Lucie County who receive free and reduced lunch. The food bank has been preparing 1,200 meals per day which are distributed via car line at each of the four BGCSLC main locations between the hours of 4 pm – 7 pm daily. Please click the link to view locations <https://bgcofslc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Food-for-Families.jpg>.



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ST. LUCIE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The **Florida Department of Education (DOE)** has announced school closures statewide through April 15, 2020. Online instruction for students in St. Lucie Public Schools will begin on March 30th. The school district is currently preparing for Distance Teaching and Learning. For up to date information, please visit <https://www.stlucie.k12.fl.us/>.

STIMULUS

President Trump signed the **Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFRCA)** effective on April 2, 2020. This new law requires employers with up to 500 employees to provide paid sick leave and paid family leave while also providing a refundable payroll tax credit to employers to cover 100% of the cost of wages. Click here to view the House of Representatives [FFCRA H.R. 6201](#) text language. St. Lucie EDC investor partner, DEAN MEAD Attorneys at Law, wrote a great brief on FFCRA titled "*What Employers Need to Know*". Please click the link to view: <https://www.deanmead.com/2020/03/familys-first-coronavirus-response-act-passed-what-employers-need-to-know/>.

TAX PAYMENTS 2019 – DELAYED

The **Internal Revenue Service** via [Notice 2020-17](#) has delayed 2019 tax payments from April 15 to July 15, 2020. For more information on the IRS and Treasure guidance, please visit <https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/sm948>.

WORKFORCE ASSISTANCE

The **Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) Short-Time Compensation Program** is available for employers to offset employee lost wages due to reduced hours and to alleviate layoffs. Information can be found at http://www.floridajobs.org/office-directory/division-of-workforce-services/reemployment-assistance-programs/short-time-compensation-program-for-employers?fbclid=IwAR07gfWb0VWhMJ_ZNQEop5eHzbGJtAHwpea6j3JPO_TDUrbeb8gajwNRgaU.

Florida Department of Economic Opportunity CONNECT, Florida's online reemployment assistance system, can be accessed at <https://connect.myflorida.com/Claimant/Core/Login.ASPX>. This portal is used for employers to register for short-time compensation and for employees to receive benefits. If your company is currently planning for any downsizing, please contact us and we will connect you with CareerSource

For additional information, please contact us at INFO@YOUREDC.COM OR our hotline at 772.336.6250