



Financial Resources & Support for Residents, Workers & Businesses Negatively Impacted by COVID-19

Sent: April 2, 2020

A tremendous amount of financial support and other resources are now available to help residents, workers & businesses negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Finding the information is difficult and time consuming, so my office worked to compile this summary that we hope will be helpful for the residents, workers and businesses of our community!

[CARES Act - full text of Bill](#)

On March 27, 2020, the CARES Act was passed by the federal government. This summary includes key provisions of the Act that we believe may assist local residents, businesses & workers. Please note that this summary is by no means an exhaustive list of everything in the Bill.

Here's what we see as the Act's big ticket items:

- \$250 billion for direct payments to individuals & families with most adults receiving \$1,200 plus \$500 per child
- \$377 billion for small business loans
- \$260 billion for unemployment insurance benefits
- \$500 billion for loans to distressed companies
- \$150 billion for state and local assistance
- \$150 billion for hospital equipment & infrastructure

RESOURCES FOR RESIDENTS

Federal Resources/Updates

CARES Act - Direct Payments to American Workers:

- **Cash payments to working class are \$1,200 (\$2,400 married), with an additional \$500 cash payment available per child.**
- **Full payment is available for Americans making up to \$75,000 (individuals) and \$150,000 (married). This applies even for those who have no income, as well as those whose income comes entirely from non-taxable means-tested benefit programs, such as SSI benefits.**
- **The value decreases and then phases out completely for those making over the full payment income cap. Rebate amount is reduced by \$5 for each \$100 that a taxpayer's income exceeds the phase-out threshold. Complete phase-out occurs with incomes exceeding \$99,000 for single filers and \$146,500 for head of household filers with one child, and \$198,000 for joint filers with no children.**

From the IRS on March 30th: The Treasury Department and the Internal Revenue Service announced that distribution of economic impact payments will begin in the next three weeks and will be distributed automatically, with no action required for most people. However, some seniors and others who typically do not file returns will need to submit a simple tax return to receive the stimulus payment. For people who have already filed their 2019 tax returns, the IRS will use this information to calculate the payment amount. For those who have not yet filed their return for 2019, the IRS will use information from their 2018 tax filing to calculate the payment. The economic impact payment will be deposited directly into the same banking account reflected on the return filed. To see more information on this, you can view the IRS page entitled [Economic impact payments: What you need to know](#).

The CARES Act addresses Retirement Accounts:

- Those that are subject to mandatory minimum distributions from their retirement accounts would be able to keep their capital invested instead of being required to cash out to draw on that capital without penalty, which would be suspended for 2020. Under current law, once an individual reaches a certain age, he or she must make a minimum withdrawal (distribution) from his or her retirement account each year.
- Allows individuals to make withdrawals of up to \$100,000 from their retirement funds without having to pay the 10% penalty on coronavirus-related early distributions from 401(k)s and IRAs. Applies to distributions made at any time during 2020 and withdrawals must have been made because of adverse financial consequences experienced as a result of contracting COVID-19, or related factors.

Federal Tax Filing Deadline Extended:

On March 20th, the U.S. Treasury Department and Internal Revenue Service (IRS) announced that the tax filings and payments for all federal income taxes (including self-employment tax) normally due on April 15, 2020, regardless of amount, will now be due on July 15, 2020. More information can be found [here](#).

Note: Virginia has not changed its filing deadline. All state income tax filing deadlines remain the same, including the May 1, 2020 individual income tax filing due date. More details below in the State & Local Resources section.

State & Local Resources/Updates

Virginia Income Tax Payment Extension & Penalty Waiver:

Virginia income **tax filing deadlines remain the same**, including the May 1, 2020 individual income tax filing due date and April 15, 2020 for most corporations. However, any income tax **payments** due during the time period of April 1, 2020, to June 1, 2020, will now be due on June 1, 2020 ([read here](#)). This includes individual and corporate income taxes paid to Virginia Tax. Late payment penalties will not be charged if payments are made by June 1, 2020.

Note: For individuals, interest will still accrue if paid after May 1, 2020, so if you can pay by the original filing due date, you should. Virginia does already have an automatic, 6-month extension to file (7 months for certain corporations). If you file during the extension period, make sure you still pay any taxes owed by June 1, 2020 to avoid penalties. For more information, see [Virginia Tax Bulletin 20-4: Income Tax Payment Extension and Penalty Waiver in Response to the COVID-19 Crisis](#).

Food Assistance:

Loudoun County has launched an interactive map to help residents find food assistance sites, including food banks, pantries and non-school meal distribution sites. The searchable map also links to webpages for the various sites. The map will be updated as food assistance sites make service changes.

- [View the map.](#)
- For LCPS meal distribution sites, [see this map.](#)

Loudoun's Information & Referrals Hotline:

Loudoun County's Information and Referral (I&R) Line specialists help individuals and families better understand the range of options to assist them in making informed decisions. I&R specialists assess the situation and together with the caller, help to identify options to meet the primary service/resource needs - including rental and utility assistance, prescription costs, car repairs and bus tokens.

Contact I&R Mon- Fri, 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM at 703-777-0420 or online [here.](#)

After hours and on the weekend:

- Complete an [online form](#) – they will contact you by the next business day.
- [Email](#) – they will reply by the next business day.

Wi-Fi Connectivity:

Comcast is offering the [Essential Internet package](#) for 60 days. AT&T, T-Mobile, and Sprint have removed data limits for cellular customers. Read more about what each entity is doing by clicking on the links below:

- [AT&T](#)
- [T-Mobile](#)

- [Sprint](#)
- [Verizon](#)

Loudoun Personal Property Tax Payment Deadline Extended from May 5 to June 5:

The Loudoun County Board of Supervisors approved a recommendation from Treasurer H. Roger Zurn to move the personal property tax deadline from May 5 to June 5, 2020. "The Treasurer's Office and the Board recognize that COVID-19 situation may be impacting our residents economically. Due to the end of the fiscal year and state code, the due date could only be moved to June 5," Zurn said. "I have asked my Collection Team to cease any collection actions during this crisis. We stand ready to set up payment plans for those that are most impacted, particularly hourly workers. We are all in this together. Please stay safe and stay strong." More information about taxes in Loudoun County can be found [online here](#).



RESOURCES FOR WORKERS

Federal Resources/Updates

CARES Act - Unemployment Insurance:

- Creates a temporary Pandemic Unemployment Assistance program through December 31, 2020. **This program will provide payment to those not traditionally eligible for unemployment benefits (self-employed, independent contractors, those with limited work history, and others).**

- Provides payment to states to reimburse nonprofits, government agencies, and Indian tribes for half of the costs they incur through December 31, 2020 to pay for unemployment benefits.
- Includes an additional \$600 per week payment, on top of state benefit levels, to each recipient of unemployment insurance or Pandemic Unemployment Assistance for up to four months, through July 31. (Laid off workers currently qualify for up to 26 weeks of unemployment insurance. Benefit levels vary by state with most replacing about half of an individual's wages during that time.)
- Provides an additional 13 weeks of federally-funded unemployment insurance benefits beyond the normal 26 weeks through December 31, 2020 to help those who remain unemployed after weeks of state unemployment benefits are no longer available. The amount provided would be the same as the regular benefit paid by the state.
- Provides funding to support "short-time compensation" programs, where employers reduce employee hours instead of laying off workers and the employees with reduced hours receive a pro-rated unemployment benefit. Under the bill, the federal government would pay 100% of a state's short-time compensation benefits for up to 26 weeks of benefits.
- Not all states have short-time compensation programs, but they can choose to develop one in order to take advantage of the federal assistance. If they choose to establish a program after the passage of this bill, the federal government would pay up to 50% of the state's benefit costs.
- Provides states with temporary, limited flexibility to hire temporary staff, re-hire former staff, or take other steps to quickly process unemployment claims.

- Includes funding for Labor Department Inspector General oversight of the program.
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State & Local Resources/Updates

***NEW* Loudoun Job Portal:** Loudoun Economic Development has unveiled a jobs portal that aggregates and filters all positions currently open in Loudoun County. The portal pulls in and de-duplicates listings from more than 10,000 public job boards, providing the comprehensive tool for finding a job in Loudoun County. You can visit the new site [here](#).

Governor Northam announced the following actions to protect working Virginians impacted by the COVID-19 outbreak:

- No waiting for unemployment benefits. Governor Northam has directed the Commissioner of the Virginia Employment Commission to waive the one-week waiting period to ensure workers can receive benefits as soon as possible.
- Enhanced eligibility for unemployment. Workers may be eligible to receive unemployment benefits if an employer needs to temporarily slow or cease operations due to COVID-19. If a worker has been issued a notice to self-quarantine by a medical or public health official and is not receiving paid sick or medical leave from their employer, they may be eligible to receive unemployment benefits. In addition, a worker may be eligible for unemployment benefits if they must stay home to care for an ill family member and are not receiving paid family medical leave from their employer.
- Fewer restrictions. For individuals receiving unemployment insurance, Governor Northam is directing the Virginia Employment Commission to give affected workers special

consideration on deadlines, mandatory re-employment appointments, and work search requirements.

- The Office of the Governor is providing a [Frequently Asked Questions guide](#) for workers that have been temporarily laid off or discharged during this public health crisis.

NOTE: All Virginians who have experienced job or income loss as a result of the Coronavirus crisis are encouraged to file an application for unemployment insurance using the VEC's [online portal](#), selecting "Lack of Work" as their reason for separation. Please note, recipients will be required to access the portal each week to claim their unemployment insurance payment. Detailed instructions for individuals applying for unemployment insurance benefits can be found [here](#). An FAQ on unemployment benefits can be found [here](#).

Loudoun Workforce Resource Center:

The Loudoun Workforce Resource Center (LWRC) is located within the Department of Family Services and is a Virginia Career Works Affiliate. The center provides **no-cost** resources and equipment to both job seekers and businesses. Their mission is to connect businesses and job seekers to achieve their employment goals. You can access more information on LWRC by visiting [their website here](#). They have new virtual resources available, including:

- A list of [online resources \(PDF\)](#) that you can access to support your learning in areas of career interests and planning, resumes and interviews, transferable skills, labor market information, wellness during times of unemployment and more!
- Virtual resume critiques and employment coaching are available by phone or via the Go to Meeting platform. Complete and submit this request [form](#) and you will be contacted within 1 business day to arrange a session. You may also call them at 703-777-0150 and press Option 1.

- Job readiness workshops are held virtually through the Go to Meeting platform. LinkedIn profile reviews and mock interviews are offered in the same platform via set appointment. View the [full schedule and register online](#). If you need help deciding which workshop is right for you, call us at 703-777-0150 and press Option 0.
- The Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA) Program, for both [Adult \(PDF\)](#) and [Youth \(PDF\)](#), will continue to offer employment assistance through alternative methods, such as use of online technology.

RESOURCES FOR SMALL BUSINESS

Federal Resources/Updates

CARES Act:

- \$350 billion in loan forgiveness grants to small businesses and non-profits to maintain the existing workforce and pay for expenses like rent, mortgage, and utilities.
- The size of the loans is equal 250% of an employer's average monthly payroll. The maximum loan amount is \$10 million.
- Loans are available immediately through more than 800 existing SBA-certified lenders, including banks, credit union, and other financial institutions.
- Defines eligibility for loans as a small business, 501(c)(3) nonprofit, a 501(c)(19) veteran's organization, or Tribal business concern described in section 31(b)(2)(C) of the Small Business Act with not more than 500 employees, or the applicable size standard for the industry as provided by SBA, if higher.

- Also includes sole-proprietors, independent contractors, and other self-employed individuals as eligible for loans.
- Includes \$17 billion for Small Business Administration (SBA) to cover six months of payments for small businesses with existing SBA loans.
- Requires SBA to pay all principal, interest, and fees on all existing SBA loan products for six months.
- Includes \$265 million for grants to SBA resource partners, including Small Business Development Centers and Women's Business Centers, to offer counseling, training, and related assistance to small businesses.
- Expands eligibility for entities suffering economic harm due to COVID-19 to access SBA's Economic Injury Disaster Loans.

Note: Loudoun Economic Development (DED) will be monitoring additional details as more information is released. DED currently has a helpful guide related to the CARES Act on their website from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce that can be [viewed here](#). **Still have questions?** You can talk to a Loudoun Economic Development staff member visit their [Contact Us page](#).

SBA Economic Disaster Loans:

Virginia received a statewide Economic Injury Disaster Loan declaration from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). Small businesses and non-profit organizations located throughout the state can now apply for a loan of up to \$2 million from the SBA to pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable, and other expenses.

To submit a loan application for the SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loan program, please [click here](#).

Note: The SBA Disaster Loan is completely separate from the CARES Act the President most recently signed. This being the case, applying for the loans will require separate applications. The SBA loan application will be administered through the SBA. The CARES Act loan will be administered through a lending institution. For a list of the most active lenders, [click here](#).

State & Local Resources/Updates

Loudoun County Economic Development Office:

Loudoun Economic Development is focused on providing support to assist businesses as you cope with the impacts of COVID-19. They have formed an emergency response team rooted in their staff and leveraging expertise throughout our community. They are reaching out to our businesses, but do not hesitate to reach out to them with any suggestions, requests or concerns.

They created a webpage to provide resources and information for Loudoun businesses. Visit the [page here](#).

Additionally, the Loudoun Small Business Development Center (SBDC) has coaches that can help you with one-on-one loan package preparation. If you have questions about the process or need assistance in gathering information or filling out application forms contact them and they will get you connected with a coach as soon as possible. [Email Loudoun SBDC](#) or call (703)466-0466 to learn more.

From Governor Ralph Northam (Virginia):

Regional workforce teams **will be** activated to support employers that slow or cease operations. Employers who do slow or cease operations will not be financially penalized for an increase in workers requesting unemployment benefits.

Additional Resources: Here locally in Loudoun, our Virginia Career Work affiliate is the [Loudoun Workforce Resource Center \(LWRC\)](#). Michael Bozeth, Employer Services Coordinator at the LWRC, is the Loudoun point of contact. You can [email Michael here](#).

The Governor also **authorized rapid response funding**, through the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, for employers eligible to remain open during this emergency. These funds are intended to assist local employers to avert layoffs and support other operational needs. These strategies and activities are designed to prevent, or minimize the duration of, unemployment resulting from layoffs due to the COVID-19 crisis. **How it works:** A business with employees located in Northern Virginia (Fairfax, Loudoun, and Prince William counties and the cities of Fairfax, Falls Church, Manassas and Manassas Park) that has **250 or fewer employees** is eligible to apply. Full details on this funding [can be found here](#).

Layoff aversion funds could be used for innovative strategies to maintain business operations, such as:

- a cleaning/sanitization service.
- the purchase of software/programs that employees would need to use from home to support their work.
- the purchase of remote access supplies, including laptop computers and/or smart phones, which the employees would need to use from home to support their work.
- other innovative methods that keep businesses open and workers employed

Follow the Governor's latest updates on COVID-19 [click here](#).

Sales Tax Filing and Payment Extension & Penalty Waiver:

Businesses impacted by coronavirus can request an extension of the due date for filing and payment of their February 2020 sales tax

return due March 20, 2020, for 30 days. When granted, businesses will be able to file and pay no later than April 20, 2020 with a waiver of any penalties. For more information, see Virginia Tax Bulletin 20-3: Option to Request Extension of Sales Tax Deadlines for those Affected by the COVID-19 Crisis. Read more from Governor Northam [here](#).

RESOURCES FOR HANDLING COVID-19 RELATED STRESS

The outbreak of COVID-19 may be stressful and overwhelming for some. Consider these resources for information for yourself and your family:

- [Coping with Stress During COVID-19 Outbreak](#)
- [Helping Children Cope with Stress During COVID-19](#)
- If you are experiencing a behavioral health crisis, Emergency Services are available 24 hours daily, seven days per week at 703-777-0320.
- For general information questions, call 703-771-5155 or [email here](#).

STAY INFORMED!

[Loudoun's COVID-19 Webpage](#)

Updates from Loudoun on COVID-19:

- View all [updates](#) on COVID-19
- [Sign up for updates in Notify Me, Blogs category](#)
- Text LCCOVID19 to 888777 to receive text alerts from Loudoun County about Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

All my best,



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