



CITY OF OAKLAND

Available Business Resources – March 17, 2020

Dear Business Owner,

If you operate a business, nonprofit or are self-employed and have been impacted by COVID-19, please **take the City's COVID-19 Business Impact Survey** at www.oaklandbusinesscenter.com. This will serve as the intake method for businesses seeking assistance. The online survey is available in English, Chinese, Spanish and Vietnamese.

The City wants to **share a variety of resources to support small businesses and workers** during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The City has **launched a web page at www.oaklandbusinesscenter.com to serve as a portal for all the local, state and federal resources** available to support small businesses and workers during this crisis.

New federal and state programs on emergency funding and commercial eviction protections are **advancing through the legislative process**. Concurrently, with help from private philanthropic partners, the **City is actively exploring funding opportunities** to help vulnerable small businesses, nonprofits, and the self-employed who have experienced losses related to COVID-19. The data that you and other business owners have submitted through the survey will help inform the proposed local program. Once the details on these new programs and resources have been confirmed, we will add that information to the web page listed above.

Currently, the **following resources and information are all available now** on www.oaklandbusinesscenter.com:

Help with Capital for Small Businesses

There are a number of resources available now, or in formation, that can provide capital to help sustain your business during this crisis.

KIVA.org, a City of Oakland partner, offers zero-interest loans via crowdsourcing to entrepreneurs and small business owners. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, KIVA has raised its maximum loan amount to \$15,000, expanded eligibility for loans, and has extended the repayment grace period up to six months post-loan disbursement for greater financial flexibility.

There are other local business providers who offer loans and technical assistance specifically to Oakland small businesses, including, among others:

Main Street Launch: www.mainstreetlaunch.org/oakland-launch

Working Solutions: <http://www.workingsolutions.org/news/2020/3/16/working-solutions-covid-19-response>

Pacific Community Ventures: www.pacificcommunityventures.org

In addition, the SBA's low-interest **Economic Injury Disaster Loans** provides small businesses with working capital loans of up to \$2 million that may be used to pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable and other bills that can't be paid due to the disaster. Businesses with credit available elsewhere are not eligible. <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela/>

Finally, the State of California's Small Business Finance Center provides loan guarantees and direct loans for small businesses that experience capital access barriers through its **Disaster Relief Loan Guarantee Program**. <https://www.ibank.ca.gov/small-business-finance-center/>

Resources to Support Workforce Reductions

If you're reducing your workforce, please consider the state's **Work Sharing Program** that helps employers minimize or eliminate the need for layoffs, keep trained employees and quickly prepare when business conditions improve. The program helps employees whose hours and wages have been reduced to receive Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits.

https://edd.ca.gov/Unemployment/Work_Sharing_Program.htm

Information About State Unemployment & Disability Insurance Benefits –Waiting Periods Waived

Governor Newsom's Executive Order on March 12, 2020, waives the one-week waiting period for people who are unemployed and/or disabled as a result of COVID-19 to seek unemployment and disability benefits. Please direct affected workers to the State website at

https://edd.ca.gov/about_edd/coronavirus-2019.htm to review what benefits are available including sick leave, paid family leave and workers' compensation benefits. The site also includes resources for businesses, including tax deferrals.

Self-employed workers, including independent contractors, may be eligible for benefits if they have elected to pay into Disability Insurance Elective Coverage (DIEC) under State Disability Insurance. For more information, see the Elective Coverage for Employers and Self-Employed Individuals (DE 231EC) at https://edd.ca.gov/pdf_pub_ctr/de231ec.pdf

City of Oakland's Paid Sick Leave Requirement for Workers

The City is reminding all employers and workers of Oakland's voter-approved sick leave benefits. During the COVID-19 pandemic, it is important that workers have the ability to take paid time off when they are sick. Measure FF, www.oaklandca.gov/topics/measure-ff-and-measure-z, voter-approved in November 2014, requires the accrual of paid sick leave for any individuals employed in Oakland. The minimum rate of accrual is one hour paid sick leave for every 30 hours worked. Employers with less than 10 employees must allow employees to accrue up to 40 hours of paid sick leave at a time and larger employers with 10 or more employees must allow employees to accrue at least 72 hours of paid sick leave. If you as an employer have any questions, please reach out to minwageinfo@oaklandca.gov.

Help with Mounting Housing Costs and Residential Displacement

Through the Keep Oakland Housed program (<https://www.keeпоaklandhoused.org/>), services are available to all Oakland residents who are at risk of losing their housing. In addition to emergency financial assistance to help with rent, utility payments, and other housing-related costs, the program offers supportive services and legal representation for tenants with an active eviction lawsuit. If you or any of your employees are at-risk for residential displacement, please connect with Keep Oakland Housed.

Oakland City Council has taken first steps to halt residential evictions, with a proposed ordinance that would halt evictions caused by income disruptions resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.
www.oaklandca.gov

Direct Technical Help for Small Businesses

Finally, the City's business development staff will contact Business Impact Survey respondents that requested one-on-one follow-up shortly. They can connect you with Oakland's many business support organizations that offer financial products, technical assistance and other services to help local small businesses during this pandemic.

Thank you for your investment in Oakland. Businesses like yours are essential to the vitality of the city we call home.