



COVID - 19 Resources and Links

[Covid 19 Opelika Chamber Event Waiver](#)

Governor Ivey Announces Mazda Toyota Manufacturing to Boost Alabama Investment by \$830 Million

Governor Kay Ivey on Thursday announced that Mazda Toyota Manufacturing (MTM), the joint venture between automakers Mazda Motor Corp. and Toyota Motor Corp., plans to make an additional \$830 million investment to incorporate new cutting-edge manufacturing technologies to its production lines and provide enhanced training to its workforce of up to 4,000 employees.

“Toyota’s presence in Alabama continues to build excitement about future opportunities that lie ahead, both for our economy and for the residents of our great state,” Governor Ivey said. “Mazda and Toyota’s increased commitment to the development of this manufacturing plant reiterates their belief in the future of manufacturing in America and the potential for the state of Alabama to be an economic leader in the wake of unprecedented economic change.”

The additional investment brings the total figure in the state-of-the-art facility in Huntsville to \$2.311 billion, up from the \$1.6 billion originally announced in 2018. The investment reaffirms Mazda and Toyota’s commitment to produce the highest-quality products at all of their production facilities.

The investment also accommodates production line modifications to enhance manufacturing processes supporting the Mazda vehicle and design changes to the yet-to-be-announced Toyota SUV that will both be produced at the Alabama plant.

The new facility will have the capacity to produce up to 150,000 units of a future Mazda crossover model and up to 150,000 units of the Toyota SUV each year.

MTM continues to plan for up to 4,000 new jobs and has hired approximately 600 employees to date, with plans to resume accepting applications for production positions later in 2020.

“Mazda Toyota Manufacturing is proud to call Alabama home. Through strong support from our state and local partners, we have been able to further incorporate cutting-edge manufacturing technologies, provide world-class training for team members and develop the highest quality production processes,” said Mark Brazeal, Vice President of Administration at MTM. “As we prepare for the start of production

next year, we look forward to developing our future workforce and serving as a hometown company for many years to come.”

Full-scale construction of the Alabama plant continues, with 75 to 100 percent completion on roofing, siding, floor slabs, ductwork, fire protection and electrical.

“This newest investment by our partners at Mazda Toyota Manufacturing shows the company’s continued confidence in the ability of our community to provide a strong, skilled workforce to meet the demands for quality and reliability,” Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battle said. “We look forward to the day when the first vehicles roll off the line.”

“We are excited to learn of this additional investment being made by Mazda Toyota Manufacturing,” Limestone County Commission Chairman Colin Daly said. “We continue to be grateful to MTM for their belief in our community and look forward to our partnership with them for many years to come.”

Greg Canfield, Secretary of the Alabama Department of Commerce, said MTM’s new investment will magnify the economic impact of a project that is poised to transform the North Alabama region.

“With this enhanced investment, Mazda Toyota Manufacturing USA is adding new technology and capabilities to a manufacturing facility that was already designed to be one of the most efficient factories in the automotive industry,” Canfield said. “We’re confident that the groundbreaking collaboration between Mazda and Toyota will drive growth not only for the companies but also for North Alabama for generations.”

Governor Ivey Announces \$100 Million of CARES Act Funding to Nursing Homes and Hospitals

Governor Kay Ivey on Friday awarded \$100 million of the Coronavirus Relief Fund to support two grant programs of up to \$50 million each for nursing homes and hospitals for the purpose of responding to and mitigating the COVID-19 public health emergency.

“While there are many aspects of COVID-19 that we still don’t know, one thing that isn’t in dispute is our seniors and those with preexisting health conditions fair the worst when contracting the virus,” Governor Ivey said. “Protecting our most vulnerable citizens remains a priority for my administration, and it is incumbent to ensure that our nursing homes and hospitals have every tool possible to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 as well as keep their staff and health care professionals safe as they offer exceptional care to those who are ill.”

This allocation of up to \$50 million will be for operational costs that are COVID-19 related, such as PPE, cleaning, personnel costs and other costs incurred related to the pandemic. The Alabama Nursing Home Association Education Foundation, a non-profit (c)(3), previously received \$18.27 million to provide baseline testing for coronavirus and proactive surveillance of the virus for health care personnel and residents of nursing home facilities across Alabama.

“On behalf of Alabama’s nursing homes, I thank Governor Ivey for her continued commitment to assisting the residents and staff in our facilities,” Brandon Farmer, president and CEO of the Alabama Nursing Home Association, said. “Our nursing homes continue to provide high quality, compassionate

care despite the challenges posed by COVID-19. These funds will help cover the unexpected and ongoing costs we incur during this pandemic and allow us to focus on caring for those most vulnerable to this virus.”

In partnership with the state of Alabama, the Alabama Nursing Home Association Education Foundation will administer the funds fairly and impartially on behalf of the people of Alabama, for all of Alabama’s nursing home facilities.

Using criteria established by the state of Alabama, the Alabama Hospital Association will administer the funds of up to \$50 million through a grant program to assist every hospital as they continue to provide care to Alabamians affected by COVID-19 as well as continuing to maintain a safe environment to provide quality care for all of our citizen’s health care needs.

“Despite unprecedented challenges and financial strains as a result of the pandemic, Alabama’s hospitals have continued to rise to the occasion in meeting the health care needs of our citizens,” Donald E. Williamson, M.D., president of the Alabama Hospital Association, said. “Our hospitals thank Governor Ivey and her administration for the continued support and financial assistance. This will go a long way to ensure hospitals are able to care for all patients who need hospital services and protect their employees while doing so.”

Alabama received approximately \$1.9 billion of federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) funding to respond to and mitigate COVID-19. Alabama Act 2020-199 designated up to \$250 million of the Coronavirus Relief Fund to be used to support the delivery of health care and related services to citizens of Alabama related to the coronavirus pandemic.

[Nursing Home Memorandum of Understanding](#)
[Hospital Memorandum of Understanding](#)

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Governor Ivey Announces \$50 Million Grant Program for Nonprofit and Faith-Based Organizations

Governor Kay Ivey on Thursday announced a \$50 million grant program to support nonprofit and faith-based organizations who have been financially impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Alabama Nonprofit Grant Program and the Alabama Faith-Based Grant Program will be awarded to eligible applicants on a first-come-first-served basis up to a \$25 million aggregate cap in each program.

“Nonprofits and faith-based organizations are truly the backbone of our great state,” Governor Kay Ivey said. “Alabama relies on these entities to be equipped to serve our communities in ways where the state is either unable or incapable of doing so. Unfortunately, many of these groups often have a hard time keeping critical funds flowing in normal circumstances, and the pandemic has exponentially increased their struggle to remain operational. It is simply the right thing to do for our state to ensure Alabama nonprofits and faith-based organizations can recover in order to benefit the citizens they serve.”

Administered through the Department of Finance, the state of Alabama will offer cash grants in an amount up to \$15,000 per Alabama-based nonprofit and faith-based entity that meet eligibility requirements.

Alabama received approximately \$1.9 billion of federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) to respond to and mitigate COVID-19. Alabama Act 2020-199 designated up to \$300 million of the Coronavirus Relief Fund to be used to support citizens, businesses, and non-profit and faith-based organizations of the state directly impacted by the coronavirus pandemic.

[Coronavirus Relief Fund Information](#)

[Nonprofit Eligibility](#)

[Selection of Grants](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[Faith-Based Eligibility](#)

[Selection of Grants](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

For other questions, please contact the Coronavirus Relief Funds Office at 334-242-7063 or submissions@finance.alabama.gov.

###

Governor Ivey Issues Amended Safer at Home Order – Masks Required

Governor Kay Ivey issued her fifteenth supplemental emergency proclamation containing an amended Safer at Home Order that includes a statewide mask requirement. Individuals will be required to wear a mask or other facial covering when in public and in close contact with other people, as described in the order. This amended order extends until August 31, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.

[Amended Safer at Home Order](#)

[Safer at Home Info Sheet 1](#)

[Safer at Home Info Sheet 2](#)

[Safer at Home Info Sheet 3](#)

[Fifteenth Supplemental Emergency Proclamation](#)

[Resources for Businesses](#)

The City of Opelika has been Awarded Funds to Assist Individuals & Businesses

Through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Opelika will be receiving funds to assist low-to moderate income individuals and small businesses who have suffered a loss of income due to COVID-19. Assistance will be available to offset the cost or rent or mortgage payments and utilities. Once the city's plan for use of funds has been approved by HUD and funding is received, the Community Development Department will begin accepting applications for assistance.

PLEASE NOTE: An announcement will be made on the city webpage, www.opelika-al.gov, social media outlets, and through local media outlets when the Community Development Department begins taking applications. Applications are not being accepted at this time.

Lee-Russell Council of Governments (LRCOG) Offering Temporary Loan Program

The LRCOG Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) is working to help sustain the restart of businesses and retain/rehire employees of those business impacted by the economic downturn caused by COVID -19. Due to the impact of the pandemic on small businesses, the increase in demand for RLF loans, and the need for RLF's to provide credit to the region, Economic Development Administration has provided the

RLF with the flexibility to allow loans to be expedited quickly. For more information, contact Sandra Machen, 334.748.3016 or email smachen@lrcog.com.

[Loan Details](#)

Opelika Chamber Posting Members' Information or Offerings on Social Media

The Chamber is continuing to post member videos on our social media accounts. If you are interested, please send Mackenzie, mkayler@opelikachamber.com your short video and we will get it posted. The video can be of specials you are offering, what's going on with you, an encouragement during this crisis, etc.

Opelika Observer Offering Free Advertising to Help Businesses Recover

The Observer was selected to receive funding from the Google Initiative Journalism Emergency Relief Fund. The Observer's accepted proposal included offering local business owners the opportunity to receive free advertising. Just submit a 5x5 or a 5x10 ad to Michelle@opelikaobserver.com and it will be included in an ad rotation with other businesses. This will be done at no cost to you and is simply a way for them to help our community recover from the economic injuries caused by COVID-19.

Paycheck Protection Flexibility Act of 2020

The Paycheck Protection Flexibility Act of 2020 has relaxed some of the requirements regarding forgiveness loans of the Paycheck Protection Program. The bill is expected to be signed by President Trump soon. Below is a brief overview. For more information, borrowers should contact their lenders. [Full Bill Summary](#)

- Borrowers have the option to extend the original eight week period to 24 weeks.
- The payroll requirement would be 60% compared to the original 75%.
- The employer has an extension period regarding the reduction of workforce.
- The repayment period has been extended to five years.
- The two year deferral of employer's share of payroll taxes for all employers.

Governor Ivey: Safer at Home Order Amended

The new orders go into effect on Friday, May 22, at 5 pm and ends on Friday, July 3, at 5 pm. For the full Safer at Home order, [click here](#).

New updates include:

- Entertainment venues (museums, movie theaters, bowling alleys and more) can open subject to social distancing and sanitation rules and guidelines. To view the guidelines for entertainment venues and tourist attractions, [click here](#).
- Child day care facilities can open (limit on number of children has been lifted) subject to social distancing and sanitation rules and guidelines. To view the guidelines for child day care facilities, [click here](#).
- Educational institutions may open on Monday, June 1, subject to social distancing and sanitation rules and guidelines. To view the guidelines and checklist for school sponsored activities provided by the Alabama State Department of Education, [click here](#).

- Practice is allowed for athletic activities, but competition will not be allowed until Monday, June 15. These activities are subject to social distancing and sanitation rules and guidelines. To view the guidelines for adult and youth athletic activities, [click here](#).
- Summer camps can open subject to social distancing and sanitation rules and guidelines. To view, the guidelines for day and overnight youth camps, [click here](#).

City of Opelika News

• Amended Executive Order Increasing Retail And Grocery Store Capacity To 50 Percent

Opelika Mayor Gary Fuller has amended Executive Order 01-20 which limits the number of customers in retail and grocery stores within the Opelika city limits.

The following guidelines are effective May 19, 2020 at 7 a.m.:

Social distancing:

1. Increase capacity to 50 percent of stated fire capacity in the store at a time. Fifty percent capacity limit does not apply to employees. Stores are required to count the number of customers entering and exiting the store and to enforce this as the emergency maximum occupancy.

• City of Opelika Reopening City Owned Buildings

All city buildings are open to the public. They have necessary precautions to protect their employees and citizens. They have developed protocol for each building and ask that you please follow these guidelines when you visit the building.

Guidelines

Small Business Development Center Hosting Webinar

Selling Successfully to the government in Response to COVID 19

May 20 • 10 – 11 am

In partnership with the Troy SBDC/PTAC, they are hosting a webinar on “Selling Successfully to the Government in Response to COVID-19.” Anyone who is interested can register. Get More Information at <https://bit.ly/AUSelltoGovt>. [Flyer](#)

Auburn University Cary Center Needs Your Input

Through July 1, 2020

They have launched a research project titled "*The COVID-19 Effect on Alabama and Georgia Nonprofits*." For reference, here's the information we sent out to our Nonprofit Affiliates. The survey is live through July 1. [Details & Survey](#)

John Emerald Distilling Company Continuing Hand Sanitizing Production

They are receiving requests from all over the country but they want to ensure local businesses are taken care of first. They are expected to have their next round of sanitizer ready around the first of June, and once that is sold out it will be the first of July before more is available as their supply chain has slowed down. Once a date is set, they will announce sales of one and five gallon buckets on a first come, first serve basis. Businesses who need 10 or more gallons should fill out this [form](#) to be contacted individually. For more information, visit <https://www.johnemeralddistilling.com/sanitizer>

Spire is Offering Assistance to its Small Business Customers

The company is providing a \$200 pledge on eligible commercial customers impacted by coronavirus. For a small commercial business to apply, please visit: www.SpireEnergy.com/Relief.

Newk's Offering Hero Box Meals

Donate box meals for essential workers, medical staff and first responders for only \$7.50 each and Newk's will delivery within the community. For more details, visit www.order.newks.com.

Covid 19 Restaurant Reopening Guidance

A GUIDE FOR THE RESTAURANT INDUSTRY

For other resources:

www.restaurant.org/covid19

Economic Development Association of Alabama

EDAA has constructed a resource list of non-medical PPE to provide your local companies as they begin the process of reopening Alabama's economy. This is a dynamic list and will be updated as information becomes available.

[Locating PPE Resources](#)

Paragon Industrial Has a Shipment of Masks

334.749.3850 • www.paragonindustrialllp.com

Griff Goods: The Only Mask You Need for Summer - Tencel Linen Twill

84% Tencel (lyocell), 16% linen twill, meaning it's really tight and rigid weave, but incredibly soft and lightweight. Tencel is naturally cooling to the touch and thermo-regulating (a fancy word for doesn't get really hot). That also means that it doesn't hold onto moisture, making it hard for bacteria to grow on its surface. It's made from regenerated cellulosic fibers (aka wood pulp) and is the mecca of sustainable fabric production. Ideal for sensitive skin, hot weather, keeping germs off your face. [Purchase Here](#)

The Small Business Administration resumed accepting Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) applications on Monday, April 27 from approved lenders on behalf of any eligible borrower. For more information, click [here](#).

From Governor's Office

Governor Kay Ivey announced the Stay at Home order **will remain in place** at least through Thursday, April 30. To review the Stay at Home order, click [here](#). Anyone who has applied for unemployment benefits can use the Alabama Department of Labor's (ADOL) UI Claim tracker, which can be found [here](#). Employers and employees are encouraged to visit ADOL's [website](#) for frequently updated information.

Spire Providing \$500,000 in Matching Gifts: DollarHelp Program

Spire is providing \$500,000 in matching gifts for their small commercial/industrial and residential customers impacted by covid-19 thru its DollarHelp program

(<https://www.spireenergy.com/dollarhelp>). Those Spire customers affected by the pandemic and in need of financial assistance to pay their natural gas bills can visit <https://www.spireenergy.com/relief> or call the Spire customer service team at 1.800.887.4173 to make an application.

Visa Foundation

Visa announces \$210 million commitment to support small and micro businesses, with \$10 million of that supporting COVID-19 emergency relief.

- The first program of \$10 million is designated for immediate emergency relief to support charitable organizations on the frontlines responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, such as public health and food relief.
- The second program is a five-year, strategic \$200 million commitment to support small and micro businesses around the world.
 - \$60 million in grants to NGOs dedicated to supporting small and micro business owners
 - \$140 million with investment partners that generate positive social and financial returns for small and micro businesses.
- Announced on the April 6th. No information yet on partnerships or the grant/award process. I will keep checking this for updates.
 - <https://usa.visa.com/about-visa/newsroom/press-releases.releaseld.17066.html>

The Red Backpack Fund for Women Entrepreneurs – Round 2 Opens May 4

The Spanx by Sara Blakely Foundation donated \$5 million to support female entrepreneurs in the wake of COVID-19 and teamed up with GlobalGiving to establish The Red Backpack Fund.

- Making 1,000 grants of \$5,000 each to female entrepreneurs in the U.S.
- Additional application dates - June 1, July 6, and August 3.
- <https://www.globalgiving.org/redbackpackfund/>
- Email notification of application dates - <https://globalgiving.typeform.com/to/j1sf32>

Volunteer Firefighter Support Fund

From the National Volunteer Fire Council, this fund provides stipends for volunteer first responders whose homes have been impacted by a state or federally declared disaster; a home fire; or those who have lost jobs or wages due to COVID-19 related illness, quarantine, or volunteer response activities.

- Stipend of \$350
- <https://www.nvfc.org/nvfc-volunteer-firefighter-support-fund/>

MusiCares – The Recording Academy

Music industry professionals may apply for grants up to \$1000 to compensate for cancelled work that was scheduled and lost. Should we receive additional funding, we will evaluate the grant amounts available.

- Minimum requirement - At least 3 years of employment in the music industry
- Application - <https://covid-19-relief.recordingacademy.com/>

Military

- Army – Army Emergency Relief - <https://www.armyemergencyrelief.org/covid19/>
- Navy/Marine – Navy – Marine Corps Relief Society - <https://www.nmcrs.org/pages/nmcrs-covid-19-information>

- Air Force – Air Force Aid Society - <https://afas.org/how-we-help/emergency-assistance/>

Comcast for Veterans

COMCAST offering 2 months of free internet to low income veterans in response to COVID-19.

- Beyond month two, users can opt to remain in the program as paying customers at the heavily discounted Internet Essentials rate of \$9.95 a month.
- <https://www.navso.org/news/comcast-offering-2-months-free-internet-low-income-veterans-response-covid-19>

Goodwill Providing Virtual Service to Job Seekers

334.275.4815 • 3740 Pepperell Parkway • Opelika • www.goodwillsr.org

The office is closed but they are still offering employment services for job seekers. If interested in receiving email, text or phone call correspondence about employment opportunity in the area, register with them by calling the above number. The virtual hot job board is updated weekly.

- **Goodwill Career Center: Hiring Opportunities**

[Business that are Hiring](#)

[Learn How To Apply](#)

Alabama Department of Labor

Questions about Unemployment (site is updated daily)

<https://labor.alabama.gov/covid19resources.aspx>

AARP: Alabama Coronavirus Tele-town Hall Meetings

Health Information and Resources

Tuesday, April 14 // 3:50 - 4:50 pm

Please dial 877-229-8493 and enter

PIN 14122 or listen live on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/alabama.aarp>

Thursday, April 16 // 6:20 – 7:20 pm

Please dial 877-229-8493 and enter PIN 110166

listen live on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/alabama.aarp/>

Remember as a member you may be dialed automatically a few minutes before the call.

If you do not receive a call, please follow the directions above to dial in.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/>. <https://www.aarp.org/health/>.

Yelp Provides Relief for Restaurants and Nightlife Businesses

Yelp announced they are providing \$25 million in relief to support independent, local restaurants and nightlife businesses. By doing this, they are offering free advertising, products and services. As of now, the relief program ends April 30. [Details](#)

EAMC Offering Resources and Information

East Alabama Medical Center is offering COVID-19 information and resources for businesses and the community on their [website](#). Their [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) pages are also updated with information daily.

Alabama Public Health

"Stay at Home" Statewide Public Health Order

FAQ Sheet for Businesses

www.alabamapublichealth.gov

[FAQ Sheet](#)

Grant for Restaurant Employees

The National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation has created the **Restaurant Employee Relief Fund**. This fund will provide grants to restaurant industry employees who have been adversely impacted by COVID-19, financially, whether through a decrease in wages or loss of employment.

- Apply for a grant starting Thursday, April 2, 2020
- Each approved grant is \$500, one per person only
- <https://rerf.us/>

SBA Offering Economic Injury Disaster Advance Loan

Important: An EIDL grant application must be in process before applying for the \$10,000 Advance.

The Small Business Administration is offering the Economic Injury Disaster Advance Loan

- In response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, small business owners in all U.S. states, Washington D.C., and territories are eligible to apply for an Economic Injury Disaster Loan **advance of up to \$10,000**. Funds will be made available within three days of a successful application. **This loan advance will not have to be repaid.**
- <https://www.sba.gov/disaster-assistance/coronavirus-covid-19#section-header-3>

Application - <https://covid19relief.sba.gov/#/>

Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) – April 2, 2020

This is part of the CARES Act that can directly help you and your employees. The PPP is \$350 billion specifically to help businesses keep their workforce employed during this crisis. Expenses such as payroll, rent and utilities that are covered by the loan are eligible for full forgiveness.

[Details](#)

U.S. Department of Labor

[Paid Sick Leave Act & the Emergency Family & Medical Leave Expansion Act](#)

Center for Disease Control

[Interim Guidance for Businesses & Employers](#)

- Any sick employees should stay home. Wash hands and touched surfaces regularly.
- Form a team to manage your assessment, preparation, communication and response.
- Conduct risk assessment and implement measures that balance the health and safety of employees.
 1. Will you provide childcare?
 2. Are employees equipped to work remotely?

3. Can your business continue to operate efficiently if all your employees had to work remotely?
4. What plan do you have if the threat level increases?

- **Implement Strategy**

1. Assign team members to establish an ongoing process to communicate health & safety measures to all employees.
2. Communicate with customers, vendors, business partners, etc. to let them know what measures you are taking to address the crisis.
3. Continue to monitor news provided by officials such as the CDC, WHO, local and state governments about COVID-19. Continue to keep updated from the U.S. Department of Labor and the Small Business Association.

East Alabama Medical Center is not out of supplies, but we are asking businesses that have access to the following items to please consider donating them in the coming days.

- Isolation gowns: non-sterile, impervious
- Masks: surgical, procedure, ear loop, ear loop with face shield, or fog-free procedure mask
- Latex gloves: exam, nitrile or chemo
- Hand sanitizer: 70% ethyl alcohol

Businesses may bring these items to the collection site outside of EAMC's Main Lobby between 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. each weekday. An EAMC representative will be there to collect the supplies.

City of Opelika Website COVID-19

www.opelika-al.gov/COVID19

[Message from the Mayor](#)

● **City of Opelika Extending City Building Closures until April 17**

The departments will continue to serve the public online, by phone or by email. They will continue to update COVID-19 related city issues.

- **911 Calls:** If you think you have COVID-19 symptoms, **call 528-SICK (7425 instead of calling 911).**
- **Funeral Homes & Churches:** City & EAMC leaders ask that churches continue with online services only for now. In addition, they are asking that funeral homes work with families during this time to possibly delay funeral services. Please limit gatherings to 10 people or less.
- **Parks & Rec Basketball Courts:** The City will be locking the outdoor basketball courts at Covington Rec and Bandy Park until it is deemed safe for recreation.
- **Municipal Court:** All non-jail hearings previously scheduled between March 16 and April 30 will be rescheduled. Court employees will be mailing continuance letters. Please call the Court office to update your address, 334.705.5196.

Update from the US Chamber

- The [Coronavirus Emergency Loans Small Business Guide and Checklist](#) takes a small business step-by-step through the process of preparing to file for a loan.
- This [interactive map](#) shows how much aid is available under the Small Business Paycheck Protection Program to help small businesses in each state.
- The Chamber's [web tracker](#) shows how businesses of all sizes are stepping up efforts to combat COVID-19.
- The U.S. Chamber Foundation is publishing a [live blog](#) tracking the contributions from businesses of all sizes and sectors that are helping fight the coronavirus.

Auburn Opelika Tourism

In these unusual and uncertain times, it's more important now than ever before to support the local businesses right here in Auburn-Opelika. Below you'll find an ever-changing list of innovative services offered by local businesses. Members, please send any business specials to AO Tourism. They will keep an updated list for everyone. Send to Cat Bobo, cat@aotourism.com
aotourism.com/page/lovelocal/

Opelika Utilities

While the main office is closed, the drive through will remain open from 8:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Monday thru Friday. All new service requests must be conducted by telephone. Opelika Utilities' app (search Opelika Utilities in the App Store) and the website (www.owwb.com) are available 24/7 for bill payment and to contact them. If there are any concerns, please call Opelika Utilities at (334) 705-5500.

Banking Institutions

Most banks and credit unions are open for business through their drive through. Some are open inside the bank by appointment and online.

Opelika City Schools Providing Free Student Meals

Monday – Friday | 11 am - 12:30 pm

Carvier Primary School | 307 Carver Avenue

Opelika High School | 1700 Bulldog Parkway

Meals are Grab & Go only. Children must be present for meal to be provided. One sack lunch provided to each child 18 and under.

Greens and Beans is Now Offering Nutritiously Delicious Meals for Children Online

With preschools / daycares closing and some families working from home during the health crisis of COVID-19, you can now order prepared meals online at www.greensandbeans.net.

At the moment, they are offering “the favorites” for the children from their monthly menus. They are doing this in order to take some burden of the families so that is one less thing for them to worry about.

Information from the IRS regarding Paid Leave and Tax Breaks for Employers (3/23/2020) <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USIRS/bulletins/2826044>

Financial Assistance

IRS [Coronavirus Tax Relief](#)

The IRS has established a special section focused on steps to help taxpayers, businesses and others affected by the Coronavirus.

Alabama Department of Revenue Sales [Tax Relief for Small Retail Businesses](#)

An explanation of COVID-19 related relief for taxpayers.

U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) [Economic Injury Disaster Loan program \(EIDL\)](#)

The U.S. Small Business Administration has announced relaxed criteria for designated states' and territories' low-interest federal [disaster loans](#) for working capital to small businesses suffering substantial economic injury as a result of the Coronavirus (COVID-19).

- Loans up to \$2,000,000
- 3.75% fixed interest rate on loans to for-profit companies
- 2.75% fixed interest rate on loans to non-profits
- Up to 30-year term and amortization (determined on case-by-case basis)
- Financing to be used for fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable and other bills that can't be paid because of the disaster's impact.

U.S. SBA COVID-19 [Small Business Guidance & Loan Resources](#)

The SBA provides explanations and links to their Disaster Loan Program (above), guidance for businesses and employers, SBA products and resources, government contracting and local assistance.

U.S. SBA Disaster Relief Assistance [Presentation](#)

Information that details eligibility for SBA Disaster Relief Assistance as well as the application process presented by the U.S. SBA [Business Response Tools](#)

Business

Alabama Small Business Development Center [Small Business Guidance](#)

Information from AL Department of Revenue on sales tax relief for small retail businesses and from AL Department of Labor on support for workers impacted by COVID-19.

Alabama Small Business Development Center [Disaster Assistance Business Continuity](#)

Offers small businesses guidance on planning for and recovering from disasters

Business Council of Alabama (BCA) [Coronavirus Business Resources](#)

Information from the BCA regarding the ever-changing business environment as it relates to COVID-19

IRS Disaster Assistance and [Emergency Relief for Individuals and Business](#)

IRS guidance for disaster assistance

Occupational Safety and Health Administration [COVID-19 Resources](#)

Information for workers and employers about the evolving COVID-19 pandemic

SCORE [Small Business Disaster Preparedness & Recovery Resources](#)

Guidance for small businesses in disaster planning and recovery

U.S. Chamber of Commerce [Business Guidelines](#)

COVID-19 Business Preparedness Checklist and tips on Combating the Coronavirus

U.S. Chamber of Commerce [Workplace Tips and Resources](#)

General workplace health and safety from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation [Resilience in a Box Resources](#)

Resilience in a Box is based on best practices and designed to educate business leaders on disaster preparedness and business resilience

[American Medical Loan](#)

Small business loans for medical practices

[Food Truck Lender](#)

Loan opportunities for small business, food trucks, and mobile vendor businesses

[Military Financial](#)

Small business loans for veterans

[VA Financial](#)

Small business loans for veterans

[U.S. Department of Homeland Security - Acquisition Planning Forecast System](#)

Program to encourage small businesses to submit to be a federal DHS contractor or sub-contractor for larger programs

[U.S. General Services Administration](#)

Federal database of economic assistance listings, wage determinations, and contract opportunities

[U.S. Federal Contractor Registration](#)

Guidance on small businesses certification to do business with the federal government

Alabama Department of Public Health

<http://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/>

In order to protect the state of Alabama, the Alabama Department of Public Health has issued new public health orders for all 67 counties.

- All restaurants, bars, breweries will not be allowed to offer on-premises consumption of food or drink. Curbside pickup and online ordering are encouraged.
- All gatherings of 10 or more, or any size that cannot maintain a six foot distance, are prohibited. These orders will be in effect through April 30.

Guidance from ADPH/State:

- Do not gather in groups of more than 10 people
- Maintain 6 ft social distancing
- People age 60+ should not gather in groups of more than 10
- Restaurants should limit to 50% of normal capacity and keep tables 6 ft apart
- Limit exposure in public buildings
- Asking hospitals to cancel elective procedures

- Discouraging any out of state travel

WORK PLACE: Governor Ivey has sent all non-essential employees home. Work remotely. Try to limit meetings.

Alabama Department of Revenue

<https://revenue.alabama.gov/coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak-updates/>

[My Alabama Taxes](#) (MAT) to file and pay taxes; or call 334-242-1170 to receive additional assistance. Please limit in-person visits to the taxpayer service centers at this time. If you must make a payment in person, these payments can be made at one of our nine Taxpayer Service Centers. [Click here](#) for Taxpayer Service Center locations and contact information.

At this time, title applications from designated agents and salvage inspection applications will not be received in-person at the Montgomery Taxpayer Service Center. These applications must be mailed to the [Motor Vehicle Division](#). In addition, all other motor vehicle title, registration, IFTA and IRP transactions must be submitted electronically. For additional questions please contact the Motor Vehicle Division at 334-242-9000.

COVID-19 Related Relief for Taxpayers

- [Temporary Suspension of International Registration Plan \(IRP\) and International Fuel Tax Agreement \(IFTA\) Requirements](#)
- [March 2020 Motor Vehicle Registrations and Property Tax Payments and Penalties Extension](#)
- [Late Payment Penalties Waived for Small Retail Businesses Sales Tax Liabilities \(UPDATED MARCH 18 AT 1:41 P.M.\)](#)

Sales Tax Relief

Effective immediately, the Department of Revenue is extending relief to both [small retail businesses](#), whose monthly retail sales during the previous calendar year averaged \$62,500 or less, and [taxpayers currently registered with the Department as engaging in NAICS Sector 72 business activities](#) who are unable to timely pay their February, March, and April 2020 sales tax liabilities. This relief does not waive or extend normal filing requirements. Instead, these taxpayers may file their monthly sales tax returns for the February, March, and April 2020 reporting periods without paying the state sales tax reported as due. Late payment penalties will be waived for these taxpayers through June 1, 2020.

Businesses included in NAICS Sector 72 are those preparing meals, snacks, and beverages for immediate consumption. A complete list of the business activities that fall within this sector can be viewed at [NAICS Sector 72 – Accommodation and Food Services](#).

After the expiration of this temporary waiver, the Department will work with taxpayers who elected to utilize the waiver program to development workable payment plans that will allow taxpayers to pay outstanding liabilities for February, March, and April 2020, while navigating any other impacts of the coronavirus on their businesses.

This relief is automatic for small retailers and Sector 72 businesses who file their February, March, and April 2020 state sales tax returns. Similar sales tax relief may be available on a case-by-case basis to other businesses significantly impacted by the coronavirus (COVID-19) and the preventative measures being taken to limit its spread in Alabama. These taxpayers may contact the Department's Sales and Use Division at 334-242-1490 to request relief.

Other Potential Relief for Taxpayers

It is expected that the IRS will soon announce extensions of deadlines for filing federal income tax returns. The Department plans to mirror these return filing extensions as appropriate and enter corresponding taxpayer relief orders. Please monitor the Department's [Newsroom](#) for updates.

Other assistance may be available on a case-by-case basis to individuals and businesses that cannot file their tax returns on time due to the COVID-19 outbreak by contacting the Department at the numbers below.

Helpful Contact Information:

- Individual Income Tax: 334-353-0602
- Corporate Income Tax: 334-242-1200
- Pass-through Entities: 334-242-1033
- Sales and Use Tax: 334-242-1490
- Business Privilege Tax: 334-353-7923
- Withholding Tax: 334-242-1300

Additional Resources:

[Internal Revenue Service \(IRS\)](#)

[World Health Organization](#)

[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#)

[Alabama Department of Public Health](#)

[Alabama Emergency Management Agency](#)

[Governor Ivey's Website](#)

East Alabama Medical Center www.eamc.org

Our Emergency Department is receiving individuals who are expressing that they have one or more of the symptoms associated with COVID-19 and that their employer is requiring them to receive a COVID-19 "test" before returning to work. Please know that we CANNOT "test" every person who comes to the ER with these symptoms due to the limited number of supplies available for use for specimen collection. For your knowledge, "testing" means that a specimen is collected and sent to either the ADPH or an independent lab to determine if the person is positive or negative for COVID-19. Such collection kits must be reserved for patients who meet "screening" criteria for "testing." People with symptoms of cough, shortness of breath, and/or fever can call 334-528-SICK for "screening."

U.S. Chamber www.uschamber.com

The US Chamber has already made recommendations to the White House to help address many businesses' most pressing current needs which include dealing with massive revenue loss to prevent bankruptcy and maintaining enough liquidity to keep American companies going and workers on payrolls.

Alabama Retail Association

www.alabamaretail.org

[Flyer](#)

Better Business Bureau Tips dealing with Coronavirus

<https://www.bbb.org/council/coronavirus>