



Political Affairs & Federation Relations

Dear Yvonne:

Thank you to everyone who joined us yesterday for our call with the U.S. Small Business Administration to discuss the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on the small business community.

If you weren't able to join the conference call, or would like to listen again, [click here](#) to access the audio recording. In addition to the recording, please see below for several follow-up materials, resources, and important invitations below from the U.S. Chamber.

U.S. Chamber Response to COVID-19 Quarantine Orders and Mandatory Business Closures

Just moments ago, the U.S. Chamber sent a [letter](#) to President Trump recommending that the administration offer additional guidance on recent quarantine orders and mandatory business closures to clarify “essential infrastructure” and “essential businesses and services.”

While these quarantine orders and closures are important public health measures that will help limit the spread of the virus, it is imperative that these orders do not inadvertently harm businesses and services that support the essential infrastructure needed to successfully combat this pandemic.

We recognize that certain businesses and industries will feel they are not explicitly identified on the list of essential businesses. We did our best to provide language that covers most business categories, but encourage you to help advocate on behalf of specific members that should be deemed essential to your state and local governments as well.

COVID-19 Financial Resources for Businesses

U.S. Small Business Administration Disaster Assistance in Response to the Coronavirus

As mentioned on the call, the U.S. Small Business Administration is offering 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) through their [Disaster Loan Program](#).

To view the U.S. Small Business Administration's one-pager on the Disaster Loan Program—including information on areas that are eligible for loans and more—please [click here](#). To submit an application for a loan with SBA, please [click here](#).

U.S. Small Business Administration Disaster Office Contacts

If you would like to coordinate information calls, briefings and other resources at the regional, state and local level, please reach out to the following contacts:

Federal Regions I-V (States/Territories East of Mississippi River):

Michael Lampton, Public Affairs Supervisor, michael.lampton@sba.gov

Mark Ihenacho, Lead Public Affairs Specialist, mark.ihenacho@sba.gov

Federal Regions VI-X (states/territories west of Mississippi River):

Rick Jenkins, Public Affairs Supervisor, richard.jenkins@sba.gov

Mark Randle, Lead Public Affairs Specialist, mark.randle@sba.gov

Additional Resources to Help Small Businesses Navigate the Coronavirus Pandemic

In addition to the information shared by the U.S. Small Business Administration, we encourage you and your members to utilize those created by [CO—](#), the U.S. Chamber's own interactive digital platform designed specifically for business owners and offering unparalleled assets and subject matter expertise from the U.S. Chamber.

CO— has consolidated [five resources](#) to help small business owners navigate the financial difficulties of the pandemic, including supplemental information about disaster assistance loans, state-wide initiatives to help small businesses, assistance options from credit card companies and banks, and more.

COVID-19 Resilience and Recovery Resources

U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation Coronavirus Resource Page

As mentioned on the conference call, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation has various resources available for you and your members on business resilience and disaster recovery. All of these resources—including the [Corporate Aid Tracker](#), guidance for [employers](#) and [employees](#), a [customizable workplace flyer](#), the [Resilience in a Box](#) portal of best practices for business leaders on disaster preparedness and resilience, and more—can be access on the [Coronavirus Resource Page](#).

Disaster Help Desk for Business

In addition to these resources, we encourage you to contact the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation's [Disaster Help Desk for Business](#)—an information concierge to assist small businesses with disaster readiness, relief and long-term recovery—by dialing

You're Invited: Weekly Federation Coronavirus Calls

In an effort to continue keeping you and your members informed of the most recent COVID-19 updates and resources, we will be hosting weekly federation calls with the first being held this **Friday, March 20, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. ET**. To register for this Friday's call, please [click here](#).

888-MY-BIZ-HELP or sending a message to BizHelpdesk@uschamber.com.

We know that this is a challenging time for you and especially for your members. We appreciate everything you're doing to address the impacts of the coronavirus outbreak and will continue to keep you informed with our most current resources.

Sara Armstrong

Vice President

U.S. Chamber of Commerce