



COVID-19 Information and Resources for Your Business

Otero County Economic Development Council is “Open for Business”, carefully navigating the uncertainty surrounding COVID-19, and working to answer the many questions in the business community. The situation is very fluid, as we all know. There are some resources available now and additional resources are being planned. The goal of this page is to help you get valuable information and connect you with resources for your business. Our team will continue to update this page as new information and resources become available.

We understand that each individual and business is different – and we’re here to help. If you have a question, want to share information about your company’s situation, and/or are in need of resources, please contact us by phone: (575) 439-3688 or l.anderson@ocedc.com or m.steeby@ocedc.com.

Businesses

State enacts Stay-at-Home Order:

On Monday, March 23rd, an [Order](#) was signed for the State of New Mexico that stated all non-essential businesses must stop operating and work from home. Click here for a breakdown of what this order may mean for you. <https://www.governor.state.nm.us/2020/03/23/state-enacts-further-restrictions-to-stop-spread-including-stay-at-home-instruction/>

Stay-at-Home FAQs: <https://cv.nmhealth.org/stay-at-home-faqs/>

New Mexico Economic Development Department

NMEDD is adjusting its business-loan guarantee programs in order to make capital more available to business owners whose operations are severely impacted by the COVID-19 health emergency. Additionally, the department is working with partners across the state to identify special assistance programs and resources available to business owners. This page will be updated every day as we find more aide programs: <https://gonm.biz/about-us/covid-19-response>

SBDC Assistance

If your business has been impacted by COVID-19 and you have questions or need assistance for the SBA Disaster Loan, the SBDC can help assist you through no-cost advising. For more information or to locate an SBDC nearby go to: <http://www.nmsbdc.org/>

State Assistance

COVID-19 Business Loan Guarantee Program

The New Mexico Economic Development Department (NMEDD) has created a program to assist businesses seeking emergency loans or lines of credit to deal with negative economic impacts from COVID-19. NMEDD can guarantee a portion of a loan or line of credit up to 80% of principal or \$50,000. Loan proceeds are flexible and can be used for (and not limited to) the following:

- Working capital
- Inventory
- Payroll

Process:

1. Borrower approaches lender
2. Lender applies to the program here: <https://www.tfaforms.com/4810426>
3. Lender and NMEDD sign agreement
4. Lender makes the loan
5. NMEDD guarantees the loan in case of default

LEDA Zero-Percent Interest Loans

- Limited to expenditures for land, building and infrastructure no interest loans
- Can be used for lease abatement or mortgage assistance
- Company must be a qualified entity (***manufacturer, non-retail service business with more than 50% of revenue generated out of state, or a retail business in a community of less than 15,000 in population***)
- All loans will be required to provide security equal to the amount of the loan

For assistance with LEDA loans, find & contact your Regional Representative, or contact Mark Roper, Mark.Roper@state.nm.us or 575.562.0327

New Mexico Finance Authority: Business Loan Partnership Program

NMFA and “Partner Banks,” together, share risk while lowering the overall cost of borrowing for the business. NMFA will offer low-cost rates on its portion of the loan to a New Mexico business. Contact, John Brooks, 1-877-ASK-NMFA, or jBrooks@nmfa.net

New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions

Employees laid off or hours reduced due to Covid-19

- Employees can apply for unemployment at <https://www.jobs.state.nm.us/vosnet/Default.aspx>
- Waiving work search requirements for unemployment benefits
- There is a week long waiting period from time of application to when benefits are received
- Maximum payment of \$461 per week

Employer Layoff Avoidance

- Employers, such as restaurants, should try to reduce hours for employees rather than laying off. Employee's reduced wages can then be supplemented by unemployment benefits.

Federal Assistance

On March 12th the Small Business Administration (SBA) announced disaster assistance loans up to \$2 million to a qualifying business that cannot access credit elsewhere. These are low interest loans that may be used to pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable and other bills that can't be paid because of the disaster's impact. Interest rates are 3.75% for profit, 2.75% non-profit.

- Businesses can apply here: <https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/disaster-assistance>

Questions regarding federal assistance for businesses affected by COVID-19 can also call 1-800-659-2955.

The SBA disaster assistance customer service center can be reached at: 1.800.659.2955 (TTY: 1.800.877.8339) or email: disastercustomerservice@sba.gov

Banking and Tax Payments

If your business has been affected and you are having difficulty meeting your loan obligations, please contact your bank or credit union on ways they can help you. We also suggest contacting your accountant to get information on tax return filing and payment extensions that may be available to you.

Working From Home Software

Although we may not be working at the office, there's still lots of ways to connect and continue doing business. Here are some commonly used software platforms:

- [Zoom](#)
- [GoToMeeting](#)
- [Skype](#)
- [Slack](#)
- [Ryver](#)

Community

New Mexico Department of Health

For the most up-to-date information about COVID-19 in New Mexico and preparedness resources, please visit the New Mexico Department of Health: <https://cv.nmhealth.org/>

“Grab and Go” Meal Packs

Alamogordo Public Schools is providing meals to ALL APS students during school closure. For pick-up sites and times, please follow this link:

https://www.alamogordoschools.org/UserFiles/Servers/Server_372378/Media/COVID-19%20meals%201.0%203-13.pdf

Alamogordo Senior Center will continue “Meals on Wheels” and Grab & Go meals available for curbside pick-up M-F 11 am to 1 pm. For more information, please call (575) 439-4150.

Restaurant Guide

To help our local restaurants during the mandated COVID-19 shutdown, the Alamogordo Chamber of Commerce has created a delivery and curbside guide: <https://www.alamogordo.com/wp-content/uploads/Take-Time-to-Take-Out.pdf>

Education Affected by COVID-19

The Public Education Department is committed to keeping our school leaders and communities up to date about Coronavirus in New Mexico (COVID-19). NMPED and New Mexico Department of Health (NMDOH) are working together on a daily basis to share the most current information as well as to consult on protocols, procedures and best practices. For up-to-date information:

<https://www.newmexico.gov/education/>

Coronavirus Scams

Scammers are taking advantage of fears surrounding the COVID-19. Check out some of these listed scams to help you stay safe: <https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/features/coronavirus-scams-what-ftc-doing>

Crisis Counselors

Anxious about Coronavirus? If you are needing help and would like to talk to an anonymous crisis counselor, text **HELLO to 741741** to connect. For more information, click:

<https://www.crisistextline.org/texting-in>

United States Bartenders’ Guild

If you are a bartender, bar back or cocktail server who needs financial support, you can apply to the USBG National Charitable Foundation’s Bartender Emergency Assistance Program. USBG Membership is not required: https://www.usbgfoundation.org/beap?fbclid=IwAR2575s_wBbyH-Y0EI6tPB3xy6g8jK-IZtQGiDD7MEnUj52KZaR6U67JxS4

State of New Mexico Information

Health Hotline: 1-855-600-3453

Information Hotline: 1-833-551-0518

Senior & Disabled Adults Food Hotline: 1-800-432-2080

All other questions: 1-833-351-0518 or go to <http://www.newmexico.gov/>