Hello Brazosport Business Leaders! I think it goes without saying that we are in the midst of something we've never seen before. COVID-19 will test us individually as well as business leaders for the foreseeable future.

I want to first of all say thank you to all chamber members for all you are doing to “weather the storm”. We have heard stories of teamwork and support and graciousness demonstrated throughout our business community. Hats off to all of you for your kindness and generosity as we work together to support our community.

I want to encourage all of you to remain hopeful. While times are difficult right now, there will come a time soon when our brilliant scientists and public health leaders get ahead of this and we can reduce and eliminate this threat to our way of life. In other words, we will survive and thrive once again!

Please reach out to our chamber staff if you have any questions about needs for your business during this time. Sandra and Co. will do everything they can to point you in a helpful direction. Now more than ever, we need to support each other and use our local businesses to meet our needs.

Thank you to all who are practicing the “social distancing”, and I know this has effected most all businesses, but this short-term sacrifice will hopefully lead to a quicker resolution and enable us to emerge ready for the pent-up demand that will be there.

Just a quick note on our hospital—we are doing well. We have made many adjustments that have been painful, including not allowing visitors and curtailing all services except those that are deemed urgent or emergent. We have plans in place for any patient surge of COVID-19 illnesses. We have received a trailer from the regional trauma council to be able to do rapid screening and testing for COVID-19. We have adjusted operations in the Emergency Department to be able to segment the COVID-19 possible from the rest of the ED population. We have one of the floors in the hospital designated for COVID-19.
positive/Under investigation, and the other floors for everyone else. We have adequate supplies of personal protective equipment for our staff and patients. We have an adequate inventory of ventilators if needed. While we have seen several COVID-19 positive and under investigation, most all are being treated and discharged to isolate at home, with surveillance assistance from the Health Department. I could go on, but I just want you to know that our team is doing well and we are prepared for whatever surge comes our way.

In closing, I want to congratulate and thank all of you for what you are doing to keep our community strong and united in the face of this unprecedented challenge. Keep the faith and we will get through this together, unified and stronger than ever!

Sincerely,
Al Guevara
Chairman of the Board
“United for Growth”

COVID-19
PROTECT YOURSELF

USE FACE MASK
WASH YOUR HANDS
AVOID CROWDED PLACES
AVOID AFFECTED AREAS

Shop local. We’re in this together.
Local businesses need your support now more than ever.

Get it to go. Order from your local restaurants and bars via delivery service, to-go, or curbside pickup.

Buy in advance. Purchase gift cards or book services from local businesses to use at a future date.

Follow along. Your favorite local businesses are online and sharing specific ways you can support them.

Shop small online. Websites haven’t closed and it’s important to leave positive reviews for local vendors and businesses.

Stay looped in. Keep up with your memberships, and with services that are still offered online.

Say thank you. Many business owners and workers are risking their health to provide critical products and services. Be thankful.
The SBA Houston District Office will provide the latest information from SBA to help small businesses with their economic recovery from the effects of the Coronavirus. We will give information on how to apply and where you can get additional help with preparing and applying for an SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loan and PPP loan.

(Monday April 6th - Friday April 10th)

8:30am
Join URL: https://score.zoom.us/j/394322660?status=success
Or by Phone: +1 346 246 7799 US (Houston)
Meeting ID: 394-322-660

10:30am
Join URL: https://score.zoom.us/j/847743171?status=success
Or by Phone: +1 346 7799 US (Houston)
Meeting ID: 847-743-171

3:00pm
Join URL: https://score.zoom.us/j/109522548?status=success
Or by Phone: +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)
Meeting ID: 109-522-548

www.twc.texas.gov Texas Workforce Commission Information for COVID-19 Employers, Jobseekers and Child Care

www.gov.texas.gov/coronavirus Office of the Texas Governor, Gregg Abbott


www.irs.gov/coronavirus Coronavirus Tax Relief from IRS
The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act allocated $350 billion to help small businesses keep workers employed amid the pandemic and economic downturn. Known as the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), the initiative provides 100% federally guaranteed loans to small businesses.

Importantly, these loans may be forgiven if borrowers maintain their payrolls during the crisis or restore their payrolls afterward.

The administration has released initial guidelines; they are available at [www.treasury.gov](http://www.treasury.gov). The U.S. Chamber of Commerce has issued this guide to help small businesses and self-employed individuals check eligibility and prepare to file for a loan.

Small businesses and sole proprietors can begin applying on April 3. Independent contractors and self-employed individuals can apply beginning on April 10.

Here are the questions you may be asking and what you need to know.

You can apply through any existing SBA 7(a) lender or through any federally insured depository institution, federally insured credit union, and Farm Credit System institution that is participating. Other regulated lenders will be available to make these loans once they are approved and enrolled in the program. You should consult with your local lender as to whether it is participating.

While the program is open until June 30, 2020, the government is advising borrowers to apply as soon as possible given the loan cap on the program.
Am I ELIGIBLE?

You are eligible if you are:

- A small business with fewer than 500 employees
- A small business that otherwise meets the SBA’s size standard
- A 501(c)(3) with fewer than 500 employees
- An individual who operates as a sole proprietor
- An individual who operates as an independent contractor
- An individual who is self-employed who regularly carries on any trade or business
- A Tribal business concern that meets the SBA size standard
- A 501(c)(19) Veterans Organization that meets the SBA size standard

In addition, some special rules may make you eligible:

- If you are in the accommodation and food services sector (NAICS 72), the 500-employee rule is applied on a per physical location basis
- If you are operating as a franchise or receive financial assistance from an approved Small Business Investment Company the normal affiliation rules do not apply

REMEMBER: The 500-employee threshold includes all employees: full-time, part-time, and any other status.

What will lenders be LOOKING FOR?

Borrowers will need to complete the Paycheck Protection Loan Application (which is available HERE) and payroll documentation

Lenders will also ask you for a good faith certification that:

1. The uncertainty of current economic conditions makes the loan request necessary to support ongoing operations
2. The borrower will use the loan proceeds to retain workers and maintain payroll or make mortgage, lease, and utility payments
3. Borrower does not have an application pending for a loan duplicative of the purpose and amounts applied for here
4. From Feb. 15, 2020 to Dec. 31, 2020, the borrower has not received a loan duplicative of the purpose and amounts applied for here (Note: There is an opportunity to fold emergency loans made between Jan. 31, 2020 and the date this loan program becomes available into a new loan)

If you are an independent contractor, sole proprietor, or self-employed individual, lenders will also be looking for certain documents (final requirements will be announced by the government) such as payroll tax filings, Forms 1099-MISC, and income and expenses from the sole proprietorship.

How much can I BORROW?
Loans can be up to 2.5 x the borrower’s average monthly payroll costs, not to exceed $10 million.

How do I calculate my average monthly PAYROLL COSTS?

 INCLUDED Payroll Cost:
1. **For Employers:** The sum of payments of any compensation with respect to employees that is a:
   - salary, wage, commission, or similar compensation;
   - payment of cash tip or equivalent;
   - payment for vacation, parental, family, medical, or sick leave
   - allowance for dismissal or separation
   - payment required for the provisions of group health care benefits, including insurance premiums
   - payment of any retirement benefit
   - payment of state or local tax assessed on the compensation of the employee

2. **For Sole Proprietors, Independent Contractors, and Self-Employed Individuals:** The sum of payments of any compensation to or income of a sole proprietor or independent contractor that is a wage, commission, income, net earnings from self-employment, or similar compensation and that is in an amount that is not more than $100,000 in one year, as pro-rated for the covered period.

 EXCLUDED Payroll Cost:
1. Compensation of an individual employee in excess of an annual salary of $100,000, as prorated for the period February 15, to June 30, 2020
2. Payroll taxes, railroad retirement taxes, and income taxes
3. Any compensation of an employee whose principal place of residence is outside of the United States
4. Qualified sick leave wages for which a credit is allowed under section 7001 of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (Public Law 116-5 127); or qualified family leave wages for which a credit is allowed under section 7003 of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act

NON SEASONAL EMPLOYERS:
Maximum loan =
2.5 X Average total monthly payroll costs incurred during the year prior to the loan date

For businesses not operational in 2019:
2.5 X Average total monthly payroll costs incurred for January and February 2020

SEASONAL EMPLOYERS:
Maximum loan =
2.5 X Average total monthly payments for payroll costs for the 12-week period beginning February 15, 2019 or March 1, 2019 (decided by the loan recipient) and ending June 30, 2019

fi Payments deferred for six months
fi 0.50% fixed interest rate
fi Loan is due in two years

Prepared by the U.S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Will this loan be FORGIVEN?

Borrowers are eligible to have their loans forgiven.

How Much?
A borrower is eligible for loan forgiveness equal to the amount the borrower spent on the following items during the 8-week period beginning on the date of the origination of the loan:

- Payroll costs (using the same definition of payroll costs used to determine loan eligibility)
- Interest on the mortgage obligation incurred in the ordinary course of business
- Rent on a leasing agreement
- Payments on utilities (electricity, gas, water, transportation, telephone, or internet)
- For borrowers with tipped employees, additional wages paid to those employees

**NOTE:** The government is now advising that because of high participation, it is anticipated that not more than 25% of the forgiven amount may be for non-payroll costs. The loan forgiveness cannot exceed the principal.

How could the forgiveness be reduced?
The amount of loan forgiveness calculated above is reduced if there is a reduction in the number of employees or a reduction of greater than 25% in wages paid to employees. Specifically:

**Reduction based on reduction of number of employees**

![Calculation Formula]

**PAYROLL COST Calculated on page 2**

Average Number of Full-Time Equivalent Employees (FTEs) Per Month for the 8-Weeks Beginning on Loan Origination

Option 1:
Average number of FTEs per month from February 15, 2019 to June 30, 2019

Option 2:
Average number of FTEs per month from January 1, 2020 to February 29, 2020

For Seasonal Employers:
Average number of FTEs per month from February 15, 2019 to June 30, 2019

**Reduction based on reduction in salaries**

![Calculation Formula]

For any employee who did not earn during any pay period in 2019 wages at an annualized rate more than $100,000, the amount of any reduction in wages that is greater than 25% compared to their most recent full quarter.

What if I bring back employees or restore wages?
Reductions in employment or wages that occur between February 15, 2020 and April 26, 2020 (as compared to February 15, 2020) shall not reduce the amount of loan forgiveness if by June 30, 2020 the borrower eliminates the reduction in employees or reduction in wages.
Coronavirus - COVID-19 Business Recovery Loans

“Local Banks Helping Local Business”

These Brazosport Area Chamber of Commerce financial institution members are offering Disaster Recovery Loans for Businesses in Brazoria County!

First State Bank
979.265.2511
979.299.6868

NATIONAL BANK
of LAKE JACKSON
979.297.4012

Moody Bank
979.297.4405

Texas Gulf Bank, N.A.
979.299.1308

FSB
979.236.1934
979.548.2131

Heritage Bank, a Division of Third Coast Bank SSB
979.297.0600

TDECU
YOUR CREDIT UNION
979.297.1154
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS MEDICAL BRANCH (UTMB Health) has been dedicated to improving health in Texas and beyond since 1891. Part of that mission involves educating not only our students, but also our communities, about preventing (when possible) and managing illness and injury.

In that spirit, I wanted to let you know that UTMB Health has launched a new web site today that contains information regarding the novel coronavirus and the disease it causes, COVID-19. The site is now live and can be reached at https://www.utmb.edu/covid-19. Please feel free to share it with your employees, students, parents and other constituents in your community.

There has been much coverage of coronavirus and COVID-19 in commercial media and on social media. Our aim is to help you separate fact from myth and to access reliable sources of information about this emerging infectious disease. As a longtime international leader in infectious diseases research and with clinical faculty who have deep expertise in caring for patients with infectious diseases, we feel a responsibility to help our neighbors stay informed about this emerging disease.

Researchers at UTMB Health and around the world are working quickly to better understand the virus, so check the site frequently for updates.

We at UTMB Health are grateful to be part of such a dynamic region, and we feel privileged to serve your community. We hope these resources are helpful to you. Please let us know if you have suggestions or additional questions.

Thank you,

Ben G. Raimer, MD, MA, FAAP
President ad interim
UTMB Health