



This COVID-19 email update includes information on the federal funding legislation passed last week as well as MNOSHA guidance on reopening certain business types, training opportunities, and a change of office hours for the Hibbing Area Chamber.

PPP Loan Program to Reopen by 10am Today

The [Paycheck Protection Program](#) was refunded by congress last Friday, giving the program an additional \$310 billion. However, this funding is expected to be depleted quickly. Many banks are reported to have queued up additional applications to be processed as soon as the program reopens. The SBA has implemented some new processes to try to pace the speed at which banks can submit loans as well as setting aside a portion of the funding for smaller banks. Businesses are urged to act quickly to partner with a participating bank and apply if they are interested in the PPP loan program.

The [Economic Injury Disaster Loan Program](#) and the associated grant of \$1,000 per employee up to \$10,000 has also received some additional funding. Applications have not reopened at this time, and the funding is being used to process previously submitted applications. We will update you if the EIDL application process reopens for new applications.

Guidance and Resources on Reopening Businesses and COVID-19 Best Practices

Last week, we [reported](#) on Executive Order 20-40 that allows certain non-customer-facing businesses in office and industrial settings to reopen starting today. These select business types are allowed to reopen if they meet certain criteria, follow certain health and safety guidelines, and prepare a [COVID-19 Preparedness Plan](#).

Over the weekend, MNOSHA has developed several [fact sheets](#) for certain business types that provide guidance on COVID-19 Preparedness including [Grocery Stores](#), [Dentistry](#), [Bait Shops](#), [Golf Courses](#), and more. MNOSHA expects to add additional Preparedness Plan templates for businesses to reference in other industries such as retail and other customer-facing industries soon.

The Minnesota Chamber of Commerce is also working closely with MNOSHA to develop helpful content for businesses on best practices. You can see their general best practices and links to related resources [here](#).

Training Opportunities

There are some free remote training opportunities coming up this week that businesses and entrepreneurs may find helpful.

Northeast MN SBDC – [Starting a Business in Minnesota](#) – Tuesday, April 28th, 2-4pm

SBA – SBA Funding Options for COVID-19 Disruptions – [Mon. April 27th](#) at 1pm or [Tues. April 28th](#) at 1pm

SBA – MoneySmart Financial Management Training – [Wed. April 29th](#) at 1pm or [Thurs. April 30th](#) at 1pm

Upcoming Change in Hibbing Area Chamber Office Hours

After reviewing when our members and the community most frequently contact us with questions and requests for information and assistance, we have decided that we will temporarily be closing our office on Fridays. Effective Friday, May 1, 2020 the Hibbing Area Chamber of Commerce will be open [remotely](#) Monday-Thursday 8:00am-4:30pm and closed on Fridays until further notice. We will continue to advocate for your business needs and remain responsive during this temporary change in hours. Thank you all for your understanding and continued support!