



*On March 23<sup>rd</sup>, Governor Walz issued 4 executive orders related to COVID-19. This email summarizes the executive orders and provides key sources of information on related programs. Also included are updates on the SBA Disaster Loan program and a free Webinar for Hibbing Area Chamber members.*

### **New Small Business Emergency Loan Program**

DEED is creating a [Small Business Emergency Loan program](#) that is expected to open later this week. These loans are available only to businesses that were closed by executive orders 20-04 and 20-08 earlier in March (restaurants, bars, theaters, cosmetology related industries, fitness centers, etc.). This program is **not yet open** but is expected to open as soon as later this week.

These loans will be 0% interest with a 5-year term with potential partial forgiveness. They should be available faster than the federal SBA Disaster Loan Program, which currently has an estimated wait time of 3-4 weeks from application submittal to release of funds due to high demand nation-wide. These loans are meant to be a bridge financing source for businesses who have been turned down by a bank for a credit extension, and all applicants must also apply for the SBA Disaster Loan Program.

To qualify, the businesses must:

- Be current on financial obligations as of March 1, 2020
- Be an existing small business (whatever the form of their organization – including sole proprietors and other independent contractors that claim business income)
- Have been operating in Minnesota for at least one year
- Be willing to provide collateral or personal guarantee for at least 20% of loan
- Have been denied credit by a lender **and** have sought or be in the process of seeking SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loan assistance.
- Pay-off the emergency loan if financing is received subsequent to loan approval.

Regional lenders that are able to process this loan program include [Entrepreneur Fund](#) and [Northland Foundation](#). For the details on this new loan program, view the “Small Business Emergency Loan” program [here](#).

### **Temporary Moratorium on Evictions**

- Beginning March 24<sup>th</sup> at 5pm and for the duration of the State of MN peacetime, emergency property owners, mortgage holders, or “other persons entitled to recover residential premises” may not evict residential tenants or terminate residential leases.
- This suspension will allow households to remain sheltered during the peacetime emergency.
- Nothing in this Executive Order relieves a tenant’s obligation to pay rent.
- This suspension does not include eviction actions based on cases where the tenant seriously endangers the safety of other residents or for certain other serious violations
- The full text of this executive order is available [here](#).

### **Mandatory Inventory of PPE**

This executive order requires all businesses and nonprofits to take inventory of PPE, ventilators, respirators, and anesthesia machines not required for the provision of critical care service or essential services. The inventory must be submitted online at <https://mn.gov/ppe>. These businesses must refrain from using any such consumable equipment other than for use in delivering critical health care services or essential services requiring such equipment, and must either donate it to a local coordinating entity or prepare for the possibility of being asked to donate or sell it for use by critical health care workers. The full text of this executive order is available [here](#).



### **Non-Essential Veterinary Surgeries Postponed**

This executive order clarifies that non-essential veterinary procedures that utilize PPE or ventilators are included in Executive Order 20-09, which postpones elective procedures to preserve PPE for health care providers dealing with COVID-19. Non-essential procedures are defined in the [full executive order](#).

### **Federal SBA Disaster Economic Injury Loan Program Update**

The SBA recommends that businesses get their applications into the program as soon as possible if you may be interested in a loan through the SBA. There is no cost to apply, and you are not obligated to take the loan if you are offered one. Loans are processed on a first-come-first-served basis. There is currently an estimated 3-4 week wait from applying for the SBA loans to receiving funds, although funds are ample and not expected to run out for this program. [Click here](#) to apply for the SBA Disaster Loan Program. [Click here](#) for our recently published guide on business and local lending resources.

### **Small Business Resources Webinar**

The Minnesota Chamber of Commerce recently recorded a webinar featuring experts on small business economic recovery. These experts presented a variety of financing solutions, including SBA disaster loans for small businesses impacted by COVID-19, state and federal aid, private lending options, and best practices to strengthen your balance sheet during economic uncertainty. Hibbing Area Chamber members can watch this webinar for free by [clicking here](#).