

# NEW JERSEY BUSINESS ACTION CENTER

## RESOURCES FOR BUSINESSES

**CV.BUSINESS.NJ.GOV**

WITH LIVE CHATBOT TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS

### IMPORTANT RESOURCE LINKS

New Jersey's website for [up-to-date information about COVID-19](#).

The state's jobs and hiring portal [matches employers and candidates](#).  
For employers to participate, [click here](#).

U.S. Small Business Administration is offering [low-interest disaster loans](#) to small businesses in New Jersey.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce put out a [guide for small businesses](#) on the coronavirus emergency loans introduced by the federal government.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce has created guides for three of the popular federal CARES Act programs. Use the following links to download the guides:

- **NEW** [Guide to SBA's Economic Injury Disaster Loans \(EIDL\)](#)
- **NEW** [Guide to the Employee Retention Tax Credit](#)
- **UPDATED** [Coronavirus Emergency Loans Small Business Guide and Checklist \(Paycheck Protection Program\)](#)

To report a scammer or suspected price gouging, alert the N.J. Division of Consumer Affairs at (973) 504-6240 or at <http://njconsumeraffairs.gov>.

The state set up a 24-hour hotline where health care professionals are answering questions about coronavirus. The toll-free number is 1-800-222-1222. From outside the state, call 1-800-962-1253.

## HOW DO NEW FEDERAL PAID LEAVE REQUIREMENTS IMPACT MY BUSINESS?

The U.S. Congress has passed the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA or Act), which goes into effect April 1 and provides unprecedented support to employers to provide Emergency Paid Sick Leave and Emergency Paid Family and Medical Leave to workers affected by COVID-19. The New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development (NJDOLE) is urging employers to keep employees on the payroll throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and to take advantage of a 100 percent, dollar-for-dollar payroll tax credit provided under the FFCRA.

The payroll tax credit immediately and fully reimburses employers with fewer than 500 employees (99.8 percent of all NJ employers) by allowing them to reduce their federal payroll taxes by the amount spent on emergency leave for all qualifying wages. Qualifying wages are those paid to an employee who takes leave under the act for a [qualifying reason](#). This tax credit enables businesses to keep workers on their payrolls and ensures that parents and caregivers do not have to choose between earning their paycheck or staying at home to care for themselves or a family member.

Under the act's federal paid sick leave program, an employee is entitled to 80 hours (up to two weeks) of paid leave. Under the act's expanded Family and Medical Leave program, an employee is entitled to 12 weeks of job-protected leave, the first two weeks of which are unpaid, and the remaining 10 weeks of which are paid.

- For general questions, please visit the [U.S. Department of Labor's FFCRA Q&A](#).
- For more information on which employers are covered under the law, visit the [U.S. Department of Labor's FFCRA Paid Leave Requirements](#).
- To understand how to access FFCRA Business Tax Credits, visit the [IRS coronavirus announcement](#).
- For information on how these provisions apply New Jersey, visit the [New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development \(NJDOLE\)](#).

Source: [Families First Coronavirus Response Act: Employer Paid Leave Requirements | U.S. Department of Labor](#)

### NJDOLE UNEMPLOYMENT HOTLINES

North New Jersey: 201-601-4100

Central New Jersey: 732-761-2020

South New Jersey: 856-507-2340 <https://www.nj.gov/labor/lwdhome/content/uihelp.html> - link to emailing department

## **WHAT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IS AVAILABLE FOR MY BUSINESS FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND THE U.S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION (SBA)?**

**Here is the SBA hotline number 800-659-2955**

On March 27, President Trump signed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act into law after swift passage in Congress. The new law establishes significant new resources for businesses that will be available soon from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). The law also contains several tax provisions. The U.S. Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship has prepared a [Small Business Owner's Guide to the CARES Act](#) on all of the forthcoming federal resources. SBA has also established a dedicated page of [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): Small Business Guidance & Loan Resources](#) for all current and pending assistance pertaining to economic relief during the current crisis.

### Paycheck Protection Program (PPP)

On March 31, SBA Administrator Jovita Carranza and Treasury Secretary Steven T. Mnuchin announced the implementation of The Paycheck Protection Program, established by the CARES Act. These new loans are designed to provide a direct incentive for small businesses to keep their workers on the payroll. SBA will forgive loans if all employees are kept on the payroll for eight weeks and the money is used for payroll, rent, mortgage interest, or utilities. The Paycheck Protection Program will be available through June 30, 2020.

Businesses 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.

Lenders may begin processing loan applications as soon as April 3, 2020.

The loan will be fully forgiven if the funds are used for payroll costs, interest on mortgages, rent, and utilities (due to likely high subscription, at least 75% of the forgiven amount must have been used for payroll). Loan payments will also be deferred for six months. No collateral or personal guarantees are required. Neither the government nor lenders will charge small businesses any fees. Forgiveness is based on the employer maintaining or quickly rehiring employees and maintaining salary levels. Forgiveness will be reduced if full-time headcount declines, or if salaries and wages decrease.

This loan has a maturity of 2 years and an interest rate of 0.5%.

More information and sample applications are available at: <https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/loans/paycheck-protection-program-ppp>

## Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs)

Additionally, all New Jersey counties are now approved for federal disaster assistance, making New Jersey businesses eligible to apply for Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs). These are working capital loans to help small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, small businesses engaged in aquaculture, and most private, non-profit organizations of all sizes meet their ordinary and necessary financial obligations that cannot be met as a direct result of the disaster. These loans are intended to assist through the disaster recovery period.

To see whether you might qualify for this program, use the [NJ COVID-19 Business Support Eligibility Wizard](#).

To be eligible for EIDL assistance, New Jersey-based small businesses or private non-profit organizations must have sustained economic injury, as well as being located in a disaster-declared county or contiguous county, which all New Jersey counties currently are.

### **Credit Requirements**

- Credit History – Applicants must have a credit history acceptable to SBA.
- Repayment – Applicants must show the ability to repay the loan.
- Collateral – Collateral is required for all EIDL loans over \$25,000. SBA takes real estate as collateral when it is available.
- SBA will not decline a loan for lack of collateral, but SBA will require the borrower to pledge collateral that is available.

### **Interest Rates**

The interest rate is determined by formulas set by law and is fixed for the life of the loan. The maximum interest rate for this program is 3.750 percent.

### **Loan Terms**

The law authorizes loan terms up to a maximum of 30 years. SBA will determine an appropriate installment payment based on the financial condition of each borrower, which in turn will determine the loan term.

### **Loan Amount**

The law limits EIDLs to \$2,000,000 for alleviating economic injury caused by the disaster. The actual amount of each loan is limited to the economic injury determined by SBA, less business interruption insurance and other recoveries up to the administrative lending limit. SBA also considers potential contributions that are available from the business and/or its owner(s) or affiliates.

## Application Process

Applicants may apply online, receive additional disaster assistance information and download applications at [covid19relief.sba.gov](https://covid19relief.sba.gov).

Applicants may also call SBA's Customer Service Center at (800) 659-2955 or email [disastercustomerservice@sba.gov](mailto:disastercustomerservice@sba.gov) for more information on SBA disaster assistance. Individuals who are deaf or hard-of-hearing may call (800) 877-8339.

Completed applications should be mailed to: U.S. Small Business Administration, Processing and Disbursement Center, 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, TX 76155

Source: [SBA Disaster Assistance in Response to the Coronavirus](#)

### **CAN I GET HELP APPLYING TO FEDERAL OR STATE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS?**

The New Jersey Economic Development Authority (NJEDA) is partnering with four organizations to offer support services to businesses seeking federal financial assistance through Small Business Administration (SBA) programs. These organizations will help small business owners file their applications through the SBA to receive working capital loans to help them survive this crisis.

The following organizations have been selected to provide application assistance to businesses:

- [African American Chamber of Commerce of New Jersey \(AACCNJ\)](#)
- [New Jersey State Veterans Chamber of Commerce](#)
- [Rising Tide Capital](#)
- [Statewide Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of New Jersey \(SHCCNJ\)](#)

This assistance includes, but is not limited to, preparing financial information, packaging application documentation, and completing and submitting the on-line or paper-based application. Compensation for these organizations will be based on completed and submitted SBA applications. The assistance may be conducted in person or electronically.

Additionally, the SBA has a number of other approved technical assistance providers who may also be able to help you:

**Small Business Development Centers** in New Jersey can be located at <https://www.njeda.com/pdfs/NJSBDC-Map.aspx> [pdf]

**Women's Business Centers** can be located at:

- North New Jersey: [wcecnj.org](http://wcecnj.org)
- South New Jersey: [laedawbc.com](http://laedawbc.com)