

## **Joint Communication to Carlsbad Businesses Regarding COVID-19 #15**

**July 31, 2020**

This week, our focus is on resources and relief programs that continue to be available to businesses struggling in the current climate. Several of these programs have deadlines in the coming weeks, so we wanted to provide a reminder of what is still available.

Before we get to the resources, we do want to ensure businesses have awareness of an important update from the County of San Diego. Yesterday, the County Health Order was updated to include language regarding outbreak disclosures.

This new noticing requirement is in addition to the existing requirements that employers promptly notify the County Department of Public Health if an employee has been diagnosed with COVID-19 and that they cooperate with the county COVID-19 response team to identify and provide contact information for anyone exposed by the employee at the workplace. For all essential and reopened businesses:

*When three or more cases are identified at the workplace within a span of 14 days, provide notice of the exposure to any employees, customers, or any other persons who may have been exposed to COVID-19 at the workplace. A strong recommendation is made that employers also provide such notice when at least one employee is diagnosed with COVID-19 in the workplace.*

The entire health order can be found [here](#).

As always, if you have any questions about the resources mentioned in this communication, email us at [business@carlsbadca.gov](mailto:business@carlsbadca.gov).

### **Business Relief Programs Still Available**

Since the initial shelter-in-place order went into effect in March, various relief programs have come online at local, state, and federal levels to support businesses through this crisis. Below are some assistance programs that are still available for businesses that need relief. A full list can be found [here](#).

#### ***Paycheck Protection Program***

As part of the recently passed the \$349 billion stimulus package, the U.S. Small Business Administration program will provide partially forgivable, low-interest loans to businesses with 500 employees or fewer. Loans can be used to offset operating costs including payroll, retirement benefits, mortgage/rent, and utilities. Eight weeks of operating costs can be forgiven if used for allowable costs only, and if the company maintains the same number of employees. Companies are encouraged to apply through their existing SBA Lender. Please reference this [guide and checklist](#) for more information. The application window closes August 8, 2020.

#### ***County of San Diego Board of Supervisors Grant***

The goal of the [Small Business Stimulus Grant Program](#) is to provide a lifeline grant to many local small businesses to get them open, keep them open, and help prevent more from closing. The grant provides economic assistance to help businesses and nonprofit entities impacted by COVID-19. Local for-profit and non-profit small businesses and restaurant owners suffering financial losses due to COVID-19 can now apply through their Supervisor's office. Businesses are eligible if they meet the following qualifications:

- 100 or fewer employees
- Headquarters in San Diego County
- A minimum of 1-year operating history as of Feb. 14, 2020
- Documentation of financial hardship because of COVID-19

### ***Carlsbad Business Loan Program***

The City of Carlsbad has dedicated a minimum of \$4.4 million to develop a business loan program. There are two loan types for Carlsbad small businesses. The first are small business microloans of between \$5,000 - \$10,000 for businesses with \$2,000,000 or less in gross revenue or 15 or fewer employees. The second are small business recovery loans of between \$10,000 - \$25,000 for businesses with \$3,000,000 or less in gross revenue and 50 or fewer employees. Both loans types include scaled interest rates depending on how quickly the loan can be repaid. Neither loan type is forgivable. [Application here.](#)

### ***Main Street Loan Program***

Businesses with 15,000 employees or fewer, or with revenue of \$5 billion or less are qualified to apply. The program is designed to help credit flow to small and medium-sized businesses that were in sound financial condition before the onset of the COVID-19 crisis, but now need loans to help maintain their operations until they have recovered from, or adapted to, the impacts of the pandemic. The program offers five-year loans, with floating rates, and principal and interest payments deferred to assist businesses facing temporary cash flow interruptions. The loans range in size from \$250,000 to \$300 million to support a broad set of employers. Businesses should apply through their current lender. The California Association for Local Economic Development (CALED) has created [this fact sheet](#) about the program

### **Carlsbad Expands Curb Cafés and Outdoor Displays**

On Tuesday, July 28, Carlsbad City Council approved further [program expansions to help businesses operate outdoors](#). The Community Development Department has made it quick and easy to apply for these permits. For background on expanding outdoor areas, refer to the [council memorandum](#).

### **Outdoor Activation for Businesses**

To help address the potential reduction of useable indoor space, the city will allow for the temporary use of public sidewalks, private parking or common space for outdoor

dining, expanded retail space or other business operations that are currently only allowed outdoors.

### **Curb Cafés**

Restaurants in Carlsbad Village that do not have the ability to expand into private parking lots can now apply to have temporary curbside cafes that use up to four public parking spaces in front of their business. To propose temporary use on a public sidewalk or within public parking stalls downtown (curbside café), please complete the right-of-way permit application [E-12](#) and follow the submittal requirements for a sidewalk café, display or curbside café.

### **High Road Kitchens Grants for Restaurants**

San Diego Workforce Partnership is working with One Fair Wage to provide grants and wage reimbursement that can help keep restaurant employees working and revenue flowing. [High Road Kitchens](#) are independent restaurants that provide food on a sliding scale to low-wage workers, health care workers, first responders and others in need in San Diego County and across the nation. Launched during the COVID-19 crisis, High Road Kitchens provides jobs for restaurant workers and a subsidy for restaurant owners who commit to paying a living wage and following equitable employment practices.

#### **Restaurants get:**

- \$5,000 grant (no payback required) for startup costs (limited number available)
- \$5,000–\$15,000 in wage reimbursements for eligible staff
- Equity Toolkit & Training Program valued at \$5,000

#### **Restaurant Eligibility:**

- Full-service restaurant in San Diego County
- Committed to taking the “high road” toward wage and racial equity in your business
- Commit to serving 500 free meals to your community over the next 8-10 weeks with the High Road Kitchens sliding scale model

### **Accepting Applications for California Competes Tax Credit**

The current application window for the [California Competes Tax Credit \(CCTC\)](#) is open until August 17. The CCTC is an income tax credit available to businesses that want to stay and grow in California. Businesses of any industry, size, or location can apply. \$180 million in tax credits is available and businesses can apply in any one of the three application periods each year.

Thank you to our Carlsbad businesses that continue to push forward, despite the challenges. We hope that the programs listed here can add support and relief for those who need it.