



# COVID-19 BUSINESS RESOURCE GUIDE

St. Louis County, Minnesota

The intention of this guide is to give businesses and communities information regarding financial resources available to them throughout St. Louis County during the COVID-19 pandemic. *Questions on the various resources should be made directly to the funding source.* If you are aware of any additional resources, please email Matthew Johnson, St. Louis County Planning & Community Development Director, at [JohnsonM12@stlouiscountymn.gov](mailto:JohnsonM12@stlouiscountymn.gov).

Federal Government			
	Name/Program	COVID-19 Response	Additional Information
<b>1.</b>	<b>U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA)</b> <a href="http://www.sba.gov">www.sba.gov</a>		
A.	<a href="#">COVID-19 Economic Injury Disaster Loan</a> <b>4/24 - Additional Funds Approved!</b>	Low interest, long term loans for up to \$2 million: The first payment is deferred for 12 months. The application has been simplified and can be completed 100% online through our improved web portal at <a href="http://www.sba.gov/disaster">www.sba.gov/disaster</a> . These loans may be used to pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable and other bills that can't be paid because of the disaster's impact. The interest rate is 3.75% for small businesses. The interest rate for non-profits is 2.75% and the loans can be extended over 30 years.	US Small Business Administration 409 3rd St, SW Washington DC 20416  Toll Free Phone: 1-800-659-2955 (TTY: 1-800-877-8339)  Email: <a href="mailto:DisasterCustomerService@sba.gov">DisasterCustomerService@sba.gov</a>  Website: <a href="http://www.sba.gov">www.sba.gov</a>
B.	<a href="#">Paycheck Protection Program</a> <b>4/24 - Additional Funds Approved!</b>	Direct incentive for small businesses to keep their workers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Eligible recipients may qualify for a loan up to \$10 million determined by 8 weeks of prior average payroll plus an additional 25% of that amount;</li> <li>✓ Loan payments will be deferred for six months; and</li> <li>✓ If you maintain your workforce, SBA will forgive the portion of the loan proceeds that are used to cover the first 8 weeks of payroll and certain other expenses following loan origination.</li> </ul>	
C.	<a href="#">SBA Debt Relief</a>	The SBA Debt Relief program will provide a reprieve to small businesses as they overcome the challenges created by COVID-19. Under this program: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ The SBA will also pay the principal and interest of new 7(a) loans issued prior to September 27, 2020; and</li> <li>✓ The SBA will pay the principal and interest of current 7(a) loans for a period of six months.</li> </ul>	
D.	<a href="#">SBA Express Bridge Loans</a>	Support to small businesses to help overcome the temporary loss of revenue they are experiencing and can be a term loans or used to bridge the gap while applying for a direct SBA Economic Injury Disaster loan.	
E.	<a href="#">IRS: Employee Retention Credit</a>	Refundable tax credit against certain employment taxes equal to 50 percent of the qualified wages an eligible employer pays to employees after March 12, 2020, and before January 1, 2021. Eligible employers can get immediate access to the credit by reducing employment tax deposits they are otherwise required to make. Also, if the employer's employment tax deposits are not sufficient to cover the credit, the employer may get an advance payment from the IRS.	
			<a href="http://www.irs.gov">www.irs.gov</a>  <a href="#">IRS Form-7200</a>

## State of Minnesota

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<b>1.</b>	<b>Minnesota Employment &amp; Economic Development (DEED) <a href="http://www.mn.gov/deed">www.mn.gov/deed</a></b>		
A.	<a href="#">Small Business Emergency Loans</a>	<p>Loan program to assist small businesses directly and adversely affected and whose industry is named in Executive Orders <a href="#">20-04</a> and <a href="#">20-08</a> following the COVID-19 pandemic:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Range from \$2,500 to \$35,000 and will be based on the firm’s economic injury and the financial need;</li> <li>✓ Are interest free; and</li> <li>✓ Can be paid back monthly over five (5) years and the first payment will be deferred six (6) months with the potential for partial forgiveness.</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;">DEED Headquarters 1st National Bank Building 332 Minnesota Street, Suite E200 St. Paul, MN 55101</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Phone: 1-651-259-7114 Toll Free: 1-800-657-3858</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Email: <a href="mailto:DEED.CustomerService@state.mn.us">DEED.CustomerService@state.mn.us</a></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Website: <a href="http://www.mn.gov/deed">www.mn.gov/deed</a></p>
B.	<a href="#">Minnesota Small Business Loan Guarantee Program</a>	This program provides an 80% loan guarantee for loans up to \$250,000 made by a qualified economic development lender within this program. Allowable loan uses must be exclusively in Minnesota and include machinery or equipment purchases, maintenance, or repair; expenses related to moving into or within Minnesota; and working capital when the working capital is secured by fixed assets when possible.	
C.	<a href="#">DEED Business Financing Programs</a>	DEED has several ongoing business financing programs to help companies and communities retain existing jobs and create new high-quality jobs. Not all businesses are eligible. Qualifying companies must meet specific job creation and wage goals.	
D.	<a href="#">Unemployment Insurance Shared Work Program</a>	<p>Shared Work is offered by the MN Unemployment Insurance (UI) Program to help employers avoid a layoff. Benefits of Shared Work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Keep experienced and trained staff;</li> <li>✓ Avoid future hiring and training costs;</li> <li>✓ Increase operations quickly when business conditions improve; and</li> <li>✓ Avoid a layoff which creates goodwill and financial stability for the workforce and the community.</li> </ul>	
E.	<a href="#">Minnesota Unemployment Insurance</a>	<p>Congress recently passed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act). That law includes several changes that may affect your eligibility for unemployment benefits. These changes include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ \$600/week additional compensation for people receiving unemployment benefits.</li> <li>✓ A new benefit program for workers who are unemployed as a result of COVID-19 who are NOT eligible for regular unemployment benefits.</li> <li>✓ An extension of unemployment benefits for up to 13 weeks.</li> </ul>	

## Local, Regional & Statewide

	Name/Program	COVID-19 Response	Additional Information
1.	<a href="#">Iron Range Resources &amp; Rehabilitation (IRRR)</a>	Assisted the Governor's Administration with classification of our region's major industries (mining, pulp and paper, and construction) as a critical/essential industry. The Legislature approved the Minnesota Small Business Emergency Loan Program by reallocating \$20 million from the IRRR/DEED's 21st Century Minerals Fund to fund the \$30 million loan program. Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation is open for business and have streamlined their loan guarantee process to be in place within 48 hours.	Phone: 1-218-735-3000 Toll Free: 1-800-765-5043 <a href="http://www.mn.gov/irrrb">www.mn.gov/irrrb</a>
2.	<a href="#">Minnesota Power</a>	Minnesota Power has suspended disconnections and waived late payment for residential and small business owners. They have also charges waived reconnection fees (during normal business hours).	Phone: 1-800-228-4966 <a href="http://www.mnpower.com">www.mnpower.com</a>
3.	<a href="#">Northeast Minnesota Small Business Development Center</a>	The Northeast Minnesota Small Business Development Center's national office created a webpage providing up-to-date information and resources for small businesses.	Phone: 1-218-726-7298 Email: <a href="mailto:info@nesbdc.org">info@nesbdc.org</a> <a href="http://www.nesbdc.org">www.nesbdc.org</a>
4.	<a href="#">Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation</a>	Created a COVID-19 Northeast Minnesota Response Fund. The mission is to respond to the needs identified in our community and to deploy resources to non-profit organizations at the frontlines of the coronavirus outbreak.	Phone: 1-218-726-0232 Email: <a href="mailto:info@dsacommunityfoundation.com">info@dsacommunityfoundation.com</a> <a href="http://www.dsacommunityfoundation.org">www.dsacommunityfoundation.org</a>
5.	<a href="#">Northspan</a>	Working with four East Range communities on zero interest forgivable loans. Available to help businesses package loan and grant applications.	Phone: 1-218-481-7737 Email: <a href="mailto:info@northspan.org">info@northspan.org</a> <a href="http://www.northspan.org">www.northspan.org</a>
6.	<a href="#">Entrepreneur Fund</a>	Prepared to revise loan agreements, potentially extending due dates, temporarily reducing payments, working capital loans, etc. They are also offering business consulting services, including making adjustments to operations, reduced workforce, inventory/supply chain shortfalls, diversifying revenue, etc.	Phone: 1-218-623-5747 Email: <a href="mailto:info@entrepreneurfund.org">info@entrepreneurfund.org</a> <a href="http://www.entrepreneurfund.org">www.entrepreneurfund.org</a>
7.	<a href="#">Northland Foundation</a>	Suspended the April 1 <sup>st</sup> grant round to direct funding to the most vulnerable populations impacted by COVID-19. They are also offering emergency grants for licensed child care programs.	Phone: 1-218-723-4040 Toll Free: 1-800-433-4045 Email: <a href="mailto:info@northlandfdn.org">info@northlandfdn.org</a> <a href="http://www.northlandfdn.org">www.northlandfdn.org</a>

## Local, Regional & Statewide *continued...*

	Name/Program	COVID-19 Response	Additional Information
8.	<a href="#">COVID-19 Northeast Minnesota Response Fund</a>	<p>The Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation is partnering with Head of the Lakes United Way, Lloyd K. Johnson Foundation, Northland Foundation, and Ordean Foundation, all serving people and organizations throughout Northeast Minnesota, to coordinate this fund. The priorities of this fund include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Addressing the needs of staff of nonprofit organizations impacted by reduced or lost employment or benefits, as well as program providers (e.g., contractors, volunteers, etc.);</li> <li>✓ Supporting adaptations necessary to continue functioning (e.g., protective equipment for staff and volunteers, technology, supplies);</li> <li>✓ Developing community wellbeing for coping and healing, including youth development, mental health, healthy relationships, etc.; and</li> <li>✓ Providing one-time operating support to organizations experiencing increased demand for services, diminishing volunteer support, and those serving vulnerable populations.</li> </ul>	<p>Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation</p> <p>324 W. Superior Street, Suite 700 Duluth, MN 55802</p> <p>Phone: 1-218-726-0232</p>
9.	<a href="#">Community Opportunity Fund</a>	<p>Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation is utilizing its unrestricted funding, provided by donors who have trusted the foundation with utilizing their donations to meet the timely needs of the community, to address the needs of organizations facing challenges related to COVID-19 and resulting economic impacts. Core mission grants through the Community Opportunity Fund may be used for core operating expenditures, with a few exceptions as outlined in the attached guidelines.</p>	<p>Email: <a href="mailto:grantsinfo@dsacommunityfoundation.com">grantsinfo@dsacommunityfoundation.com</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.dsacommunityfoundation.org">www.dsacommunityfoundation.org</a></p>
10.	<a href="#">Knight Foundation COVID-19 Response Fund</a>	<p>This fund is intended to support the immediate needs of organizations located in Duluth. Grants will be based on the following priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Arts organizations;</li> <li>✓ Local news reporting; and</li> <li>✓ Community engagement.</li> </ul>	
11.	<a href="#">The Otto Bremer Trust (OBT) Emergency Fund</a>	<p>The Otto Bremer Trust (OBT) has established a \$50 million emergency fund through its Community Benefit Financial Company (CBFC) subsidiary to provide financial support to Minnesota, Wisconsin, North Dakota, and Montana nonprofits and other community organizations impacted by and responding to the pandemic. The fund will primarily be available to provide small grants to qualified organizations in our region.</p>	<p>30 E. 7th St. Ste. 2900 St. Paul, MN 55101</p> <p>Toll Free: 1-888-291-1123</p> <p><a href="http://www.ottobremer.org">www.ottobremer.org</a></p>

## Local, Regional & Statewide *continued...*

	Name/Program	COVID-19 Response	Additional Information
12.	<a href="#">Minnesota Disaster Recovery Fund (MDRF) for Coronavirus</a>	<p>This fund was created in March 2020 to support community needs as a direct result of the coronavirus pandemic. The MDRF funds both short and long-term needs that arise within communities, due to coronavirus or future disasters that occur within the state of Minnesota. Funds will be raised through philanthropic entities.</p>	<p>Minnesota Council on Foundations            Phone: 1-612-338-1989            Email: <a href="mailto:info@mcf.org">info@mcf.org</a>  <a href="http://www.mcf.org">www.mcf.org</a></p>
13.	<a href="#">City of Duluth</a>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. In coordination with the recent State of MN announcement extending the due date of sales tax returns filed with the State due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the City of Duluth will be extending the due date of February and March tourism tax returns until May 20th. This extension applies to both lodging and food &amp; beverage sales.</li> <li>2. The Duluth 1200 Fund supports the Duluth economy through several programs. In response to economic conditions resulting from the Covid-19 emergency, the Duluth 1200 Fund established a grant program called 2020 Fast Grants to support small business. For more information, visit:  <a href="http://www.1200fund.com">www.1200fund.com</a></li> <li>3. The Duluth Economic Development Authority will consider on Wednesday, April 22, 2020, a resolution that would authorize a contribution of \$437,000 to the Entrepreneur Fund to establish the Duluth Small Business Emergency Fund. The program would provide partially forgivable loans of \$2,000 to \$20,000 to small businesses at 0.5% interest for up to five years with the first six months free of payments (source: Duluth News Tribune 4/20/2020).</li> </ol>	<p>Phone: 1-218-730-500            Email: <a href="mailto:info@duluthmn.gov">info@duluthmn.gov</a>  <a href="http://www.duluthmn.org">www.duluthmn.org</a></p>
14.	<a href="#">Duluth Local Initiatives Support Corp. (LISC)</a>	<p>Up to \$10,000 will be awarded to small businesses. Businesses can use the grant for paying rent, utilities, outstanding debt and payroll, as well as upgrading technology infrastructure and addressing other immediate operational costs. Duluth's LISC will also receive part of a \$500,000 sum given to the national LISC by U.S. Bank. This funding will go to Ecolibrium3 and the Entrepreneur Fund to create recovery strategies for Lincoln Park businesses and the community. It will also support technical assistance for local businesses, like that offered by the Small Business Administration, as well as access to LISC grants.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.lisc.org/duluth">www.lisc.org/duluth</a></p>

## Additional COVID-19 Business Resources

1.	<a href="#"><u>COVID-19 Federal Rural Resource Guide</u></a>
2.	<a href="#"><u>Interim Guidance for Businesses and Employers to Plan and Respond to COVID-19</u></a>
3.	<a href="#"><u>Minnesota Senator Tina Smith: Coronavirus Relief Package Frequently Asked Questions</u></a>
4.	<a href="#"><u>Opportunity for business to offer resources, supplies or personnel to COVID-19 response efforts</u></a>
5.	<a href="#"><u>Minnesota Chamber of Commerce Covid-19 Business Toolkit</u></a>
6.	<a href="#"><u>Information about Business Interruption Insurance</u></a>
7.	<a href="#"><u>Minnesota County of Nonprofits: How the COVID-19 economic stimulus bill impacts nonprofits</u></a>
8.	<a href="#"><u>SCORE Coronavirus Small Business Resource Hub</u></a>
9.	<a href="#"><u>Grants.gov: the official access point for grants administered by government agencies</u></a>
10.	<a href="#"><u>Grantwatch.com: Small Business Grants related to COVID-19</u></a>
11.	<a href="#"><u>Lathrop GPM (formally Gray Plant Mooty) COVID-19 Resource Center</u></a>
12.	<a href="#"><u>International Economic Development Council: Restoreyoureconomy.org</u></a>
13.	<a href="#"><u>Minnesota Council on Foundations (MDRF): Minnesota Disaster Recovery Fund (MDRF)</u></a>
14.	<a href="#"><u>Minnesota Department of Revenue: Our Response to COVID-19</u></a>
15.	<a href="#"><u>Internal Revenue Service: Coronavirus Tax Relief and Economic Impact Payments</u></a>
16.	<a href="#"><u>Department of Labor: Guidance on Preparing Workplaces for COVID-19</u></a>
17.	<a href="#"><u>Facebook Small Business Grants Program and the Business Resource Hub</u></a>
18.	<a href="#"><u>The Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act Legislative Summary</u></a>
19.	<a href="#"><u>What the Families First Coronavirus Response Act Means to Nonprofits</u></a>
20.	<a href="#"><u>Springboard for the Arts Personal Emergency Relief Fund</u></a>
21.	<a href="#"><u>USBG National Charity Foundation: COVID-19 Relief &amp; Response Information</u></a>
22.	<a href="#"><u>Minnesota Employment &amp; Economic Development (DEED): Safely Returning to Work</u></a>