

Help for small businesses during crisis

Small business programs are available during the coronavirus pandemic

By Kevin Leahy

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These are unprecedented times for our region, nation and the world. The impact of the coronavirus pandemic has touched every fabric of our being. At CEDR and the Clatsop Community College Small Business Development Center, we exist to help the business community in our region, in good times and bad.

We all felt the gut punch when businesses were closed around us, but it gives us more inspiration that ever to provide the business community with the necessary tools and expertise to get through these very turbulent times together, and emerge stronger than ever.

Summary of some of the essential information will be detailed below, but all readers of this article should put “bizcenter.org” as one of your “favorites.” This is the official website of the Oregon Small Business Development Center network. We are one of nineteen Centers in the state that make up the Oregon Small Business Center network, and there is a COVID-19 information on the home page that is updated daily, with local, regional, state and federal resources, and is the “go to” for information. (Many of us are deluged with email updates from multiple sources daily, and this only publishes vetted information)

Essential Tools & Services:

- Clatsop Community College Small Business

Development Center.

We provide free and confidential advising to businesses of all sizes, and have served the Clatsop County area and surrounding areas for almost 40 years. The number of businesses seeking support during this time has increased exponentially over the past weeks, but we are committed to serving our existing clients, and new, with a team that has a passion for small business.

Contact information is sbdc@clatsopcc.edu, call 503-338-2402, or go to bizcenter.org/Clatsop “Connect with us” to request an appointment.

Note that biz center also has a comprehensive summary of services provided.

• SBA (Small Business Administration)

The SBA is the economic response nucleus of the federal government response to the pandemic.

Key programs:

SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL). Small businesses, non-profits, and owners of rental property are eligible to apply for economic injury disaster loans of up to \$2 million. Applications are submitted directly online through the SBA website (sba.gov/funding-programs/disaster-assistance.)

NEW! Applicants can request a loan advance of \$10,000 and will be disbursed within three days. If used within the guidelines stated, this money may be forgiven and deducted from the EIDL loan amount.

Paycheck Protection Program. Highly anticipated with details coming out as I write this article, Supporting Business Operations & Keeping People Employed. You can borrow up to two months of your average payroll costs last year, plus an additional 25%.

Starting April 3, small businesses and sole proprietorships could apply. Starting April 10, Independent Contractors and Self-Employed Individuals can apply. You apply for this through your bank or credit union. Don't delay here. SBA.gov. There is also a SBA-approved lender list on the website.

• Employee assistance and layoffs

Key information here! Go to the Oregon Employment Department Website at Oregon.gov/employ/unemployed for information on how to apply for unemployment insurance.

Note there is an additional \$600 a week in unemployment insurance added to the state benefits.

And unemployment compensation has been extended up to 39 weeks.

And so much more! Check out the COVID-19 resource page at bizcenter.org for other programs

Updates from the SBA and others are coming rapid fire at us daily, and we continue to work to keep the business community and our partners at the Astoria-Warrenton, Cannon Beach and Seaside



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At the Clatsop Small Business Development Center,

We are here to help you.

Our services are designed to help business owners and operators in all stages from start-ups and businesses in their first year, to mature business looking to grow.

As an entrepreneur, your path to start, run, and grow a business is likely to be filled with a variety of challenges that you'll need to overcome to avoid costly setbacks or even failure. The journey can sometimes be overwhelming and risky- but you don't have to do it alone. The Clatsop SBDC's team of professional business advisors are available to help you navigate your way to success!

For more information visit bizcenter.org/clatsop



SCHEDULE A FREE AND CONFIDENTIAL ADVISING SESSION

Call 503-338-2402 or email sbdc@clatsopcc.edu

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Chambers of Commerce, the ADHDA and SDDA, media partners like the Astorian, the Coast River Business Journal, and our 1,500 email CEDR list informed and updated.

Updates are also published on our Facebook page at facebook.com/CEDR/Clatsop Small Business Development Center. Contact us at sbdc@clatsopcc.edu if you would like to be added to our email list, or “like” the Facebook page.