

Here are the latest updates we've received from regional and state entities about funding. This list of resources should help both small business owners and any employees facing reduced hours or job loss.

For individuals:

- **United Way COVID-19 Community Economic Relief Fund** can help you find assistance for bills, rent and food. Call 866-211-9966 for the list of local agencies that can help you or search 211 here.
- **Employment Assistance** – Express Employment Professionals is available to help individuals find jobs and also to help businesses find new team members. You can reach them at 239-498-5000, or email Leslie.Hohmann@ExpressPros.com
- **Bartender Emergency Assistance Program** – The United States Bartenders Guild's National Charity Foundation has launched a program for bartenders in need of assistance during the coronavirus outbreak, meant to aid service industry personnel experiencing financial difficulties as a direct result of the outbreak. Eligible applicants can receive a grant to help cover bills here.

For businesses:

- The Florida Department of Economic Opportunity has a **Short Time Compensation program available to help small businesses continue to pay workers even with reduced work hours**. Application information is [available here](#), and the DEO's Help Center is [here](#) for any questions you have.
- The Florida Small Business Emergency Bridge Loan Program is now open for small business owners that are experiencing economic damage as a result of COVID-19. It's a short-term, interest-free working capital loan that can help your business "bridge the gap" before a return to normal business or before a longer-term financial loan is acquired. Learn more [here](#)
- **The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA)** provides low-interest disaster loans to help businesses and homeowners recover from declared disasters. Businesses can apply for loans online through a 3-step loan process [here](#).
- **SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loans** – Substantial economic injury means the business is unable to meet its obligations and to pay its ordinary and necessary operating expenses. These loans provide the necessary working capital to help small businesses survive until normal operations resume. The SBA can provide

up to \$2 million to help meet financial obligations and operating expenses that could have been met had the disaster not occurred. [More information here.](#)

- You can help local and state leaders assess community needs by taking these two surveys:
 - [Florida's Business Damage Assessment Survey](#) will help our community have access to more capital and resources.
 - [Take this 10-minute survey](#) through FGCU's Regional Economic Research Institute.
- Finally, this advice for working remotely is out-of-this-world! [Astronaut Scott Kelly has tips for working in quarantine.](#)