



WSVMA Alerts!

COVID-19 Financial Resources / March 24, 2020

The following are several financial resources employees and businesses can access that apply to the current pandemic.

Help to pay your employees

The Employment Security Department has new emergency rules in place. For example, workers who are ill with COVID-19 can qualify for benefits. Also, workers that are exposed and quarantined while the business remains open can now qualify for unemployment insurance. This [ESD Unemployment chart](#) can help determine which benefit applies to your situation. This [FAQ page for workers and businesses](#) answers questions and gives resources to help relieve the burden of temporary layoffs.

- [Paid sick and safe leave](#) (and [FAQs](#) about how it applies to COVID-19)
- [Unemployment insurance](#)
- [Paid Family Medical Leave](#) (and [FAQs](#) about how it applies to COVID-19)
- [Workers' Compensation FAQs](#) and [link to apply](#)

Families First Coronavirus Response Act: Employer Expanded Family and Medical Leave Requirements

The Dept. of Labor just released a Frequently Asked Questions document on the Families First Coronavirus Response Act.

- DOL FAQ and link is: www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/pandemic/ffcra-questions
- DOL Fact Sheet for Employers and link is: www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/pandemic/...
- DOL Fact Sheet for Employees and link is: www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/pandemic/...

PLEASE NOTE:

- Significantly, in the FAQ DOL indicates the effective date for the Families First Coronavirus Response Act is APRIL 1, 2020, and apply to leave taken between April 1, 2020, and December 31, 2020.
- For the exemption for business with fewer than 50 employees when providing the leave under the act would jeopardize the viability of the business, DOL advises that for now employers should document why they believe this to be the case. DOL then indicates that more detail will be forthcoming in regulations.

Layoffs

We sincerely hope you don't have to lay off employees, but if you do, here are links to information for employees and businesses.

- Guidance
 - [Layoff assistance for Workers and Businesses](#)
- Temporary layoffs
 - Apply for [SharedWork](#), a smart alternative to layoffs
 - [Temporary layoffs](#): Standby for up to 8 weeks, partial employment status or furlough
- Permanent layoffs
 - Educate employees to contact [WorkSource](#)

- Job search or retraining through [Dislocated Worker program](#)

File a [Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notice \(WARN\)](#)

Financial Assistance

- The Federal Small Business Administration (SBA) may be able to provide assistance through the Economic Injury Disaster Loans program to businesses that have suffered substantial economic injury in an eligible disaster area. Congress approved up to \$7 billion in low-interest disaster loans specifically to assist small businesses impacted by COVID-19. These loans can help small businesses meet financial obligations and cover operating expenses. Visit:
<https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela/Information/EIDLLoans>
- Grants
 - Up to \$5 million of the Governor's Working Washington Fund will be made available as micro-grants to small businesses across the state to help prevent closure due to COVID-19. Commerce will distribute these funds. Check coronavirus.wa.gov for updates on the funding timeline.
- Loans
 - The U.S. Small Business Administration is offering disaster loans up to \$2 million (flyer), with an interest rate is 3.75% for small businesses without credit available elsewhere. Nonprofits can apply too, at a 2.75% interest rate. Apply [here](#).
 - SBA's Washington Disaster Declaration: [here](#)

Washington State Department of Revenue - Tax Relief Under the COVID-19 Pandemic

For businesses that need some temporary tax relief, Gov. Inslee has given the Department of Revenue authority to waive interest, fees, and due dates for a broad

range of taxes, including property tax exemptions, business license renewals and others. There are a couple of important points:

1. A taxpayer may still request an extension to file even if they request the extension after the due date
2. Taxpayers with a current payment plan for paying back taxes and small businesses who are under audit can request assistance.

To learn more, visit the DOR [website](#).

Federal Tax Help

- [IRS Coronavirus tax relief](#)

Business Preparation

- Federal: [U.S. Chamber of Commerce Business preparedness checklist](#)
- State: [WA Emergency Management Division page](#)

WSVMA COVID-19 Webinars

- March 26, 2020, 12pm - [COVID-19 in the Workplace: Key Employment Law Questions Answered](#)
- March 27, 2020, 12pm - [Leadership Through Crisis - Your Veterinary Practice Today](#)

Can't find what you're looking for on our [resource page](#)?

Contact the WSVMA office at (800) 399-7862 or info@wsvma.org.

