



SBDC AT CLARK

Here to help small businesses

Dear clients and friends,

We recognize that small businesses are being affected by COVID-19 and we stand with you, here at the SBDC at Clark, ready to help.

We encourage you to contact us, whether you are a current advising client or not yet a client. We are happy to work with you to walk through your situation and find the best course of action for your business.

Our staff is working remotely, with our business advisors set up for virtual meetings, email and phone. They are available **Monday through Friday from 8AM-4:30PM**. If you are a new client, please register in order to receive free and confidential business advice from our advisors. **Registration** is fast, easy, and free. [CLICK HERE](#) or simply email sbdc@clarku.edu for more information.

If you are reaching out regarding the EIDL program, our business advisors are able to provide minimal guidance as it is a new process. Applicants are encouraged to visit <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela> for further information, or access the SBA's Customer Service Center at (800) 659-2955. Individuals who are deaf or hard-of-hearing may call (800) 877-8339.

More information can also be found about our office and our business advisors by visiting our [website](#), as well as our Facebook page [here](#).

We encourage everyone to remain indoors and keep safe! Thank you, and we look forward to serving you.

State Launches Business-focused COVID-19 Website

Resources for MA businesses are available on the website to support the business community. It contains information on the recent Emergency Order, financial assistance, unemployment benefits, and recent updates on COVID-19.

Click <https://bit.ly/3awhCwm> to visit the new site.

U.S. Small Business Administration Economic Injury Disaster Loan Program

The Baker-Polito Administration announced on March 18, 2020, that the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) will offer low-interest federal disaster loans for working capital to Massachusetts small businesses suffering substantial economic injury as a result of the Coronavirus (COVID-19). The disaster declaration makes SBA assistance available in the entire state of Massachusetts.



- Small businesses that have been financially impacted as a direct result of the COVID-19 may qualify for Economic Injury Disaster Loans of up to \$2 million to help meet financial obligations and operating expenses which could have been met had the disaster not occurred.
 - **Eligibility** for Economic Injury Disaster Loans is based on the financial impact of the Coronavirus (COVID-19). The interest rate is 3.75% for small businesses. The interest rate for private non-profit organizations is 2.75%.
 - SBA offers loans with **long-term repayments** in order to keep payments affordable, up to a maximum of 30 years.
 - The **deadline** to apply for an Economic Injury Disaster Loan is **Dec. 18, 2020**.

Click <https://bit.ly/3ayCsve> to visit the SBA Disaster Assistance website or connect with their customer service center at 1-800-659-2955 (TTY: 1-800-877-8339) or via e-mail disastercustomerservice@sba.gov.

Workforce Resources & Unemployment Benefits

To assist individuals who cannot work due to the impact of COVID-19, emergency legislation and emergency regulations now allow people impacted by COVID-19 to collect unemployment benefits if their workplace is shut down. The fastest way to apply is online.

[Click here.](#)

For Workers Out of Work or Losing Hours Due to COVID-19:

- They should apply for compensation (unless they are getting paid sick leave from their employer) – claimants are eligible in any of these situations:
 - The business has shut down.
 - Their hours have been reduced significantly.
 - They have been told to stay home.
 - They have to stay out to care for a child or other family member.
 - Apply through UI Online - <https://uionline.detma.org/Claimant/Core/Login.ASPX>

For Workers Already on Unemployment Compensation:

- Requirements to attend seminars at MassHire centers are suspended.
- Deadlines missed due to effects of COVID-19 will be excused under the “good cause” rules.
- All appeal hearings are by telephone only- if you have an appeal pending, make sure DUA has a correct phone number for you.

WorkShare Program

The WorkShare program is an alternative for employers faced with a cut in workforce. Employers can divide available work between affected employees instead of laying off workers. It allows employees to receive a part of their unemployment insurance (UI) benefits while working reduced hours.



The WorkShare program helps employers to avoid the burdens of a layoff situation. It also helps employees avoid full unemployment. WorkShare also allows employers to:

- Increase cash flow
- Keep skilled, trained workers
- Reduce future hiring and retraining costs
- Avoid disruption in business operations
- Be prepared for future business growth
- Maintain worker productivity

Visit <https://www.mass.gov/topics/workshare-program> to apply and learn more information.

Community-Based Resources

Local Business Unite Facebook Group: <https://bit.ly/3bui66u>

Worcester Mutual Aid (WMA): <https://mutualaidworchester.org/>

WMA Facebook Group: <https://bit.ly/2wEQxZz>

Greater Boston Mutual Aid: <https://bit.ly/3dFhOLY>

The Human Network Initiative:

<https://www.humannetworkinitiative.com/neighborhoods>

Massachusetts Jobs With Justice (Complete List of Towns): <https://bit.ly/39vYkWE>

The Asian American Resource Workshop: <https://bit.ly/2QYuPXb>

Boston Helps network: <https://bit.ly/2vY5ghB>



Stay Connected



Contact your SBDC business advisor. We're here and want to help. 508-793-7615.

Share the SBDC website link with a friend, family member, or colleague if they own a business. <https://www.clarku.edu/offices/small-business-development-center/>

Like us on our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/sbdcclark/> for regular updates, tips and ways to connect with our office.



The Small Business Development Center at Clark University is committed to helping your business succeed in Massachusetts. We provide free, confidential, one-on-one business assistance and free or low-cost educational training programs to prospective and existing small businesses throughout the state in order to foster the start, growth, and sustainability of these businesses.

A partnership program with the U.S. Small Business Administration and the Massachusetts Office of Business Development under cooperative agreement SBAHQ-19-B-0001 through the University of Massachusetts Amherst, Isenberg School of Management. SBDCs are a program supported by SBA and extended to the public on a non-discriminatory basis. SBA cannot endorse any products, opinions or services of any external parties or activities. By contacting our office and requesting at least two weeks in advance, every attempt will be made to reasonably accommodate persons with disabilities and those who need translation services.



sbdc@clarku.edu
508-793-7615

125 Woodland Street,
Worcester, MA 01610

Mailing: 950 Main St.
Worcester, MA
01610