

March 18, 2020

Resources for the Business Community: COVID-19 from Middlesex Savings Bank:

1. **MEMA's Emergency Operations Center's Private Sector Hotline**

- The hotline will be staffed *Monday – Friday* from *8am to 4pm*.
- The number for the hotline is 508-820-2094.

2. **Small Business Recovery Loan Fund**

- \$10 million Small Business Recovery Loan Fund, administered by Massachusetts Growth Capital Corporation (MGCC), to provide emergency capital up to \$75,000 to Massachusetts-based businesses impacted by COVID-19 with under 50 full- and part-time employees, including nonprofits.
- This fund is being offered with no payments due for the first 6 months, then 30-months of principal and interest payments and no prepayment penalties (annual interest rate of 3.0%).

3. **Small Business Administration's Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) program**

- EIDL offers Massachusetts businesses who are experiencing hardships resulting from the COVID-19 outbreak access up to \$2M in emergency loan capital with rates capped at 3.75%.
- We are currently working with the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) to activate the EIDL program. We will update this group when the program formally opens.
- Businesses can learn more about the SBA's response to COVID-19

here: <https://www.sba.gov/page/guidance-businesses-employers-plan-respond-coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19>

4. **Governor Baker's Emergency Order (3/15) limiting gatherings to 25 individuals and prohibiting on-premises consumption of food or drink at bars and restaurants, beginning on March 17 and effective until April 6.**

- Read more about the Emergency Order here: <https://www.mass.gov/news/baker-polito-administration-announces-emergency-actions-to-address-covid-19>
- The Order does not apply to normal operations at airports, bus and train stations, medical facilities, libraries, shopping malls and centers, polling locations, grocery or retail stores, pharmacies, or other spaces where 25 or more persons may be in transit.
- The Order does not apply to typical office environments, government buildings, or factories where large numbers of people are present, but it is unusual for them to be within arm's length of one another.
- Additional guidance can be found here: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/march-15-2020-assembly-guidance>

5. **The Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development offers resources** for businesses related to employee benefits and will [post](#) additional guidance as it becomes available. Programs include:

- Updated information regarding unemployment resources can be found here: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-guidance-and-directives#businesses-&-employers>
- The [WorkShare program](#), a tool to help employers avoid layoffs during a downturn – read more about WorkShare at <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/workshare-information-for-employers>

- The [Rapid Response program](#), which works closely with companies to avert layoffs and keep a skilled workforce engaged in the existing regional economy or industry; read more about how the Rapid Response Team can help businesses at <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/rapid-response-layoff-aversion>

Best regards,

Rob

For information on the Baker-Polito Administration's Announcement of \$10M Small Business Recovery Loan Fund [click here](#)

For information on the SBA's Disaster Relief Funding for Small Businesses and Non-Profits [click here](#).

For FEMA Emergency Planning Exercises for your organization [click here](#).

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