

Fellow Texans,

As the Texas economy continues its thoughtful and strategic reopening process, our state remains resilient. The Governor's Economic Development & Tourism Office continues to focus on providing you with the latest news, information and resources during these challenging times. We are here to help you, and we appreciate the work all Texans are doing to help keep your neighbors and communities safe. Working together, we will ensure Texas remains the #1 economy in the nation while still protecting the most vulnerable among us.

It will take all of us to ensure that the safe reopening of our economy is successful. Governor Greg Abbott encourages all Texans to do their part to protect themselves and others from COVID-19 through this important message, "[Be a Good Neighbor. Be a Texan](#)". Please share this message as we safely get Texans back to work and position Texas, once again, as the leading economic powerhouse in the U.S.

Our state's small businesses continue to be the backbone of our economy and we are here to help them navigate the road ahead. As always, our staff is available to provide assistance and resource referrals -- please don't hesitate to reach out at any time. For the latest updates, be sure to check in regularly at [gov.texas.gov/business/coronavirus](http://gov.texas.gov/business/coronavirus), and follow us on our social media channels.

Thanks for your continued support and for all that you do for Texas!

**Governor's Economic Development & Tourism Office**  
**#TexasBizStrong**

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## Governor's Phase II to Open Texas



Under [Phase II](#) of Governor Greg Abbott's Plan to Open Texas, restaurants may increase their occupancy to 50% (May 22) and additional services and activities that remained closed

under [Phase I](#) may open with restricted occupancy levels and minimum standard health protocols laid out by the Texas Department of State Health Services. These services include child care centers (May 18), massage and personal-care centers (May 18), youth clubs (May 18), rodeo and equestrian events (May 22), bowling alleys, bingo halls, simulcast racing, and skating rinks (May 22), bars (May 22), aquariums and natural caverns (May 22), zoos (May 29), youth camps and sports (May 31), certain professional sports (May 31), and offices to the greater of 10 individuals or 25% of workforce.

On May 26, 2020, Governor Abbott issued a [proclamation](#) that the following services may open with certain limitations and precautions: waterparks (May 29), adult recreational sport programs (May 31), driver education programs (immediately), and food-court dining areas in shopping malls (immediately).

Guidance for employers and employees, as well as Open Texas Checklists by business type, can be found on the [Strike Force to Open Texas Website](#).

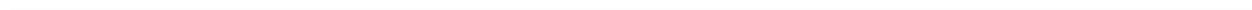
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## Governor's Small Business Webinar Series

Did you miss a previous Governor's Small Business Webinar? All webinar playbacks can be watched on demand via our [YouTube channel](#). We invite you to sign-up for our Small Business E-mail Updates to be notified as soon as we announce future webinar dates and details for registration.



[Sign-up for Updates](#)



## Paycheck Protection Program Loan Forgiveness

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) and Department of Treasury have released additional guidelines on Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan forgiveness requirements and procedures. The SBA's PPP forgiveness application and instructions form informs borrowers how to apply for forgiveness of their PPP loans, consistent with the CARES Act. The SBA also recently released Interim Final Rules (IFR) on loan forgiveness requirements and loan review procedures and borrower and lender responsibility guidelines. This guidance may be downloaded below:

- [PPP Forgiveness Application and Instruction Form](#)
- [IFR Loan Review Procedures and Related Borrower and Lender Responsibilities](#)
- [IFR Loan Forgiveness Requirements](#)

The SBA will forgive PPP loans if the funds are used for payroll costs, interest on mortgages, rent and utilities (at least 75% of the forgiven amount must have been used for payroll). Forgiveness is based on the employer maintaining or quickly rehiring employees and maintaining salary levels. Small businesses may seek forgiveness at the conclusion of the eight-week covered period, which begins with the disbursement of their loans.

The SBA is continuing to accept applications for the remaining PPP funds approved through the CARES Act. Eligible small businesses should work with an approved lender to apply for the program and should carefully review PPP regulations and certifications required to obtain a loan on the [SBA's website](#).

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## Skills Development Fund



The Texas Workforce Commission's (TWC) Skills Development Fund program has launched a special COVID-19 initiative. Texas businesses impacted by COVID-19 may receive training for existing employees and new hires through partnerships with training providers. There is a total of \$10 million available in grant funds for eligible training provider applicants that can respond to training needs of business partners. Eligible applicants include public community and technical colleges, Workforce Development Boards and the Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service (TEEX). The program staff works with businesses and training providers to support application development and submission. For more information, download the program [PDF flyer](#), or visit the [TWC website](#).

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## Main Street Lending Program

The Main Street Lending Program was established by the Federal Reserve System to support lending to small- and medium-sized businesses that were in sound financial condition before the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. The loan terms are up to \$25 million at 5%, over 4 years, with payments deferred for the first year. Businesses can apply through eligible lenders, which include U.S. banks, savings and loans and credit unions, U.S. branches or agencies of foreign banks and any U.S. subsidiary of a foreign bank. The Federal Reserve is currently working to create the infrastructure necessary to operationalize the program. Businesses should stay in touch with their bank for details on when the program is likely to open and continue to check the Federal Reserve's [Main Street Lending Program webpage](#) and program [FAQs](#).

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## Texas Community Resources

Our COVID-19 resource webpage features resources for Texas communities. Find a listing of current funding and training opportunities for communities, including information on CARES Act Recovery Assistance, Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF), COVID-19 Federal Assistance Training, Texas COVID Relief Fund and more! Visit the page by clicking the link below.

[Find Resources](#)