

Coronavirus (COVID-19): Economic Development Resources

Our priority is the health and safety of El Paso residents, local businesses, and communities. Economic and International Development staff and community partners are working closely to provide support to local businesses and residents during this difficult time. On this page you will find answers to frequently asked questions as well as local, state, and national resources available for employers and employees. We will update it as new information, resources, and programs become available.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Where can I find information on business financial assistance?

The City and County of El Paso have partner with the El Paso Chamber to create a business assistance page. Please visit, <https://www.elpasobusinesshelp.com/> for additional information on federal, state and local assistance programs. This page will be updated as new programs are created or as information changes.

The U.S. Small Business Administration Announced it would offer disaster assistance loans for up to \$2 million for small businesses affected by the coronavirus. These low-interest loans are available to businesses that have sustained “substantial economic injury” due to the spread of the coronavirus. For more information on this loan program, visit the [SBA's website](#).

If you have existing debt, we highly encourage you to call your lenders to explore payment deferrals, refinancing or interest rate reductions to help your business operation. Lenders will discuss the best available options.

How can I help my employees who have been laid off or have had their hours cut?

Governor Abbott instructed the Texas Workforce Commission to waive the usual “waiting week” for unemployment benefits. The commission is also waiving requirements that previously forced applicants to register for work search on WorkinTexas.gov

The Texas Workforce Commission has created the following [presentation](#) to assist individuals apply for unemployment benefits.

Am I allowed to operate my business during the city's “Stay at Home” policy?

On March 24, 2020, the City of El Paso issued a “Stay at Home” decree. This emergency action mandates the public to stay at home unless leaving for an essential reason. Additionally, this decree limits only essential business to operate during this period of time.

To see the full list of business that are classified as essential, [please click here](#) and refer to section 6, paragraph F and G.

If you are unsure if your business is classified as essential, please contact the City of El Paso's One Stop Shop at 915.212.0104 or the County of El Paso at 915.267.0309.

Resources

[El Paso Business Community Survey](#)

The City and County of El Paso have partner with the El Paso Chamber to create a survey asking businesses about the impact COVID-19 is having on them. This information will be analyzed and used to assist local business during this tumultuous time. We ask that you take some time and complete the [Business Community Survey](#).

El Paso Business Help

In order to support the local businesses in response to COVID -19, the El Paso Chamber, along with the County and City of El Paso and other business partners, have launched a suite of online business support tools entitled "El Paso Businesses Stand Together." This effort is meant to serve as a rapid clearinghouse for business information and resources related to the ongoing COVID-19 situation.

El Paso Businesses Stand Together (<https://www.elpasobusinesshelp.com/>)

Paso Chamber Newsletter (<https://www.elpaso.org/newsletter/>)

El Paso Businesses Stand Together Facebook Group
(<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1375488742630083/about/>)

This Facebook group is intended for El Paso metropolitan area business owners and employees to share information and resources to benefit businesses in our community. If you need business assistance, especially given our current health and business crisis, please post here and other members should feel free to assist. The page will also feature critical information regarding government business relief policies, as well as, serve as a clearinghouse of resources for business by business.

Workforce Solutions Borderplex

While WSB is not the official place to apply for unemployment, it serves as a resource to assist those who have lost their jobs to file for unemployment and providing programs and services to those who have already filed for unemployment.

Workforce Solutions Borderplex (WSB) is committed to keeping the community informed on how WSB and the State are responding to COVID-19. Effective Tuesday, March 24, 2020, all WSB locations will be temporarily closed. Please visit their website <https://www.borderplexjobs.com/>, or contact them through the hotline at (915) 887-2600 or email at Callcenter@borderplexjobs.com.

Texas Workforce Commission

The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) is working with federal, state and local government officials and agencies to help manage the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. They offer resources for employees and employers who have been affected by COVID-19.

If your employment has been affected by COVID-19, the [Texas Workforce Commission](#) (TWC) encourages you to apply for benefits by utilizing the online claim portal [Unemployment Benefits Services](#) (UBS), or by calling the Tele-Center at 800-939-6631 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. CST, Monday through Friday. TWC may be experiencing increased call volumes and hold times on Tele-Center phone lines. You are encouraged to use the online claim portal (UBS) that is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. You may also sign up for electronic correspondence so you can receive TWC communications online as soon as possible.

Resources for Employers: <https://twc.texas.gov/news/covid-19-resources-employers>

Resources for Jobseekers: <https://twc.texas.gov/news/covid-19-resources-job-seekers>

U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) Economic Injury Disaster Loans

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) granted Texas' Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) assistance declaration, making loans available statewide to small businesses and private, non-profit organizations to help alleviate economic injury caused by the Coronavirus (COVID-19).

The SBA EIDL program can provide low-interest loans of up to \$2M to businesses and private non-profits. EIDLs may be used to pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable and other bills. The interest rate is 3.75% for small businesses without credit available elsewhere. The interest rate for non-profits is 2.75%. EIDLs have long-term repayment options, up to a maximum of 30 years. Terms are determined on a case-by-case basis, based on borrower's ability to repay.

Small businesses who believe they may be eligible for an SBA EIDL, should visit the SBA's website where they can directly apply for assistance. The online application is the fastest method to receive a decision about loan eligibility.

All forms and further details are available on the SBA Disaster Loan website: www.sba.gov/disaster. Click on the Coronavirus link at the top of the page. You can also call the SBA's Disaster Customer Service Center at 800-659-2955 or email disastercustomerservice@sba.gov