



Good Afternoon –

I wanted to pass along some information that might be helpful for you. This is also going to be in my E-newsletter today.

Friday Deadline for Businesses to Apply for Waiver from Closure Order

- The Wolf Administration has set a deadline of 5 p.m. Friday for Pennsylvania businesses to apply for a waiver from the governor's closure order.
- Gov. Wolf ordered all businesses not deemed life-sustaining to close their physical locations as of 8 p.m. on March 19 to slow the spread of COVID-19. My Senate colleagues and I have urged Governor Wolf to be more open and transparent about the decision-making process on these waivers.
- Companies that believe they should be considered a life-sustaining-business can apply for a waiver [here](#). Find answers to common waiver questions [here](#).

State Business Loan Program Reaches Maximum; New Loan Program Created to Help Businesses

The COVID-19 Working Capital Access Program created by the Commonwealth Financing Authority last week has reached its maximum level of funding and will no longer accept new applications. However, a new federal program will offer loans that can be forgiven to help affected small businesses and self-employed individuals cover operating costs during the pandemic.

The new Paycheck Protection Program will offer loans to cover payroll costs, mortgage interest, rent and utility costs over an eight-week period. No more than 25 percent of the loan may

cover anything other than payroll costs, and loan payments will be deferred for six months for any amount that is not forgiven. Businesses must maintain their number of staff and level of payroll and quickly rehire any recently displaced employees in order to qualify for loan forgiveness.

The program is open to small businesses, veterans' organizations, sole proprietorships, self-employed individuals and independent contractors, so long as each entity has 500 or fewer employees.

The application period for small businesses and sole proprietors will open on April 3. Self-employed individuals and contractors can apply starting on April 10. Applications are [available here](#).

More details about the program are [available here](#).

Staff Contacts

Additionally, please note that this email address is a general email address. If you have specific questions, please also email the following staff members to ensure that your questions are answered in a timely manner:

Cassidy Eckrote – ceckrote@pasen.gov

Brad Hurley – bhurley@pasen.gov

Liz Gorski – lgorski@pasen.gov

Joan Pekarovsky – jpekarovsky@pasen.gov

Carly Simpson – csimpson@pasen.gov

Wister Yuhas – wyuhas@pasen.gov