

Resources from the State of Connecticut and the Federal Government

- The **Paycheck Protection Program** prioritizes millions of Americans employed by small businesses by authorizing up to \$349 billion toward job retention and certain other expenses. Small businesses and eligible nonprofit organizations, Veterans organizations, and Tribal businesses described in the Small Business Act, as well as individuals who are self-employed or are independent contractors, are eligible if they also meet program size standards. For more information and to apply, [click here](#).
- **DECD's COVID-19 Business Emergency Response Unit:** The Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) has created a COVID-19 Business Emergency Response Unit dedicated to assisting businesses navigate resources and develop new resources. A dedicated phone line is available at [860-500-2333](tel:860-500-2333) to provide assistance to Connecticut's small businesses for this purpose.
- **Small business owner's guide to the CARES Act:** On March 27, 2020, the United States Congress approved the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act to provide the country with relief from the impact of COVID-19. For a guide about how the act will impact small businesses, [click here](#).
- **SBA assistance:** On March 16, the U.S. Small Business Administration **approved** Governor Lamont's request to begin offering disaster-relief loans to Connecticut small businesses and nonprofits. Companies in the state can now apply for loans of up to \$2 million through a special page [on the SBA website](#). SBA also has more [valuable information for businesses](#).
- **Tax filing extensions:** The Department of Revenue Services has extended deadlines for filing and payments associated with certain state business tax returns. Details are on [DRS's website](#).
- **Unemployment assistance:** Workers directly impacted by the coronavirus pandemic no longer must be actively searching for work to qualify for unemployment assistance. And employers who are furloughing workers can use the Department of Labor's shared work program, which allows businesses to reduce working hours and have those wages supplemented with unemployment insurance. DOL has [more information about these and other changes](#).
- **Business Interruption Insurance:** A business interruption insurance policy should list or describe the types of events it covers. Events that are not described in the policy are typically not covered. It is important to review the policy exclusions, coverage limits, and applicable deductibles with your agent, broker or insurer. The Connecticut Insurance Department [has an FAQ that provides more information](#).
- **Reimbursement of medical leave costs for small and medium-sized businesses:** The Connecticut Department of Insurance reminds small and medium-sized employers of recent [guidance from the Internal Revenue Service \(IRS\)](#) on COVID-19 - related medical leave.
 - Thanks to a \$2.5 million investment from **Verizon**, **LISC** is offering grants of up to \$10,000 to help small businesses fill urgent financial gaps until they can resume normal operations or until other more permanent financing becomes available. More information is available [here](#), and the application is available [here](#).