

# Resources for Small Businesses Impacted by the COVID-19 Pandemic

#SupportSeattleSmallBiz  
#WeGotThisSeattle



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*The City of Seattle has prepared this resource for small businesses impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Due to the rapidly changing nature of the crisis, and additional City, county, state, and federal programs being expanded or established, this information is subject to change. For the latest information, please visit: [www.seattle.gov/mayor/covid-19](http://www.seattle.gov/mayor/covid-19). If you have any medical or health care questions about the coronavirus outbreak, please visit: [Public Health - Seattle & King County](#).*

## City of Seattle Resources

**Education, Outreach, and New Enforcement Measures for Businesses:** Building off of the City's recent announcement to [increase education and outreach efforts](#), Mayor Jenny Durkan announced that the Department of Finance and Administrative Services (FAS) has issued a new public health and [safety measure](#) to enforce state-mandated business requirements, including protective face coverings, social distancing and capacity limitations. For customers, residents or employees who have concerns about non-compliance, FAS will conduct outreach, provide education, and help to enforce [Governor Inslee's Safe Start plan](#) in non-food business establishments across the city. Public Health – Seattle & King County has expanded efforts to educate and enforce protections in food establishments, with FAS in a supporting role.

Effective immediately, FAS will begin implementing the new measure through the use of a Director's Rule. Understanding the complexities of navigating the COVID-19 environment, the City's focus is primarily to conduct outreach and education to help businesses comply with the [new rule](#). With repeated and/or egregious offenses, businesses may have their City of Seattle business license suspended and may be charged with a crime that carries a maximum penalty of up to 364 days in jail and a \$5,000 fine. [Read more.](#)

**Free Street Use Permits:** The Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) will immediately begin accepting street use permit applications, which allow restaurants, retail stores, vending trucks and carts to operate in the sidewalk or curb space in front of their business. The free SDOT [flexible temporary street use permit options](#) are for sidewalk cafes, merchandise displays, and food and other vending. These temporary permits will be available for up to six months. [Learn more here.](#)

**Phase 2 Reopening Toolkits:** The City is launching a series of Phase 2 reopening toolkits [to help small businesses authorized to reopen under the Governor's guidance navigate public health requirements and financial considerations](#). The reopening toolkits are not intended to provide public health guidance, but are meant to distill information from the state and county and make reopening guidance more accessible. The toolkits provide critical information for small business owners, including a reopening checklist, resources to access Personal Protective Equipment and financial assistance, testing information, and rent and commercial lease assistance. The City has toolkits for the following industries:

- [Restaurants and taverns](#)

- [Personal services](#)
- [Professional services](#)
- [In-store retail](#)
- [Fitness and training](#)
- [Domestic services](#)

The toolkits are available on the City's [new reopening website](#), and are translated into Amharic, Chinese, Korean, Somali, Spanish, and Vietnamese.

***Moratorium on Evictions of Small Businesses and Nonprofits:*** Mayor Durkan signed an Executive Order to extend the moratorium on residential, nonprofit, and small business evictions in the City of Seattle until August 1, 2020. The moratorium on nonprofit and small business evictions impacts independently-owned businesses with 50 employees or fewer per establishment, state nonprofits, and 501(c)(3) nonprofits. Along with halting evictions, the order also prevents eligible small businesses and nonprofits from incurring late fees, interest, or other charges due to late payment during the moratorium. [You can learn more here.](#)

***Free COVID-19 Testing:*** The City of Seattle, King County and UW Medicine have launched two drive-up-testing locations in north and south Seattle. Testing will be available Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Clients are strongly encouraged to book ahead by visiting [www.seattle.gov/covid-19-testing](http://www.seattle.gov/covid-19-testing). The City is urging anyone with symptoms, or with 15 minutes or longer exposure to someone with COVID-19 within the past two weeks to get tested. Additionally, anyone who has attended a recent march or rally can get tested even if they are not displaying symptoms.

***COVID-19 Lease Amendment Toolkit:*** The City of Seattle's Office of Economic Development (OED) has partnered with Communities Rise and Perkins Coie to launch a new toolkit to help small businesses and nonprofit organizations impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic explore options for their commercial leases with a goal of remaining in their spaces. Building on [the eviction moratorium for small businesses and nonprofits signed by Mayor Durkan](#), the new [COVID-19 Lease Amendment Toolkit](#) for small businesses and nonprofits provides a suite of tools – including template lease amendment language – to assist small businesses and nonprofits who are navigating the negotiation of their commercial leases with their landlords. Small businesses and nonprofits that have 50 or fewer employees are also eligible for a free, 60-minute [consultation](#) with a legal professional to assist with any COVID-19 commercial lease-related questions. Businesses and nonprofits can access the toolkit [here](#).

***Seattle Protects:*** Public Health – Seattle & King County announced a [health directive](#) for all workers and residents to wear cloth face coverings in all indoor public settings and outdoor public spaces where maintaining social distancing could be difficult. The directive took effect on May 18, 2020. The City heard from many small business owners who were struggling to source face coverings and other Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for their employees. That's why the City created Seattle Protects, which is a new online marketplace to connect local manufacturers with organizations, businesses, nonprofits, community groups, and individuals in need of cloth face coverings. Visit the [marketplace](#) to browse local manufacturers' inventory.

***Utility Payment Relief:*** Small businesses that have been financially impacted by COVID-19 now have additional flexibility to defer their utility payments to the City of Seattle. To set up a deferred utility payment plan, call Seattle City Light or Seattle Public Utilities at 206-684-3000, or send an email [here](#). We'll be sure to keep your lights on and your water running in the meantime, regardless of your ability to pay.

***B&O Tax Deferment:*** Small business owners with an annual taxable income of \$5 million or less can defer on their quarterly B&O tax payments to preserve cash on hand and ease the financial burden caused by COVID-19. If you have questions about this source of tax relief during the epidemic, please call (206) 684-8484 or email: [tax@seattle.gov](mailto:tax@seattle.gov).

**The Seattle Public Library:** The Seattle Public Library (SPL) is helping businesses find accurate market data to pivot and explore the viability of new services and products and start new businesses too. SPL also provides nonprofits with remote access to a valuable grant seeking database called the Foundation Directory.

[Click here to learn more.](#)

**Technical Assistance:** The Office of Economic Development (OED) provides technical assistance to small businesses to:

- Understand available financial resources, including loans and grants.
- Check eligibility for loans and other resources.
- Apply for Small Business Administration loans and complete the application, including Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), SBA Express Bridge Loans, and SBA Debt Relief.

Please call the Seattle Office of Economic Development at 206-684-8090 from Monday to Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. or email OED at [oed@seattle.gov](mailto:oed@seattle.gov) anytime to receive free assistance. You can ask for language assistance and receive interpretation over the phone. For businesses outside Seattle, Washington State resources can be found [here](#).

**Bi-Weekly Webinars with the Office of Economic Development:** OED hosts bi-weekly webinars for small businesses to share new developments, hear about the impacts you are experiencing, and answer your questions. Please join us every Wednesday, from 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.. Register at <https://bottomline.seattle.gov/>.

**Communities Rise:** The Communities Rise COVID-19 legal clinics are an opportunity for Washington State entrepreneurs, small businesses, community organizations, and nonprofits who have suffered adversely from the impact of the COVID-19 crisis to receive free legal advice during a 45-minute remote consultation with a volunteer attorney. [Learn more here.](#)

## King County Resources

**King County Small Business Task Force:** King County has launched an updated [Safe Start website](#) that will be updated with information and resources. The next webinar is on **Friday, July 24 at 2:30PM** and will focus on the restaurant and food service industries. [Learn more.](#)

**Safe Start Kits:** Chambers and business organizations around the region have come together in partnership with King County to provide Safe Start Kits. These kits provide cloth face coverings, disposable masks, and hand sanitizer to businesses in King County to help keep employees healthy and safe. To pick up or have your kit shipped (shipping fees apply), [click here](#).

**Pick up dates:**

- **July 24—Seattle (SODO) 10:15 a.m.-2:15 p.m.**
- **July 28—White Center 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.**
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**COVID-19 Posters for Staff and Customers:** Public Health - Seattle & King County has posters for businesses to help inform staff and customers on the latest COVID-19 guidance. Posters are available [Amharic](#), Chinese ([Traditional](#) and [Simplified](#)), [Khmer](#), [Korean](#), [Marshallese](#), [Russian](#), [Samoan](#), [Somali](#), [Spanish](#), [Thai](#), [Tongan](#), and [Vietnamese](#). [Learn more here.](#)

## State of Washington Resources



## Nonprofit, Private, and Philanthropic Resources

**Visa:** IFundWomen Grant Program for Black women-owned businesses: Visa has extended its partnership with [IFundWomen](#) to support Black women-owned small businesses in the United States through a new grant program and educational resources. Applications are now being accepted. The deadline to apply is July 31, 2020. Find out more [here](#).

**Lowe's Home Improvement and LISC Small Business Grant:** Lowe's Home Improvement and Local Initiatives Support Corporation are reopening their Small Business Relief Grant July 27. Grants will be made in amounts ranging from \$5,000 to \$20,000 and can be used to meet small business owners most immediate needs. Of the \$55 million funding, \$30 million will focus on small businesses owned or led by minorities and women, who often lack access to affordable capital. Learn more [here](#).

**GSBA & Ventures Small Business Incubator :** The application for the next quarter of the GSBA & Ventures Nonprofit Small Business Incubator is now open! Designed to empower trans and gender-diverse business owners, and LGBTQ BIPOC entrepreneurs, the Small Business Incubator takes students through an immersive, eight-week business learning experience. At a sliding-scale cost, participants attend Ventures' Business Basics Course, receive a free one-year GSBA Membership, access to consultation with GSBA VP of Membership & Programs Ilona Lohrey (she/her), and more. The application closes on Sunday, August 9 with courses beginning in September. [Apply here](#).

**Free Printable Templates For Coronavirus Signage:** Signs.com is offering free printable health and closure sign templates related to the COVID-19 Coronavirus. To browse available templates and for more information, visit their [website](#).

**Digital Undivided:** The Doonie Fund makes micro investments in Black women entrepreneurs. Grants will be awarded while funds are still available. To [apply, visit their website](#).

**Red Backpack Fund:** Global Giving will be awarding grants of \$5,000 each to female entrepreneurs in the U.S. to help alleviate immediate needs and support the long-term recovery of those impacted by Covid-19. Grants will be awarded until funds runs out. Visit the [website](#) for more information.

**GoFundMe:** The GoFundMe Small Business Relief Initiative is intended to support our local businesses facing financial loss. Search live campaigns by visiting the [GoFundMe website](#).

**Amazon's Neighborhood Small Business Relief Fund:** Amazon has launched a fund to support neighborhood small businesses in Seattle (South Lake Union and Regrade neighborhoods) and Bellevue. Eligible small businesses will need to: 1) have fewer than 50 employees or less than \$7 million in annual revenue; 2) be service or retail establishments open to the general public (dental establishments and corporate offices for instance, will not qualify). Grants will be awarded until funds runs out. Eligible small businesses can apply [here](#).

**The Seattle Sounders FC Relief Fund :** This fund was established by RAVE Foundation to support individuals, small businesses, and nonprofits located in CenturyLink Field and in the neighborhoods surrounding CenturyLink Field that have been adversely impacted by the postponement of the 2020 MLS season due to COVID-19. Grants will be awarded until funds runs out To find out more and apply for benefits, see their [website](#).

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