

PREPARING FOR THE SECOND ROUND OF COVID-19 RELIEF FUNDING

The University of Georgia's Small Business Development Center (SBDC) has put together resources detailing the second round of COVID-19 relief funding, including updates to the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL), US Small Business Administration (SBA) Guaranteed Debt Relief, targeted programs for hardest hit and disadvantaged businesses, and tax treatments for PPP forgiveness and debt relief payments.

The SBDC will also provide recommendations for actions to take now in order to best prepare to take advantage of these programs once the SBA releases guidelines on new programs. To register for a live webinar or to view a pre-recording, visit: <https://www.georgiasbdc.org/2nd-round-covid-funding-webinars/>.

Key Components of the new funding programs include:

PPP Second Draw (PPP2)

The Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) is a loan designed to provide a direct incentive for small businesses to keep their workers on the payroll.

The CARES Act first introduced the PPP in March 2020. CARES ACT PPP applications closed on August 8, 2020. The new Economic Aid to Hard-Hit Small Businesses, Nonprofits and Venues Act re-introduced the program, referred to throughout this page as PPP2. Loans are available through March 31, 2021.

Businesses eligible for the PPP2 include: small businesses (employing less than 300 employees), independent contractors, sole proprietors, and self-employed persons that have experienced at least one quarter in 2020 with revenues >25% below corresponding 2019 quarter. Eligible businesses have to have been in business as of February 15, 2020 and must have used or will use full amount of initial PPP loan funds (PPP1).

The PPP2 includes additional eligible expenses outside of payroll, including operations expenditures, property damage costs, supplier costs, worker protection expenditure, and employer-provided group insurance.

501(c)(6) now eligible, but cannot have more than 15% of its revenue from lobbying efforts.

Targeted COVID-19 Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) Advance Changes

Emergency EIDLs have been extended through Dec. 31, 2021. To qualify for the full \$10,000 EIDL, a business must be located in a low-income community, have suffered an economic loss greater than 30%, and employ no more than 300 employees. In addition, the business must qualify as an eligible entity as defined in the CARES Act:

- A small business, cooperative, ESOP Tribal concern, with fewer than 300 employees

"ECONOMIC LOSS"

The term "economic loss" means, with respect to a covered entity:

(A) The amount by which the gross receipts of the covered entity declined during an 8-week period between March 2, 2020, and December 31, 2021, relative to a comparable 8-week period immediately preceding March 2, 2020, or during 2019; or

(B) If the covered entity is a seasonal business concern, such other amount determined appropriate by the Administrator.

- An individual who operates under as a sole proprietorship, with or without employees, or as an independent contractor; or a private non-profit or small agricultural cooperative.
- The business must have been in operation by January 31, 2020.
- The business must be directly affected by COVID-19.

The second round of relief funding repeals the EIDL Advance Deduction from forgiveness (those already forgiven will be 'made whole'). It provides targeted advances to eligible entities, including providing a \$10k grant to those who did not get grants because funding had run out.

SBA Guaranteed Loan Debt Relief pays an additional three months of principal and interest (P&I) on existing 7(a), 504 and Microloans, beginning February 2021 and capped at \$9,000 per month. After the initial three months, businesses with selected NAICS codes will receive an additional five months of P&I payments, capped at \$9000 per month. The second round also pays six months of P&I for any new SBA-guaranteed loans approved before Sept. 30, 2021.

Additional improvements include an increased SBA guarantee level to 90% and reduction or elimination of some fees.

Grants for Shuttered Venue Operators

The new Act provides \$15B for SBA grants to theatrical producers, talent representatives, and operators of live venues, live performing arts organizations, museums, and independent motion picture theatres that demonstrate a 25% reduction in revenue. Two-billion dollars of this funding is set-aside for those with less than 50 employees.

Timing of Grants:

- Initial 14 days: grants will be exclusively awarded to those with 90%-or-greater revenue loss.
- 14-28 days: grants will be awarded to those with 70% or greater revenue loss.
- After the initial 28 days: all other qualifying entities will be considered.

If an entity receives PPP2 funding, it is ineligible for Shuttered Venue Operator grant funding.

For more information on economic resources related to COVID-19 and current economics in the region, contact **Noah**

Roenitz, NEGRC Economic Resilience Coordinator, at **nroenitz@negrc.org**. Visit the SBDC website for additional information on small business assistance: **<https://www.georgiasbdc.org>**.

DCA RELEASES 2021 SCHEDULE OF SURVEYS AND REPORTS

In addition to Georgia's comprehensive planning and service-delivery strategy requirements, all counties, municipalities, and local authorities must report annually to the Department of Community Affairs' (DCA) Office of Research and Surveys. The 2021 reporting calendar is now available through the DCA's website at: **<https://bit.ly/3hJ3F2U>** OR **https://www.dca.ga.gov/sites/default/files/2021_dca_office_of_research_reporting_calendar.pdf**

Requirements for local governments include Contact Information, Government Management Indicators Survey (GOMI), Wage & Salary Survey (*voluntary*), Hotel/Motel Tax Report (*where applicable*), Report of Local Government Finances (RLGF), and Debt Issuance Report. Local authorities must provide DCA with information related to registration, finances, and debt issuance.

Local governments must have submitted the three most recent calendar years' GOMI surveys and the three most recent fiscal years' RLGF to be eligible for any funding administered by DCA. Compliance status is listed at: **<https://www.dca.ga.gov/node/5784>**

Since the Regional Commissions do not work directly with the State of Georgia on Surveys and Reports, **please use the following DCA contacts for questions and additional information:**

General Information (Including authorities)

DCA.Research@dca.ga.gov

Local Government Contact Information, GOMI, Wage & Salary Survey, New Authority Registration

Norma Allen, (404) 679-3132

norma.allen@dca.ga.gov

Hotel/Motel Tax, Local Gov. Finances, Debt Issuance (Local Gov. and Authorities)

Jackson Lilly, (404) 679-3105

jackson.lilly@dca.ga.gov

Combined Authority Registration and Financial Report

DCA.Research@dca.ga.gov

IN SPITE OF COVID!

Congratulations to **Jerry Rivera**, a 2020 graduate of Athens Technical College's Nursing Program. Jerry had almost completed his program, when the Covid-19 pandemic hit. Athens Technical College moved to online instruction for a period of time, leaving Jerry to wonder when he was going to be able to finish his program. To complete the Nursing Program, a student is required to complete a certain number of clinical hours, which would have been difficult if his advisor had not worked with him closely to ensure he completed these. Even with the changes due to Covid-19, Jerry was able to complete his program and graduate on time in April 2020. He is employed full-time at Piedmont Healthcare as a Registered Nurse, and is thankful for the assistance he received through WIOA. We are thankful for our students who are working in the medical field, helping patients during this difficult time.



Jerry Rivera, RN

Jerry's testimonial is below:

"When I say the words, "I couldn't make it through nursing school without WIOA," I MEAN IT. The Workforce Development program exceeded my expectations, as they assisted me throughout my nursing education. WIOA without question paid for my books and compensated transportation every semester, helped fund my tuition, paid me wages for internship hours, and bought me a new stethoscope when the one I personally bought was lost. Even when my HOPE scholarship failed to cover what I needed, WIOA told me not to worry. Dr. Pearce is a SUPER advisor. There was never a time in which I felt alone in school or lost. She showed a genuine interest in my education and would take time out of her schedule to talk to me about my progress. Without WIOA, I wouldn't be getting up at 6:45am for a shift and waking up each day with the pride of being a Registered Nurse. *It is truly a blessing that this program exists.*"

For information on WorkSource Northeast Georgia WIOA programs, contact the NEGRC Workforce Development Division at **(706) 369-5703**.

GEORGE CHANDLER MEMORIALIZED IN WINTERVILLE PARK

This year, the City of Winterville is constructing a 'pocket park' dedicated to **George H. Chandler**, who passed away October 15, 2020. Mr. Chandler was a native 'Winterville' and pursued a life-long career as a civil engineer in both the public and private sectors. In retirement, he volunteered his services and expertise to Winterville in public-infrastructure projects, planning, and other efforts. He was also a familiar face to many NEGRC staff who worked with him over the years. He was a graduate of Southern Polytechnic State University and Tennessee Tech University with a degree in Civil Engineering. He also served in the US Army as a 1st Lieutenant.

The park is envisioned as a "mindfulness garden," designed to celebrate diversity and inclusivity. It will provide a rest area for Winterville residents and visitors using the Firefly Trail. This park is a collaborative effort between the City of Winterville, the Winterville Civitan Club, and other organizations. George Chandler embodied the spirit of the City of Winterville and his dedication and passion for the City and its community will be immortalized by the creation of "Chandler Park." The park will occupy the green space bordered by the Front Porch Bookstore's mural wall, Winterville City Hall, and the historic Blacksmith Shop. The site will also include a commissioned bicycle as public art, symbolizing Chandler's contributions to the City. Donations are welcomed and more information on how to help fund the park will be forthcoming and posted on the City of Winterville's website at www.cityofwinterville.com.





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Update

REGIONAL MEETINGS FEBRUARY

18 th	11:00 a.m.	NEGRC Council Meeting	Telephonic
11 th -12 th		DCA CDBG Applicants' Workshop	Virtual
4 th	10:00 a.m. – Noon	GARC Meeting with Policy Officials	Telephonic
16 th	1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Aging Advisory Council Meeting	Virtual
19 th	10:00 a.m. – Noon	Senior Center Director's Meeting	Virtual