



March 25, 2020

Business & Employee Resources for Challenges of COVID-19

Explore Asheville is continuing efforts to quickly identify resources for businesses as we work together through the challenges of COVID-19.

“STAY HOME STAY SAFE” DECLARATION

- This afternoon Buncombe County issued a "Stay Home Stay Safe" declaration to supplement the earlier State of Emergency declaration, which goes into effect at **8 PM tomorrow, March 26** and remains until 6 AM on April 6. The detailed document provides information on the definitions of "essential businesses" and "essential activities." >> [Download the "Stay Home Stay Safe" Emergency Declaration here.](#)
- A simplified version of the declaration provides an overview and includes information on how to apply for classification as an "essential business." >> [Download the "Stay Home Stay Safe" Interpretive Guidance document here.](#)

FINANCE & BUSINESS RESILIENCY

- **RAPID RECOVERY LENDING PROGRAM: Eligible Businesses Can Receive Loans for up to \$50,000.** Mountain BizWorks and the [Golden LEAF Foundation](#) announced yesterday the availability of bridge loan financing for eligible businesses impacted by COVID-19. Businesses can receive loans for up to \$50,000 with zero interest and no payments for six months, followed by 48 months of principal and interest payments at 5.5% interest. These are meant to help businesses that need financing until they can access SBA Disaster or other federal disaster funding. >> [Learn details.](#)

- **WEBINAR: “NC Tourism Amid COVID-19.”** Visit NC is hosting an update on the tourism industry and statewide resources amid the COVID-19 outbreak. Topics include a discussion on financial assistance available for North Carolina businesses and unemployment and re-employment news for NC, March 26, 10 – 11 AM. >> [Register here.](#)
 - **WEBINAR: “Updated Emergency Business Planning for Local Business Leaders.”** Bill Gilliland of ActionCoach will share 11 steps that business owners and leaders can implement now to survive and thrive through the economic impacts of COVID-19, March 26, 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM. >> [Register here.](#)
 - **VIDEO: “Business Continuity & Lending in the COVID-19 Crisis.”** Asheville Area Chamber of Commerce hosted a Virtual Town Hall on Tuesday with panelists from SBTDC (Small Business & Technology Development Center), Western Women's Business Center, Mountain BizWorks, and First Bank. At publication time, the video had not yet been posted, but will be soon. >> [Video link will be posted here.](#)
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EMPLOYMENT RESOURCES

- **VIDEO: “Employment Considerations in the COVID-19 Crisis.”** Asheville Area Chamber of Commerce hosted a Virtual Town Hall on Monday with panelists from the Mountain Area Workforce Development Board, NCWORKS Asheville, the Emergency Operations Center for Buncombe County and Roberts and Stevens law firm. >> [View the video here.](#)
 - **EMPLOYMENT OP: Businesses with laid-off employees are encouraged to share this information.** The U.S. Census Bureau is seeking temporary workers. Pay is \$19 an hour with no impact on applying for benefits. >> [More info here.](#)
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BUSINESS IMPACTS

- **UPDATE YOUR INFO:** The Explore Asheville team is continuing to provide information on changes with partner businesses – updated hours,

temporary closures, etc. – for [this page](#). >> **Send your updates to us at news@exploreasheville.com.**

- **TAKE A SURVEY:** The Asheville Area Chamber of Commerce is continuing to collect responses to a 3-minute survey to share how your business is responding to COVID-19 and what resources you may need. Responses will inform Chamber discussions with elected officials about emergency services and relief. >> **[If you haven't yet responded, here's the info.](#)**

FIND MORE RESOURCES

- We are constantly updating our business resource page on our industry website. >> **[Be sure to bookmark this page and check back frequently.](#)**



Explore Asheville Convention & Visitors Bureau
27 College Place • Asheville, North Carolina 28801
ExploreAshevilleCVB.com | (828) 210-2724

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