

The following is a resource for healthcare providers operating small businesses and are interested in loans or financial assistance related to COVID-19. Additional information will be added to this document as new developments arise.

SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loans

- The U.S. Small Business Administration offers low-interest federal disaster loans for working capital to small businesses suffering substantial economic injury as a result of the Coronavirus (COVID-19).
- These loans are available statewide to small businesses and private, non-profit organizations.
- SBA's Economic Injury Disaster Loans offer up to \$2 million in assistance and can provide vital economic support to small businesses to help overcome the temporary loss of revenue they are experiencing.
- These loans may be used to pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable and other bills that can't be paid because of the disaster's impact.
- The interest rate is 3.75% for small businesses. The interest rate for non-profits is 2.75%.
- SBA offers loans with long-term repayments in order to keep payments affordable, up to a maximum of 30 years. Terms are determined on a case-by-case basis, based upon each borrower's ability to repay.
- To apply for assistance online, go to: <https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/disaster-assistance>
- For questions, please contact the SBA disaster assistance customer service center at 1-800-659-2955 (TTY: 1-800-877-8339) or e-mail disastercustomerservice@sba.gov.
- More information is available at: <https://www.sba.gov/disaster-assistance/coronavirus-covid-19>.

SBA Paycheck Protection Program

- This initiative provides 100% federally guaranteed loans to small businesses (generally 500 or fewer employees).
- Loans may be forgiven if borrowers maintain their payrolls during the crisis or restore their payrolls afterward.
- Loans can be up to 2.5 times the borrower's average monthly payroll costs, not to exceed \$10 million.
- Loans will be made available through local lenders in conjunction with the U.S. Small Business Administration.
- For additional details and application information: <https://www.ncmedsoc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Paycheck-Protection-Program-SBA.pdf>

North Carolina COVID-19 Rapid Recovery for Small Businesses (Supported by Golden Leaf Foundation):

- The NC Rapid Recovery Program is a loan program for small businesses including healthcare providers.
- The program is supported by the Golden Leaf Foundation and other lending partners.

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NC AHEC PRACTICE SUPPORT

- The loans are granted up to \$50,000, based on the business' current revenue, and capped at two months of current revenue.
- Terms are six months of 0% interest and no payments, followed by 48 months of principal and interest payment of 5.5%.
- Eligibility criteria include the following: applicant must be a NC small business affected by COVID-19, must have at least one employee (can be the self-employed owner), start-up operations must have begun prior to March 23, 2020.
- To apply for assistance online or for more information: <https://ncrapidrecovery.org/>

CMS COVID-19 Relief for Medicare Providers

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced an expansion of its accelerated and advance payment program for Medicare participating health care providers and suppliers. This is to ensure providers and suppliers have the resources necessary to combat the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19).

- Accelerated and advance Medicare payments provide emergency funding and address cash flow issues based on historical payments when there is disruption in claims submission and/or claims processing.
- Most providers will be able to request an advance of up to 100% of their Medicare reimbursement amount for a three month period.

To qualify for accelerated or advance payments, the provider or supplier must:

- Have billed Medicare for claims within 180 days immediately prior to the date of signature on the provider's/ supplier's request form
- Not be in bankruptcy,
- Not be under active medical review or program integrity investigation, and
- Not have any outstanding delinquent Medicare overpayments.

Medicare will start accepting and processing the Accelerated/Advance Payment Requests immediately.

- CMS anticipates that the payments will be issued within seven days of the provider's request.
- An informational fact sheet and application information are listed at this site: <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/Accelerated-and-Advanced-Payments-Fact-Sheet.pdf>.

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