



Economic Development COVID-19 Update

A few updates and resources for everyone. As always, remember you may contact our office directly with questions or if you need more assistance on a specific provision. We're happy to speak one-on-one with business leaders to discuss your unique needs.

Unemployment Insurance: Our office held a call with Kansas Dept of Labor Secretary Delia Garcia and her staff on Wednesday to get an update on the new Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) program. This program was authorized in the Phase 3 CARES Act as a way to help those not previously eligible for unemployment. The program is not yet in effect but the Secretary offered a few good reminders for employees and employers:

- Everyone must first apply for unemployment through getkansasbenefits.gov and be denied for traditional unemployment benefits before being eligible for PUA. If you believe you will be eligible for PUA, please go ahead and begin the online application process for traditional unemployment so that you will have the denial notice in hand.
- If employers are going to lay off several employees, the Secretary asked to please use the spreadsheet application to file those claims at one time, instead of having each employee file separately. Click here to access those forms: <https://www.kansasemployer.gov/uitax/Tax/LayoffSelect.aspx>
- Secretary Delia was unsure of the start date for the PUA but said all updates and a link to the online application portal will be available at getkansasbenefits.gov

SBA Call: Our office will be facilitating two calls with the Wichita SBA next Tuesday, April 7, to provide more information on the Payroll Protection Act. One call is for lenders, the other for business owners. Call in information for both is below. A few updates on the PPL program:

- Non-profits and small businesses can begin applying tomorrow, Friday, April 3; Sole proprietorships and contractors can begin applying Friday, April 10
- Any federally insured lender can submit the application – they do not have to have previously worked with the SBA
- If you are unsure if you qualify, please refer to the NAIC code to see if the SBA determines the standard size of your business by employee or total receipts
- The Treasury has put together a great resource page on all of the various provisions and requirements of the PPL and it can be found here: <https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/top-priorities/cares-act/assistance-for-small-businesses>

Lenders Call with Wichita SBA

Tuesday, April 7
9:15 a.m.
Call: (701) 791-9772

Business Owners Call with Wichita SBA

Tuesday, April 7
10:30 a.m.
Call: (701) 791-9772

FMLA/Sick Leave Provisions: A quick reminder that the expanded FMLA/Sick Leave provisions authorized under the Phase 2 legislation went into effect Wednesday, April 1, but the Dept of Labor has indicated they won't begin full enforcement until April 17. If you still have questions about those provisions, please let us know. The DOL has published additional guidance and FAQs at: <https://www.dol.gov>

Agriculture Provisions/Payments: Many have asked about payments for farmers and ranchers through the USDA. Right now we are still awaiting details and more guidance on how they plan to allocate the funding provided to the USDA in the CARES Act. Congressman Marshall joined a group of House and Senate members on a letter sent to USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue urging him to please act swiftly as many of our ranchers are hurting and need some assistance to get through these difficult market conditions. As soon as we know more, we will be passing it along to you all.

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