

Application process now live for Michigan Small Business Relief Program funding

- ***Up to \$20 million in grants and loans now available to Michigan's small businesses impacted by COVID-19 outbreak***
- ***Grants and loans to support businesses facing drastic reductions in cash flow***
- ***Program now accepting applications, with key information available at michiganbusiness.org/covid19***

LANSING, Mich. – Michigan's small businesses impacted by the COVID-19 virus can now apply for grants and loans through the Michigan Small Business Relief Program, the Michigan Economic Development Corporation announced today. The program will provide up to \$20 million in grants and loans to provide economic assistance to Michigan's small businesses that have been negatively impacted by the COVID-19 virus, and in turn help support workers and their families facing economic uncertainty during the outbreak. Information on how to apply, as well as eligibility criteria, is available at www.michiganbusiness.org/covid19.

"Small businesses across our state are facing unprecedented challenges as we take every step possible to mitigate the spread of coronavirus," said Governor Gretchen Whitmer. "With this funding, we can provide real assistance to support our businesses, communities, entrepreneurs and workers around the state impacted by the tough, but necessary actions we are taking to mitigate the spread of this virus."

The grants and loans under the Michigan Small Business Relief Program will support businesses facing drastic reductions in cash flow and the continued support of their workforce and may be used for working capital to support payroll expenses, rent, mortgage payments, utility expenses, or other similar expenses that occur in the ordinary course of business.

Key information to know about the application process includes:

- There is one application, regardless of whether a business is applying for a grant or a loan. A business may receive a grant or a loan, but not both.
- Businesses who do not receive grants may still be considered for loans.
- The grants will be administrated by 15 regional economic development organizations throughout the state, which combined cover all 83 counties in Michigan.
- All applications or recommendations for Michigan Small Business Relief Program loans will be referred from the partner EDOs to the MEDC for evaluation and disbursement.
- Businesses should go to <https://www.michiganbusiness.org/covid19/> to apply.

The [Michigan Small Business Relief Program](#) grants, authorized by the Michigan Strategic Fund on March 19, will be administered by 15 local and nonprofit economic development organizations (EDOs) around Michigan, covering all 83 counties in the state. These EDOs are responsible for reviewing applications of small businesses in their region and entering into agreements with eligible small businesses. Each EDO will establish a review committee that may include representatives from local workforce agencies, local SBDC representatives, business and nonprofit leaders, among others. The full list of EDOs administering Michigan Small Business Relief grants and the counties they will serve is below.

Local and nonprofit EDOs across Michigan applied for the grant funds and were selected based on capacity to administer the program and ensure coverage to small businesses in all 83 counties in Michigan.

The \$10 million in loans through the Michigan Small Business Relief Program will be referred to the MEDC from the local EDO partners where it will be reviewed by a loan review committee including the Chief Business Development Officer and Senior Vice President of Business Development Projects. All loans made through the Michigan Small Business Relief Program will be approved through Michigan Strategic Fund delegated authority.

“We know small businesses across the state are struggling right now, and we are leveraging every resource available to provide relief in the face of these challenging economic circumstances,” said MEDC CEO Mark A. Burton. “The Michigan Small Business Relief Program will provide immediate assistance to support the health and sustainability of the state’s small businesses, communities and residents.”

The MEDC anticipates that at least 1,100 businesses across the state will benefit from this program.

Approved economic development organizations:

Lakeshore Advantage was awarded by Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) the opportunity to administer the Michigan Small Business Relief grant and loan program in Allegan and Ottawa Counties.

Grant: Lakeshore Advantage will receive \$300,000 in grant money available for Allegan and Ottawa County small businesses with fewer than 50 employees, with a maximum grant amount of \$10,000. Our team will be working with our local Chambers and banking leaders to carefully vet the limited number of businesses funded.

Loan: Are between \$50,000-\$200,000 Lakeshore Advantage will be working with local banking leaders to vet and process these applications. MEDC will make the final funding decisions for this program.

| Applicant | Amount | Counties Covered |
|---|-------------|--|
| Invest UP | \$500,000 | Keweenaw, Houghton, Ontonagon, Gogebic, Baraga, Iron, Marquette, Dickinson, Menominee, Alger, Delta, Schoolcraft, Luce, Mackinac, Chippewa |
| Networks Northwest | \$500,000 | Emmet, Grand Traverse, Charlevoix, Antrim, Kalkaska, Missaukee, Wexford, Manistee, Benzie, Leelanau |
| Otsego County Economic Alliance | \$200,000 | Otsego, Crawford, Roscommon, Montmorency, Ogemaw, Oscoda |
| Target Alpena | \$200,000 | Iosco, Alcona, Alpena, Presque Isle, Cheboygan |
| The Right Place | \$1,000,000 | Barry, Ionia, Kent, Lake, Mason, Mecosta, Montcalm, Muskegon, Newaygo, Oceana, Osceola |
| Lakeshore Advantage | \$300,000 | Allegan, Ottawa |
| Middle Michigan Development Corporation | \$200,000 | Isabella, Gratiot, Clare, Gladwin |
| Saginaw Future | \$400,000 | Arenac, Bay, Midland, Saginaw |
| Flint & Genesee Chamber | \$850,000 | Shiawassee, Genesee, Lapeer, St. Clair, Tuscola, Sanilac, Huron |
| Lansing Economic Area Partnership | \$600,000 | Clinton, Eaton, Ingham |
| Southwest Michigan First | \$800,000 | Kalamazoo, St. Joseph, Berrien, Calhoun, Van Buren, Cass, Branch |
| Ann Arbor Spark | \$900,000 | Livingston, Washtenaw, Hillsdale, Jackson, Lenawee, Monroe |
| Oakland County | \$1,150,000 | Oakland |
| Macomb Country | \$800,000 | Macomb |
| Detroit Economic Growth Corporation | \$1,600,000 | Wayne County |

Applications for both the grant and the loan (same application for both programs) in Allegan and Ottawa Counties open at www.lakeshoreadvantage.com/covid-19 on Monday, March 30 and close Friday, April 6 at 5pm.

In addition to the Michigan Small Business Relief Program, michiganbusiness.org/covid19 also features other resources for businesses across Michigan to assist them in recovering from economic losses as a result of the COVID-19 virus. This includes U.S. Small Business Administration emergency loans, the [Pure Michigan Business Connect virtual procurement and donation platform](#), support services offered through the SBDC and more. The MEDC has also developed a FAQ for Michigan businesses and communities at michiganbusiness.org/covid19-faq.

Information around this outbreak is changing rapidly. The latest information is available at Michigan.gov/Coronavirus and CDC.gov/Coronavirus.

About Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC)

The Michigan Economic Development Corporation is the state's marketing arm and lead advocate for business development, job awareness and community development with the focus on growing Michigan's economy. For more information on the MEDC and our initiatives, visit www.MichiganBusiness.org. For Pure Michigan® tourism information, your trip begins at www.michigan.org. Join the conversation on: [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [Twitter](#).

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