



REGIONAL SOLUTIONS OFFICE GOVERNOR KATE BROWN

Employment and Economic Response to COVID-19 Weekly Summary: Sunday, April 19

This digest is a compilation of information and resources related to employment, commerce and economic development issues surrounding COVID-19. There are numerous online resources for those seeking health-related information, including daily COVID-19 updates from the Oregon Health Authority at <https://govstatus.egov.com/OR-OHA-COVID-19>.

Business Resources

The U.S. Small Business Administration released a short summary of the reach of the Paycheck Protection Program. The report provides a state-by-state breakdown of loans and total funding provided to date through the program. [Read the summary](#).

State Fire Marshal Extends Rules Change Allowing Self-Service at Oregon Gas Stations through April 25: The Office of State Fire Marshal extended a temporary rules change that allows Oregon gas stations to provide self-service on a voluntary basis, in order to address shortages of workers experienced by gas retailers statewide.

The Council of Development Finance Agencies is hosting a [series of webinars](#) aimed at connecting businesses and projects within the food system to development finance tools, such as bonds, tax increment finance, tax credits, revolving loan funds, and more, to create equitable local and regional food systems. The first webinar is on April 16, 11:00 a.m.

The Oregon Manufacturing Extension Partnership has opened grant funding for businesses that are retooling to supply COVID-19 related products or supplies, including personal protective equipment, or PPE. Manufacturers who are interested in retooling to meet critical supply needs, build innovative products or who need workforce training to meet covid19 demands can email OMEPs Jasmine Agnor at jagnor@omep.org.

USDA Unveils Tool to Help Rural Communities Address the COVID-19 Pandemic: Today the U.S. Department of Agriculture unveiled a one-stop-shop of federal programs that can be used by rural communities, organizations and individuals impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. [The COVID-19 Federal Rural Resource Guide](#) is a resource for rural leaders looking for federal funding and partnership opportunities to help address the pandemic.

Business agencies offer COVID-19 webinar for Spanish speakers: Several agencies are co-hosting a webinar from 1 to 2 p.m. on Thursday, April 16 for Spanish speaking business owners. The topic is response programs for small business owners, including loans and grants. [Learn more](#).

The Oregon Community Foundation and several partners will hold a virtual town hall from 9 to 10 a.m. on Thursday, April 16 to talk about support for Oregon small businesses suffering from the pandemic. Register [here](#).

The Paycheck Protection Program continues to generate considerable interest and questions from business owners. The Small Business Administration and U.S. Department of Treasury address those questions in these [FAQs](#), released today.

The Small Business Administration Portland office is offering a webinar on SBA COVID-19 Relief Programs and Updates on Thursday, April 16, 9 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. PDT. [Register here](#).

The Oregon Office of Economic Analysis looks at the short and long-term impact of COVID-19 to Oregon's business community. [This analysis](#) looks at the immediate impact of public policy support, including the Paycheck Protection Program and the CARES Act.

The Small Business Administration updated its website Thursday morning to notify business owners that the agency is unable to accept new applications for the Economic Injury Disaster Loan and Paycheck Protection Program loans, based on available funding. Applicants who have already submitted their applications will continue to be processed on a first-come, first-served basis. [Read more](#).

Travel Oregon has posted [recording](#) of a recent session about COVID-19 response for tour operators, guides and outfitters. Employers in the tour industry can contact development@traveloregon.com for more information on how to stay informed and engaged.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation has launched the [Save Small Business Fund](#) to provide up to \$5,000 grants to small businesses impacted by the coronavirus pandemic. Grant applications will be available on April 20, 2020.

Worker and Unemployment Resources

Utility and telecommunications providers provide COVID-19 relief: Many Oregon telecommunications and utility provider are suspending service disconnections and waiving late fees to support Oregonians impacted by coronavirus. State and federal programs can also provide assistance to qualified individuals and households to help with these bills. [Read more](#).

The Oregon Employment Department said it received 53,800 initial claims for unemployment benefits for the week of April 5 to April 11. That is in addition to a revised total of 243,000 initial claims filed during the prior three weeks. [Read the news release](#).

The Internal Revenue Service has launched an online tool called [Get My Payment](#) that people can use to check the status of Economic Impact Payments. You'll need to enter your Social Security number, date of birth and mailing address in order to track your payment.

The Oregon Employment Department takes a deeper look at initial unemployment insurance claims, with the leisure and hospitality sector accounting for the largest claims. [Read today's blogpost](#).

Cities and Counties

The Oregon Office of Emergency Management has released COVID-19 Non-Health Related FAQs covering a wide range of topics, including blood donation, volunteering, guidance on cloth masks and much, much more. [Read the FAQs.](#)

The state's COVID-19 Joint Information Center reported 50 new cases of the virus Tuesday, spanning twelve counties. [Read the news release.](#)

Policy and Legislation

The White House released guidelines Thursday for [Opening Up America Again](#).

Governor Kate Brown [issued a statement](#) on the federal reopening guidelines, with additional context on Oregon's economic recovery efforts.

California, Oregon and Washington announce Western States Pact: Today, California Governor Gavin Newsom, Oregon Governor Kate Brown and Washington Governor Jay Inslee announced an agreement on a shared vision for reopening their economies and controlling COVID-19 into the future. [Read the joint statement.](#)

Governor Kate Brown held a press conference Tuesday morning to discuss plans for eventually lifting the statewide stay-at-home order. [Watch the video.](#)

Governor Kate Brown announces Oregon will provide \$8 million to the Oregon Food Bank for food assistance during COVID-19 crisis: With the funding, Oregon will fill an urgent need for Oregon families seeking food assistance during the COVID-19 public health crisis. [Read the news release.](#)

Governor Kate Brown Introduces Framework for Reopening Oregon: Governor Kate Brown today introduced her framework for reopening Oregon with a plan to restart public life and business while maintaining healthy Oregon communities. The framework sets specific prerequisites based on science, which Oregon communities must meet to begin reopening, and also outlines the actions Oregon must take to move forward. [Read more.](#)

Governor Kate Brown issues order to preserve civic engagement, essential local services during COVID-19 crisis: Governor Kate Brown issued Executive Order 20-16 this week, directing state and local governments to take necessary measures to facilitate public participation in decision-making, helping ensure the continued operation of local government and the delivery of essential services during the COVID-19 outbreak. [Read the full news release.](#)