



## REGIONAL SOLUTIONS OFFICE GOVERNOR KATE BROWN

### Employment and Economic Response to COVID-19 Weekly Summary: Sunday, April 26

*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 Small Business Development Center** will hold a webinar for Spanish-speaking business owners related to COVID-19 relief programs at 2 p.m. Thursday, April 23. [Register here](#).

**The Oregon Office of Economic Analysis** looks at the importance of cash flow and federal relief lending on small businesses during the stay-at-home order. [Read the blog post](#)

**The Small Business Development Center** has distributed [a one-page diagram](#) showing how Economic Injury Disaster Loan funding can be used for various small business needs.

**The National Restaurant Association** has new guidance for restaurants on how they can safely and successfully reopen when stay-at-home orders are lifted. The association partnered with the Food and Drug Administration, public health officials and others to develop the [guidelines](#).

**The U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation** [Save Small Business Grant](#) application opens today. The program is offering a \$5,000 grant for each qualifying applicant. Businesses harmed financially by the COVID-19 pandemic and employing between 3 and 20 people are eligible in specific economically vulnerable zip codes.

**The U.S. Chamber of Commerce** released a [new guide \(Spanish\)](#) to help independent contractors and self-employed individuals secure funding under the CARES Act. The guide provides step-by-step assistance to help individuals understand eligibility requirements, borrowing limits, and appropriate use of funds under the Paycheck Protection Program and Economic Injury Disaster Loans.

### Worker and Unemployment Resources

**The Oregon Employment Department** has released FAQs about the Pandemic Uninsurance Assistance Program, designed to provide unemployment benefits to workers not typically covered by regular unemployment insurance benefits. This includes the self-employed, contract workers, gig workers and others. [Read more](#).

**The Oregon Employment Department** received 36,700 initial claims for unemployment benefits for the week of April 12 through April 18. [Read the news release.](#)

## **Cities and Counties**

**FEMA** released guidance summarizing how non-healthcare organizations should manage their personal protective equipment (PPE) needs while ensuring the protection of workers during the coronavirus pandemic response. [Read the guidance.](#)

**The Oregon Health Authority** released guidelines for how and when elective medical procedures can safely reopen. Governor Kate Brown’s Executive Order 20-10 temporarily canceled these procedures, and [this guide](#) provides a framework for how clinics and hospitals can again start providing these services.

**The Oregon Department of Transportation** has analyzed the impact of COVID-19 and the stay-at-home order on statewide traffic volume patterns. The data show Oregonians are driving about 40 percent less than one year ago. [Read the report.](#) The Oregon Office of Economic Analysis then [blogged about the data](#), with an eye on economic forecasting.

**The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)** has announced the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP). This new program will take several actions to assist farmers, ranchers, and consumers in response to the COVID-19 national emergency. The program includes two major elements to achieve these goals: Direct Support to Farmers and Ranchers and USDA Purchase and Distribution. Read more [here](#).

**A Travel Sentiment [report](#)** for the week of April 20 has been released by Destination Analysts. The company is tracking and publishing key consumer perceptions, attitudes and behaviors through to help the travel, tourism and hospitality industries form strategies and communicate through the COVID-19 crisis.

**The Western Governors Association** is hosting a series of [webinars](#) focusing on how rural communities are affected by and responding to COVID-19. Webinars include “COVID-19 Impacts and Mitigation in Rural Communities” on April 23, “Rural Health Response to COVID-19” on April 24 and “COVID-19 Cybersecurity Threats and Best Practices” on May 5.

**OHA revises testing guidelines to prioritize underserved populations and all frontline workers, allows testing for people without symptoms:** Oregon Health Authority (OHA) on Monday night revised guidelines for COVID-19 testing to prioritize impacted populations and all frontline workers. The guidelines continue to allow healthcare providers to make clinical decisions about their patients. [Read more.](#)

## **Policy and Legislation**

**Governor Kate Brown Calls on Congress to Support Oregon Priorities in Federal Relief Packages:**

Governor Kate Brown on Tuesday called on Congress to support Oregon's priorities and critical needs in upcoming federal relief and economic recovery packages. The [letter](#) calls for additional federal funding to support Oregon's hospitals, long-term care facilities, small businesses and manufacturers, as well as for unemployment insurance, rental assistance, food assistance, and schools. [Read more.](#)

**Oregon Business Plan** partners hosted a special COVID-19 Recovery Roundtable with Oregon Governor Kate Brown. This event focused on Oregon's response to the COVID-19 outbreak and the resulting economic downturn. View the recording [here](#).

**Governor Kate Brown issues framework to lift order on non-urgent procedures:** Governor Kate Brown today announced that she will be lifting her order delaying non-urgent procedures for health care providers, as long as they can demonstrate they have met new requirements for COVID-19 safety and preparedness. Hospitals, surgical centers, medical offices, and dental offices that meet those requirements will be able to resume non-urgent procedures on May 1. [Read the news release.](#)

**Governor Kate Brown Launches New Phase of COVID-19 Outreach and Education Campaign:** Governor Kate Brown, along with the Oregon Health Authority (OHA), today launched a new phase of the state's public awareness campaign to educate Oregonians about COVID-19. *Safe + Strong* focuses on community-centered outreach in 12 languages to connect people who are most at-risk of experiencing health disparities with the information, tools and resources they need to stay safe, healthy, and strong during the COVID-19 pandemic. [Read the news release.](#)

**Oregon lawmakers** approved more than \$32 million in state spending Thursday, passing an emergency aid package meant to help renters, small businesses, domestic violence survivors, and workers that have been disadvantaged by the novel coronavirus. The package includes \$10 million for small businesses impacted by COVID-19.

**Emergency Board to allocate more than \$30 million in coronavirus response funding:** The legislative Emergency Board will convene a virtual meeting at 10 a.m. Thursday to allocate more than \$30 million in emergency funding to support Oregonians in need of relief due to the coronavirus global pandemic. [Read more.](#)

**Governor Brown Announces Rapid Distribution of PPE to Long-Term Care Facilities by Oregon National Guard:** Governor Kate Brown on Monday announced that the Oregon National Guard will distribute approximately 395,000 pieces of personal protective equipment (PPE) to all long-term care facilities across Oregon. [Read the news release.](#)

**Governor Kate Brown Issues Order to Protect Oregonians from Garnishment of CARES Act Recovery Rebate Payments:** Governor Kate Brown issued Executive Order [20-18](#), preventing creditors or debt collectors from garnishing federal CARES Act recovery rebate payments. The order corrects an oversight in the federal legislation, ensuring that Oregonians can use the funds for their intended purpose: covering the costs of essential needs during the COVID-19 public health crisis. [Read the news release.](#)