

COVID-19 Financial Assistance Now Available for Florida Small Businesses

3/17/2020 – Small business owners that experienced economic damage as a result of COVID-19 have **through May 8, 2020, to apply** for expedited, short-term interest-free financial help under the Florida Small Business Emergency Bridge Loan Program.

The emergency bridge loan program assists in re-establishing business during the interim period following a disaster and before other longer term financial resources are secured, including payment of insurance claims or Small Business Administration (SBA) disaster recovery loans.

Eligibility: Applications will be accepted by qualified for-profit, privately held small businesses that maintain a place of business in the state of Florida. Must be a small business owner (from 2 to 100 employees), have been established in Florida prior to March 9, 2020, and demonstrate economic injury as a result of COVID-19.

Loan Amounts: Maximum \$50,000. Loans of up to \$100,000 may be made in special cases as warranted by the need of the business.

Term: 1 year.

Interest Rate: Interest free for the loan term (1 year).

Payments: Payments are not required during the established loan term, but loans must be paid in full by the end of the loan term.

Program Instructions: Applications for the Emergency Bridge Loan Program for both small businesses and citrus businesses may be downloaded at www.floridadisasterloan.org.

Complete eligibility and loan development details as well as additional resources may also be found on the website.

For questions regarding the Emergency Bridge Loan Program, please contact the Florida SBDC Network Headquarters. Email: Disaster@floridasbdc.org. Phone: (866) 737-7232.