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[Online Version at FloridaBusiness.org](https://www.floridabusiness.org)

COVID-19 Business Resource Center: [VolusiaBusinessResources.com](https://www.volusiabusinessresources.com)

COUNTY COUNCIL APPROVES HOME-BASED BUSINESS GRANT AND PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT PROGRAM – Responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, on June 16 the [Volusia County Council approved two more business assistance programs](#) with \$4 million in relief funds. Council allocated \$3 million in emergency financial support to help home-based businesses and another \$1 million to purchase protective equipment (PPE) for local businesses. Eligible home-based businesses can qualify for a one-time grant of \$1,500. The grant application window will open at 9 a.m. Wednesday, June 24. Potential applicants are encouraged to [review the eligibility criteria and required documents](#). The PPE program offers local businesses needed protective equipment such as gloves, face masks, hand sanitizer, sanitary wipes and thermometers. Under the plan, the county will purchase the protective equipment in bulk quantities and local chambers of commerce will assemble approximately 7,000 supply kits. The kits will be distributed on 12 dates at six chamber locations around the county coordinated through the Volusia County Chamber Alliance.

SBA REOPENS ECONOMIC INJURY DISASTER LOAN AND ADVANCE PROGRAM – Effective June 15, the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) reopened the [Economic Injury Disaster Loan \(EIDL\) and EIDL Advance program portal](#) to all eligible applicants experiencing economic impacts due to COVID-19. With the reopening to all new applicants, additional small businesses and nonprofits will be able to receive these long-term, low-interest loans and emergency grants. The loans can provide vital economic support to help alleviate temporary loss of revenue. EIDL assistance can be used to cover payroll and inventory, pay debt or fund other expenses. Additionally, the EIDL Advance will provide up to \$10,000 (\$1,000 per employee) of emergency economic relief to businesses that are currently experiencing temporary difficulties, and these emergency grants do not have to be repaid. [Read the SBA press release](#).

SBA AND TREASURY PROVIDE RELIEF IN THE PAYCHECK PROTECTION PROGRAM FLEXIBILITY ACT – The [Paycheck Protection Program Flexibility Act \(the “Act”\)](#) was signed into law on June 5. It clarifies how borrowers can use [Payment Protection Program \(“PPP”\) loans](#) made under the CARES Act and grants borrowers additional flexibility in PPP forgiveness requirements. The Act includes an extension of time to spend the PPP loan, a reduction of mandatory spending on payroll, additional time to repay the loan and rehire workers, and an extension for when debt service payments are due.

COVID-19 PROCUREMENT WEBINAR: LESSONS FOR SOURCING – Procurement professionals are accustomed to dealing with disruptions. However, those disruptions are usually caused by a natural disaster or financial hardship in a locale or region, impacting a small set of suppliers at most. COVID-19 is unprecedented in its scope and the challenges that procurement organizations and their suppliers are facing. Supply Chain Management Review magazine will present a free [webinar](#) at 2 p.m. June 25 that will draw on lessons learned from past major events to discuss things every purchasing professional should do – and be careful not to do – in light of the coronavirus. Speakers will include John V. Gray, professor of operations at Ohio State and Finn Wynstra, professor of purchasing and supply management at Erasmus University.

U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS REPORTS SHARP RISE IN EMPLOYMENT – Earlier this month, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that [total nonfarm payroll employment rose by 2.5 million in May](#), and the unemployment rate declined to 13.3%. Reflecting the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the previous month’s unemployment rate increased by a historic 10.3 % to 14.7% with the number of unemployed persons rising by 15.9 million to 23.1 million. May’s numbers show a change of direction and reflect improvements in the labor market arising from a limited resumption of economic activity that had been curtailed in March and April. In May, that resumption is evident **is** employment that rose sharply in leisure and hospitality, construction, education and health services, and retail trade.

ARE YOU PREPARED TO RETURN TO THE WORKPLACE POST-COVID-19? – The new normal will be a total workplace ecosystem. This according to [Cushman & Wakefield’s recent report](#) that captured more than 2.5 million data points from pre-COVID-19 workers worldwide and a further 1.7 million data points from more than 40,000 respondents in the current work from home environment. With this data, Cushman & Wakefield has developed a report that offers insight into the future workplace. They found that 1) productivity can occur anywhere, not just at the office, 2) flexibility and choice to work from anywhere is accelerating, and 3) the new normal will comprehensively encompass the workplace as a whole.

STEPS TO IDENTIFYING YOUR BEST EXPORT MARKETS – Exporting can help regrow your business, but which countries offer the best prospects for your product or service? Market research is critical to helping you narrow 195 countries down to a handful that represent the most promising export markets for your company. The [U.S. Commercial Service’s \(U.S.C.S.\) has compiled resources](#) to help you select your highest-potential export destinations. Start with its four step process for researching global markets, watch a video and access trade data to see where similar products/services are being sold to help you identify a handful of promising export markets. The U.S.C.S. is the trade promotion arm of the U.S. Department of Commerce’s International Trade Administration.

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