



A weekly economic development briefing from Volusia County Economic Development

Online version available at FloridaBusiness.org

COVID-19 Business Resources Center: VolusiaBusinessResources.com

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December 9, 2020

COVID-19 FUNDING PROGRAMS AND UPDATES

SMALL BUSINESS REOPENING GRANT DEADLINE THIS FRIDAY, DEC. 11

The Relaunch Volusia Small Business grant application deadline has been set for Dec. 11. No applications will be accepted after this date. Qualifying businesses with a physical, brick-and-mortar location in a commercial or industrial space in Volusia County may be eligible to receive a *one-time* Reopening Grant Program grant to help them recover from negative financial consequences resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. Since the grant program's inception, 2,700 grants totaling \$8.17 million have been awarded. [Brick-and-mortar businesses should review the grant criteria and apply online.](#) ***If you have previously received funds from this grant program, a second application will be denied.***

HOME-BASED BUSINESS GRANT DEADLINE THIS FRIDAY, DEC. 11

The Relaunch Volusia Home-Based Business grant application deadline has been set for Dec. 11. No applications will be accepted after this date. Qualifying home-based businesses located in Volusia County may be eligible to receive a *one-time* grant to help them recover from negative financial consequences resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic and relaunch their Volusia County business. Since the grant program's inception, nearly 500 grants totaling \$733,500 have been awarded. [Review the grant criteria details and apply online.](#) ***If you have previously received funds from this grant program, a second application will be denied.***

SBA COVID-19 ECONOMIC INJURY DISASTER LOAN (EIDL) APPLICATION DEADLINE DEC. 18

Eligible small businesses, private nonprofits and agricultural businesses have until Friday, Dec. 18, to [apply for a Small Business Administration EIDL loan](#). The EIDL program is designed to provide economic relief to businesses currently experiencing a temporary loss of revenue due to COVID-19. EIDL proceeds can be used to cover a wide array of working capital and normal operating expenses, such as continuation of health care benefits, rent, utilities and fixed debt payments.

BUSINESS NEWS

NORTH AMERICAN MANUFACTURING'S RESPONSE TO THE GLOBAL PANDEMIC

As reported at forkliftaction.com, the pandemic has affected all manufacturing negatively in North America, including the materials-handling equipment sector, which in 2019 had reached a market level of over \$24 billion. Despite pandemic driven declines in 2020, not all is gloom and doom. Automation advances and growth in e-commerce activity have resulted in an increased need for new types of materials-handling solutions. E-commerce growth, along with an added focus on health practices, has accelerated automation driven productivity. [Read the full article.](#)

NEWS ITEMS WANTED! – Please send your business news items to [Heather Edwards](#).

COVID-19 RELATED EMPLOYEE RETENTION TAX CREDITS

The CARES Act provides for an employee retention tax credit (ERC) that is designed to encourage eligible employers to keep employees on their payroll despite experiencing an economic hardship related to COVID-19. Eligible employers can claim the ERC, equal to 50% of up to \$10,000 in qualified wages (including qualified health plan expenses) on wages paid after March 12, 2020, and before Jan. 1, 2021. Eligible employers are those businesses, including tax-exempt organizations, with operations that have been fully or partially suspended due to governmental orders due to COVID-19 or that have a significant decline in gross receipts compared to 2019. [Complete details on IRS website.](#)

SURVEY SAYS!

VOTRAN SEEKS INPUT FOR TRANSIT DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Whether or not you personally use Votran, the county's transit agency, the staff wants to hear from you! The agency has begun work on major updates to its [transit development plan \(TDP\)](#). The TDP is a 10-year strategic planning document assessed and updated every five years to provide a guide for development of the transit system over the next decade. Planned public involvement activities include an online survey, bus passenger survey, workshops, interviews and comment collection. Due to the pandemic, phase one public workshops will be held virtually from 5:30 to 7 p.m. [Wednesday, Dec. 16](#), and [Thursday, Dec. 17](#). In addition to workshops, a [public survey](#) is available through Dec. 31.

U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS 2020 RESULTS OF THE BUSINESS RESPONSE SURVEY

The [U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics has developed new pandemic data](#) on how U.S. businesses changed their operations and employment. The new data was collected from July 20 to Sept. 30, 2020. Across the country, 52% of establishments (4.4 million) told employees not to work (with or without pay) for at least some point during the survey period. Thirty-one percent of establishments (employing 68.6 million workers) increased telework offered to employees, and 14% (employing 35.4 million workers) increased the employee paid sick leave. Nationally, 62% of establishments (5.3 million) received a coronavirus-related loan or grant tied to rehiring or maintaining employees on the payroll. These establishments employed 74.2 million workers, representing 59% of total U.S. private-sector employment.

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