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

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

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**THIS IS NATIONAL SMALL BUSINESS WEEK – NUMEROUS VIRTUAL CONFERENCES ARE AVAILABLE ALL WEEK** – As part of National Small Business Week, the U.S. Small Business Administration and co-sponsors will host virtual events on Sept. 23 and 24. Educational panels will demonstrate retooling and innovative practices for entrepreneurs as our nation's small businesses look to pivot and recover from the impacts of COVID-19. The schedule also includes recognition of America's outstanding entrepreneurs, shining a spotlight on the nation's 30 million small businesses across the country, with awards for Small Business Exporter of the Year, Phoenix Awards for Disaster Recovery and announcing the National Small Business Person of the Year. [Details and registration information are posted on the SBA website.](#)

**SBA COVID-19 ECONOMIC INJURY DISASTER LOAN (EIDL) APPLICATIONS STILL BEING ACCEPTED** – Eligible [small businesses, private nonprofits and agricultural businesses can still apply for a Small Business Administration EIDL loan until Dec 18.](#) 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.

**FEDERAL RESERVE LOAN PROGRAM FOR SMALL AND MEDIUM SIZED BUSINESSES** – The Federal Reserve Bank of Boston administers the [Main Street Lending Program](#). The program is designed to help credit flow to small- and medium-sized businesses and nonprofit organizations that were in sound financial condition before the onset of the COVID-19 crisis, but now need loans to maintain operations until recovery from the pandemic. The program offers five-year loans to assist those experiencing temporary cash flow interruptions with floating rates, two-year principal deferrals, and one-year interest payments deferrals. Loans can range from \$250,000 to \$300 million. **Main Street loans are not grants and cannot be forgiven.** Interested businesses and nonprofits can apply through an eligible lender to determine if they meet the program requirements and the lender's own underwriting standards. The lender will determine loan approval. The Fed will participate in the lending by purchasing a 95% interest in the loan; the lender will retain 5%.

**SMALL BUSINESS REOPENING GRANTS STILL AVAILABLE** – 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 of \$3,000 if they have 25 or fewer employees, or \$5,000 if they have 26 to 50 employees. The grant is made available to help small businesses recover from negative financial consequences resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. Since the grant program's inception, more than 2,800 grants have been awarded totaling \$7.1 million. Funds are still available. [Brick-and-mortar businesses should review the grant criteria and apply online.](#) *Please note this is a one-time grant. If you have previously received funds from this grant program, a second application will be denied.*

**HOME-BASED BUSINESS GRANTS STILL AVAILABLE** – Qualifying home-based businesses located in Volusia County may be eligible to receive a *one-time* grant of \$1,500 if they have up to 50 employees to help them recover from negative financial consequences resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic and relaunch their Volusia County business. [Review the complete list of grant criteria details and apply online.](#) *Please note this is a one-time grant. If you have previously received funds from this grant program, a second application will be denied.*

**ENTERPRISE FLORIDA EXPANDS VIRTUAL BUSINESS MATCHMAKING ASSISTANCE TO JAPAN AND TAIWAN** – Enterprise Florida is offering [Virtual Business Matchmaking \(VBM\)](#) in Japan and Taiwan to help companies extend their global footprint to untapped markets. EFI's international representative in Japan and Taiwan provides virtual Business Matchmaking in these markets. The VBM delivers virtual introductions via teleconference or video conference with five interested agents, distributors or partners in your target markets who have been pre-screened and pre-qualified. The advantages are that you define ideal partner criteria and pick desired meeting partners from a long list of suitable, qualified companies. Enterprise Florida offers reimbursable trade grants to eligible businesses to cover the full cost of the matchmaking, making the service completely free. For more information, contact EFI Central Florida Regional Trade Manager [Michael Cooney](#). [View complete Terms and Conditions.](#)

**DEVELOPING A BUSINESS IDEA INTO A VIABLE BUSINESS MODEL** – New business ideas are always exciting, but are not always viable. The key is to test and develop your idea into a product or service that customers actually want. The Volusia County UCF Incubator's **Business Modeling Boot Camp** is an eight-week virtual program that can teach you how to describe, design, challenge and pivot your business model into a viable opportunity. Classes will be held via Zoom from noon to 1:30 p.m. every Tuesday and Thursday from Oct. 1 through Nov. 24. While classes include lectures and case studies, the program focuses more on doing than observing. Attendees will be expected to conduct customer interviews and competitive analyses, perform elevator pitches, design their own Business Model Canvas and Value Proposition Canvas, complete homework, and develop a minimal viable product. [Learn more about eligibility and how to register.](#)

**NEWS ITEMS WANTED!** – Please send your business news items to [Joanne Magley](#). If you wish to be removed from this weekly broadcast, please