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

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

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.](#)

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.](#)

EMPLOYMENT UPDATE: AUGUST LABOR STATISTICS – The [U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics \(BLS\) reported last week](#) that total nonfarm payroll employment rose by 1.4 million in August, and the unemployment rate fell by 1.8% to 8.4%. According to BLS Household Survey Data results, the number of unemployed persons in August fell by 2.8 million to 13.6 million. Although these indicators have dropped for four consecutive months, they remain higher than February 2020 measures by 4.9% and 7.8 million unemployed, respectively. The BLS supplemental data found that 24.3% of employed persons teleworked because of the coronavirus pandemic, down from 26.4% in July. Employment in leisure and hospitality increased by 174,000 with about three-fourths of the gain occurring in food services and drinking places (+134,000). Manufacturing employment rose in August by 29,000 persons, with gains concentrated in the nondurable goods component (+27,000). Despite gains in recent months, at 720,000, manufacturing employment remains below February's level.

FREE SCORE WEBINAR: OVERCOMING CYBERSECURITY CHALLENGES DURING THE PANDEMIC – SCORE will present an important cybercrime update called *Overcoming Cybersecurity Challenges during the COVID-19 Pandemic* at 1 p.m. Sept. 17. Cybercrimes have spiked during the COVID-19 pandemic. In April, the FBI reported an almost 300% increase in cybercrime cases. Unfortunately, small businesses are the most vulnerable cybercrime targets. Unlike large enterprises, small businesses may not have adequate resources to protect themselves. In this free webinar, cybersecurity experts Jon Clay, Mitchel Chang and Kristin Judge will help small businesses gain some awareness and will provide high-level recommendations on cybercrime defense. Key areas to be discussed will include (1) a threat landscape update, (2) threat protection focusing on phishing, smishing, business email compromise, and general cybersecurity hygiene for working and schooling from home, and (3) a cybercrime and fraud/scam update in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. Further information and registration details can be accessed [here](#).

EPA GUIDANCE FOR CLEANING AND DISINFECTION – The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have developed a joint guidance intended for all those concerned about the cleaning of workplaces, businesses, public spaces, schools and homes. This plan is part of the larger [United States Government plan](#) focused on cleaning and disinfection. The guidance offers both a [Decision Tool](#) and a [comprehensive guidance document](#). The EPA additionally offers a [Frequent Questions about Disinfectants and Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#) resource that includes information on products effective against the coronavirus.

NEW CDC WEB PAGE ON HOW TO SELECT, WEAR AND CLEAN MASKS – The national Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends wearing masks in public settings around people who do not live in your household and when it is not possible to stay 6 feet away from others. Masks help stop the spread of COVID-19 to others. Making a decision about selecting a mask can be confusing, and there are many choices. For assistance, visit the CDC's new web page to learn [How to Select, Wear and Clean Your Mask](#). This new website provides tips on how to choose your masks and offers some practical do's and don'ts.

U.S. CENSUS PULSE SURVEY OF SMALL BUSINESS – In mid-May 2020, the U.S. Census Bureau pioneered the first phase of a [new weekly survey, the Small Business Pulse Survey](#), to take the pulse of how America's small businesses were impacted by the coronavirus pandemic. Companies of one to 499 employees provided important insights. In the ensuing nine-week period, small businesses across the country indicated pervasive difficulties with operations and finances, including temporary closings, employment, revenues and cash on hand. Another significant finding concerned how long respondents think it will take their businesses to bounce back completely. More than 30% said they did not think their businesses would return to normal or usual for at least six months, and nearly 25% said it might be possible in two to three months. The categories "education and services," "health care and social assistance," "arts, entertainment and recreation," and "accommodation and food services" all saw significant disruptions.

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