



Special COVID-19 Edition

April 20, 2020

[Online Version at FloridaBusiness.org](http://FloridaBusiness.org)

NEW VOLUSIA BUSINESS RESOURCES WEBSITE LAUNCHED – The COVID-19 pandemic has caused major NEW disruptions to the business community. But at the same time, this global health crisis has resulted in countywide collaboration among economic development and emergency response teams to harness countless economic resources and present it all in one virtual location. Volusia County's Economic Development division is leading the effort, serving as the coordinator between cities and agencies, as the clearinghouse of information, and by creating a new website -- VolusiaBusinessResources.com -- to serve as a countywide source of assistance and incentive program information for businesses. The website will include all federal, state, regional, county and private-sector resources, webinars and provide direct links to Volusia County's cities' resources pages. [Read the full news release.](#)

CDC HAS ANSWERS FOR COVID-19 QUESTIONS – As part of the agency's comprehensive effort to respond to the national need for information on the COVID-19 pandemic, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has compiled a [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\) web page](#). Here you can access answers concerning the basics of COVID-19, how it spreads and how to protect yourself. It also has FAQs on COVID-19 and children, and several other groups and circumstances such as those involving healthcare professionals, schools, community events and retirement communities.

KEEP FLORIDA GROWING WEB PORTAL LAUNCHED – Agriculture Commissioner Nicole "Nikki" Fried has launched the [Keep Florida Growing webpage](#), a one-stop online portal with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' COVID-19 food and agriculture-related information. The COVID-19 virus has impacted Florida agriculture, the state's second-largest economic driver, and the new one-stop page is a response designed to support Florida's consumers and agriculture community. The portal features the [Florida Farm To You commodities list](#), where agriculture producers can have their farm-fresh products listed to be found by buyers, food banks and consumers. Florida's consumers can access food-related information including a U-pick farm locator that finds farm-fresh produce.

ENTERPRISE FLORIDA SUSPENDS MICROFINANCE GUARANTEE PROGRAM FEES – Enterprise Florida will suspend initial fees for its [Microfinance Guarantee Program](#) to support Florida's small business community impacted by COVID-19. EFI manages the Microfinance Guarantee Program designed to stimulate access to credit for entrepreneurs and small businesses in Florida by providing targeted loan guarantees to lenders made to such entrepreneurs and small businesses. This program provides guarantees up to 50% on loans of \$250,000 or less. The Microfinance Guarantee Program requirements are as follows: 1.) entrepreneur or small business located in Florida, 2.) employs 25 or fewer people, and 3.) generates average annual gross revenues of \$1.5 million or less per year for the last two years. Interested businesses must apply through a local lender. Interested businesses should contact their lender or [visit Enterprise Florida's website](#).

INDUSTRY FAST FACTS DUE TO THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 – *IBISWorld* has presented a collection of fast facts that outline how the spread of COVID-19 is impacting industry sectors across countries where *IBISWorld* operates including Australia, Canada, Germany, New Zealand, the UK and the U.S. Industries included in their findings consist of: mining; utilities; construction; manufacturing; wholesale trade; retail trade; transportation and warehousing; information; finance and insurance; education; professional, scientific and technical services; real estate, rental and leasing; healthcare; accommodation and food services; and arts, entertainment & recreation. [Read all of IBISWorld's fast facts.](#)

DID YOU MISS VOLUSIA COUNTY'S LIVE BUSINESS PANEL DISCUSSION? – Volusia County hosted a Facebook Live panel discussion last Friday April 17 at the Volusia County Emergency Operations Center. The panel provided information to the community about financial assistance that is available to businesses that have been negatively impacted by the COVID-19 crisis. The panel discussion was moderated by Volusia County Manager George Recktenwald. Members of the panel included Helga van Eckert, Director, Volusia County Economic Development, Thomas Daly, Director, Small Business Development Center at Daytona State College, Robin King, President/CEO, CareerSource Flagler/Volusia and Nancy Keefer, President/CEO, Daytona Regional Chamber of Commerce. [Watch the video here.](#)

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