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

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

Coming Next Week: *On the Economic Scene* will have a new look

SCORE MOVES INTO VOLUSIA COUNTY UCF BUSINESS INCUBATOR AT DBIA – Two of Volusia County’s largest entrepreneur programs have joined forces with the Volusia/Flagler chapter of SCORE relocating to the Volusia County Business Incubator Powered by UCFBIP (VCBI), which is conveniently located next to the Daytona Beach International Airport. SCORE provides free mentoring and counseling to small businesses, along with workshops, tools and other advice for entrepreneurs. With the relocation, the VCBI now has four agencies specifically focused on helping entrepreneurs and businesses grow and create jobs. The African American Entrepreneurs Association and the Hungarian Hub are also located in the center. For more information, contact Site Manager [Connie Garzon](mailto:Connie.Garzon@score.org) at [386-872-3100](tel:386-872-3100).

SBA AND TREASURY ANNOUNCE SIMPLER PPP FORGIVENESS FOR LOANS OF \$50,000 OR LESS – The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), in consultation with the Treasury Department, has released a [simpler loan forgiveness application](https://www.sba.gov/press-releases/2020-10-29-simpler-ppp-forgiveness) for [Paycheck Protection Program \(PPP\)](https://www.sba.gov/press-releases/2020-10-29-simpler-ppp-forgiveness) loans of \$50,000 or less. This action streamlines the PPP forgiveness process to provide financial and administrative relief to small businesses. An [Interim Final Rule](https://www.sba.gov/press-releases/2020-10-29-simpler-ppp-forgiveness) (IFR) provides new guidance concerning the forgiveness and loan review processes. Borrowers will not be required to perform potentially complicated FTE or salary reduction calculations, but still have to make some certifications and provide documentation for payroll and non-payroll costs. Of the 5.2 million PPP loans approved by the SBA, 3.57 million were for \$50,000 or less and accounted for about \$62 billion of the \$525 billion in PPP loans.

LATEST U.S. CENSUS PULSE SURVEY ON THE COVID-19 IMPACT – The U.S. Census Bureau is in a unique position to produce data on the social and economic effects of COVID-19 on American households and small businesses. Based on responses collected from Sept. 30 through Oct. 12, the [U.S. Census Household Pulse Survey](https://www.census.gov/pulse) estimates that 23.6% of American adults expect someone in their household to experience a loss in employment income in the next four weeks. Other survey responses found that 32.2% of adults live in households where it has been somewhat or very difficult to pay usual household expenses during the coronavirus pandemic and 31% report eviction or foreclosure in the next two months is either somewhat or very likely.

FREE WEBINAR: RE-STRATEGIZE YOUR BUSINESS PLANNING TO PREVAIL THE PANDEMIC – SCORE will present a [live webinar called Re-Strategize Your Business Planning to Prevail the Pandemic at 1 p.m. Nov. 5](https://www.score.org/webinars). Entrepreneurs and small business owners are most vulnerable to failure in a global pandemic. They rely on a sustainable supply chain, whereby products and services flow from suppliers, through their company, and on to their customers. The pandemic virus destroyed this self-sustaining business model, making strategic and tactical plans no longer relevant. You will learn how to re-strategize your business planning to maintain an adequate level of cash on hand and get suppliers and vendors to make their payments when due.

FLORIDA SEAPORTS VIRTUAL FORUM: FOCUSED ON THE FUTURE – Over the past three decades, Florida’s seaports have invested billions of dollars to expand capacity and connectivity, both critical components in the efficient movement of people and cargo on and off the port. [Enterprise Florida and the Florida Ports Council will host a virtual](https://www.floridaseaports.com) forum from 10 a.m. to noon Nov. 17 featuring a discussion by Florida’s deepwater seaports on the domestic and international developments of the future, plus updates from partners in the transportation industry, state government and the private sector.

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 2,600 grants have been awarded totaling \$7.95 million. Funds are still available. [Brick-and-mortar businesses should review the grant criteria and apply online](https://www.volusia.com/economic-development/grants). *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. Since the grant program’s inception, more than 400 home-based business grants have been awarded totaling \$668,000. Funds are still available. [Review the complete list of grant criteria details and apply online](https://www.volusia.com/economic-development/grants). *Please note this is a one-time grant. If you have previously received funds from this grant program, a second application will be denied.*

NEWS ITEMS WANTED! – Please send your business news items to [Heather Edwards](mailto:Heather.Edwards@volusia.com). If you wish to be removed from this weekly broadcast, please let us know.