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

COVID-19 Business Resource Center: 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.](#) *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.*

FREE WEBINAR: COVID-19 AND THE REMOTE WORKFORCE – Working from home is here to stay. Are your job descriptions and policies updated to include your remote workforce? In this webinar, GrowFL will address the steps to follow for mitigating risks when employees are working remotely. During this webinar you'll learn the steps to follow to create equitable work at home arrangements; how to maintain confidential employee health information and ensure you are not violating confidential, sensitive and personal identifying/information (PII) laws; the latest COVID-19 quarantine/isolation rules; most-up-to-date CDC and Florida Department of Health recommendations; and how to use this information to create user-friendly policies and procedures. [The webinar will be held at noon Thursday, Sept. 24.](#)

STATE OF FLORIDA BEGINS PAYING FEDERAL LOST WAGES BENEFITS – On Sept. 8, [Gov. Ron DeSantis announced](#) the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity completed the necessary technology changes to begin paying the Federal Lost Wages Assistance program benefits to eligible Floridians. This program, authorized by President Trump's memorandum, provides additional benefits for individuals who are eligible for Reemployment Assistance for weeks of unemployment ending on or after Aug. 1, 2020. To be eligible for this benefit, claimants must have a weekly benefit amount of at least \$100 in an approved Reemployment Assistance program and certify that they are unemployed or partially unemployed due to COVID-19 disruptions. Payments will be provided for weeks ending Aug. 1, 8 and 15, 2020. No additional application is necessary. [Review the frequently asked questions on the LWA program.](#)

ERAU'S LAUNCH YOUR VENTURE COMPETITION IS GOING VIRTUAL – The Embry-Riddle Research Park and the Center for Entrepreneurship will present the [virtual edition](#) of the [Launch Your Venture Competition](#) from 2 to 5 p.m. Sept. 23. Watch six finalists compete for \$18,000 in total prize money and in-kind services that will help them launch their ventures. The competing teams are university student-led startups with revolutionary ideas that will change the future of the aviation, aerospace and engineering industries. Successful projects will feature scalable transformative technologies led by strong management teams capable of launching disruptive innovation. Each team will present their pitch online to a judging panel representing investors, industry and the military. Competitors get seven minutes to pitch and five minutes of Q&A with the judges. Winners will be announced at the end of the event.

DBPR ALLOWS FLORIDA'S BARS TO REOPEN WITH 50% CAPACITY SEPT. 14 – As reported, [the State of Florida will allow bars to reopen at 50% capacity starting Monday, Sept. 14.](#) Since June 26, bars and breweries that do not have substantial food menus had been banned from selling alcohol on-site. The Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation will rescind Executive Order 2020-09, which required certain stand-alone bars and breweries to essentially shut down earlier this summer in response to the coronavirus pandemic.

FAST & STRESS-FREE WAYS TO GET YOUR BUSINESS ONLINE – The coronavirus pandemic has unquestionably increased the amount of time people spend online. Getting your business online can be a critically important part of small business recovery. Does your business need technology to adapt to the new online world and meet demand after disruption strikes? Are you thinking about how to digitize your business quickly but don't know where to start? Consider attending the [SCORE Volusia/Flagler free webinar](#) at 1 p.m. Sept. 22 titled *Get Your Business Online in a Blink – Stress-Free Ways to Find the Right Software*. Taylor Short and Sam Bonanno from Software Advice will walk you through ways to help you find the right software to get your business online fast. The webinar will provide actionable tips for identifying current software challenges, what to look for when evaluating multiple products, and how to calculate the cost of adopting new technology.

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.