

Commerce Department Update for MontcoStrong Economic and Workforce Development Response Team Call – 03-17-2020

While we work to understand the full impact of the coronavirus and help all those impacted, communication and awareness are key. It is more important than ever for everyone to work together in our organizations, our communities, and beyond to come through this united in purpose and strength.

Updates on just some of what is happening to help businesses and workers in Montgomery County

- Pennsylvania's local and regional economic development organizations held a conference call with state and federal officials to finalize the process of making Pennsylvania businesses eligible for SBA Disaster Relief Loans on Monday, March 16th; the goal is that the certification will be approved in days and the SBA will begin taking loan applications shortly thereafter.
- The economic development leaders of Southeast Pennsylvania are coordinating on a survey for businesses impacted by COVID-19. Additionally, the group is working on finalizing requests for resources, policies, and programs to be communicated to officials in Harrisburg and Washington, DC. The region's economic development leaders are united in working together to ensure that Southeast Pennsylvania emerges with greater strength and determination from the current situation.
- From VFTCB - Many kids enrolled in the federal lunch program are getting their most nutritious meal of the day at school. When schools are closed, the risk that they go hungry increases dramatically. Your donation will help keep them fed through Montgomery County's food pantry network. Here's the link to our updated webpage: <http://valleyforge.org/hunger/> and the direct link to donate to MAHN: <https://donorbox.org/2017-freedom-from-hunger-2-2>.

Resources and Information for Montgomery County Employers and the Workforce

- Montgomery County Commerce Department Business Assistance Request Form – <https://www.montcopa.org/FormCenter/Commerce-18/Business-Assistance-Request-90>
- Montgomery County COVID-19 Data Hub – www.montco.pa.org/COVID-19
- COVID-19 Data Hub info for Employers – <https://data-montcopa.opendata.arcgis.com/pages/covid-19-business>
 - o SEPA Regional COVID-19 Business Impact Survey – <https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/d805663f537744ccb79ae18a569a1acb>
- COVID-19 Data HUB info for Workforce (includes Unemployment Compensation Information) – <https://webapp02.montcopa.org/health/coronavirus/WFDandUCInfoforDataHub.pdf>
- SBA's COVID-19 Information – <https://www.sba.gov/page/coronavirus-covid-19-small-business-guidance-loan-resources>
 - o SBA's COVID-19 Disaster Relief Loan Program – <https://www.sba.gov/disaster-assistance/coronavirus-covid-19>
 - To prepare for the online application, businesses are also encouraged to review the SBA Disaster Business Loan Application forms at <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela/Information/PaperForms>.

- 03-16-2020 Guidance from the Wolf Administration on Update Business on Guidance for COVID-19 Mitigation Efforts - <https://www.governor.pa.gov/newsroom/wolf-administration-updates-businesses-on-guidance-for-covid-19-mitigation-efforts/>
- PA DCED COVID-19 Business Resources Page - <https://dced.pa.gov/resources/>

How Can Your Organization Help the Commerce Department

- Keep disseminating the information updates we are sharing.
- Please connect Dave Zellers, Director of Commerce, to the banks and financial institutions on you respective Boards of Directors.
- Everyone is encouraged to stay apprised of what is happening by following all of Montgomery County's social media platforms, watching the daily briefing by the Board of Commissioners, and frequently checking back to the data hub for updates on the situations as well as new guidance, information, and resources.