

Stulb & Associates, APAC

Certified Public Accountants

March 30, 2020

Re: A note to our community about the coronavirus (COVID-19)

As the coronavirus (COVID-19) continues to affect local communities and global economies, we want you to know that maintaining business continuity is a priority for us. We're working to minimize disruptions and impacts to you so that we can still offer the same level of superior service and support you have come to expect from our team.

Protecting our clients and staff

We have implemented procedures to protect the health and safety of our staff, clients and community, including limiting access to our office, providing health education and guidelines to keep our staff well, providing remote working solutions, and encouraging the use of client portals.

Our firm is open to serve you

Our firm remains open and available to serve you. Although we are working primarily remotely, we are checking our mail and phone messages daily. We have a mail slot at the office to leave any paperwork for the preparation of your tax return. We can also be reached by email. Our contact information is listed below.

Relief available

In the event COVID-19 has caused concerns about your financial well-being, there are relief measures available that may benefit you, such as:

- The IRS extended the April 15, 2020 federal income tax filing and payment deadline to July 15, 2020. Louisiana has extended the April 15 and May 15 income tax filing and payment deadlines to July 15, 2020. However, we continue to work on filing returns as soon as possible.
- First quarter estimated tax payments usually due April 15, 2020 are now extended to July 15, 2020.
- The IRS extended the April 15, 2020 deadline for making an IRA contribution to July 15, 2020.
- The IRS extended the April 15, 2020 deadline for making a Health Savings Account contribution to July 15, 2020.

- Rebate payments for millions of Americans - The maximum rebate is \$1,200 per individual taxpayer and \$2,400 for married taxpayers filing a joint return. An additional \$500 credit for each child is also provided. The rebate is reduced by \$5 for each \$100 that a taxpayer's income (based on data from their 2019 income tax return, if already filed, or 2018 income tax return, if not filed) exceeds \$75,000 or \$150,000 for single and joint filers, respectively. The rebate will be completely phased out for income in excess of \$99,000 for single taxpayers and \$198,000 for joint filers.
- States are providing unemployment benefits.
- Emergency paid sick and family leave benefits are available to employees (with some limitations and exceptions).
- Employers, including those self-employed, have available refundable tax credits to offset the costs for providing coronavirus-related leave benefits.
- Loan options are available for businesses. Please see the attached schedule to help determine if one is right for you.

Our commitment to you

Whether you have tax or financial planning questions or need advice on ways to navigate business challenges, we're here for you. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact us:

337-494-1240 (office – leave a message if no one is available)

Below are email addresses that you can also use to contact us.

Jim Stulb – jstulb@stulbandassociates.com

Kristi Carter – kcarter@stulbandassociates.com

Josh Richard – jrichard@stulbandassociates.com

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Information is changing daily, so during this unpredictable and challenging time, it's more important than ever to stay connected. We're in this together.

Thank you for your continued support.

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Following the declaration of a national emergency to combat the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the Small Business Administration (SBA) launched the Economic Injury Disaster Loan Assistance (EIDL) program for small business owners in all US states, Washington D.C., and other US territories. ***EIDL loans are now available.***

On March 27th, 2020, President Trump signed into law the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, a stimulus bill that includes a loan program to keep small businesses afloat during mandated COVID-19-related closures. The CARES Act includes a Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) which authorizes up to \$349 billion of federally guaranteed loans to qualifying small businesses. This new loan program is based on the architecture of the SBA's existing 7(a) loan program and will make forgivable loans of up to \$10 million available to qualifying small businesses.

Please note that businesses cannot get both EIDL and PPP loans at the same time. You can apply for the EIDL loan now and the PPP loan when it becomes available. If you qualify and accept the EIDL loan, and you subsequently qualify for the PPP loan, you can re-finance the EIDL loan with the PPP loan, OR you can apply for both loans and decide which one you take if you qualify for both. Loans are limited to one per Taxpayer Identification Number.

The table below compares the terms of the EIDL and PPP loans:

EIDL	PPP
<i>Who is the lender?</i>	
The SBA	A Bank that does SBA 7(a) Loans, underwritten by the SBA
<i>What is the maximum amount of the loan?</i>	
The maximum loan size is \$2 million	<p>The maximum loan size is \$10 million. The calculation is as follows:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 2.5 times the average monthly “payroll” costs, measured over the 12 months preceding the loan origination date. Seasonal business may use the period February 15, 2019 – June 30, 2019 or March 1, 2019 – June 30, 2019 to calculate the average payroll</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> If you took out the EIDL loan between February 15, 2020 and June 30, 2020 and you want to refinance that loan into a PPP loan, you would add the outstanding loan amount to the “payroll” sum.</p>

	Payroll includes salaries, commissions, tips, certain employee benefits (including health insurance and retirement benefits), state and local taxes and certain types of compensation to sole proprietors or independent contractors. Payroll costs specifically exclude compensation of an individual employee in excess of an annual salary of \$100,000, foreign employees, FICA and income tax withholdings
<i>What is the annual interest rate?</i>	
3.75% for businesses, 2.75% for non-profits	Not to exceed 4%
<i>What Is the term of the loan?</i>	
Up to 30 years	10 years
<i>When is the first loan payment due?</i>	
One year after the loan origination date (interest is accrued during the deferment)	At least six months after the loan origination date (interest is accrued during the deferment)
<i>What can we use the loan for?</i>	
Financial obligations and operating expenses that could have been met had the disaster not occurred	Payroll costs (as defined above), group healthcare benefits, insurance premiums, and interest (but not principal) on mortgages or other debt incurred prior to February 15, 2020, rent on any lease in force prior to February 15, 2020 and utility payments
<i>What collateral is required?</i>	
The SBA will place a UCC lien against the assets of the business	No collateral is required from either the business or its owners
<i>Is a personal guarantee required?</i>	
Yes, for owners of > 20% of the business, managing members of LLCs and managing partners of LPs. However, no liens will be taken against real estate owned by the guarantor	No
<i>Is there a loan forgiveness program?</i>	

No	Yes – calculated as the amount spent by the borrower during an 8-week period after the origination date of the loan on: payroll costs (as defined above), interest payment on any mortgage incurred prior to February 15, 2020, payment of rent on any lease in force prior to February 15, 2020, and payment on any utility for which service began before February 15, 2020. Payroll costs are subject to the same exclusions as noted above
<i>What reduces the forgiveness?</i>	
N/A	The amount forgiven is reduced based on failure to maintain the average number of full-time equivalent employees versus the period from either February 15, 2019, through June 30, 2019, or January 1, 2020, through February 29, 2020, as selected by the borrower. The amount forgiven is also reduced to the extent that compensation for any individual making less than \$100,000 per year is reduced by more than 25% measured against the most recent full quarter. Reductions in the number of employees or compensation occurring between February 15, 2020, and 30 days after enactment of the CARES Act will generally be ignored to the extent that reductions are reversed by June 30, 2020. Forgiven amounts will not constitute cancellation of indebtedness income for federal tax purposes.
<i>Do I need to have filed my 2019 Taxes to apply?</i>	
No, 2019 Taxes do not have to be filed prior to applying for the loan. However, businesses will be asked to submit IRS form 4506T, which provides the SBA with access to historical tax returns	Will depend on the lender
<i>How long will the loan application take?</i>	
2-3 weeks plus an additional 5 days for funding	Unknown at this stage
<i>Can I apply now?</i>	
Yes, the application process is live, and loans are available now. There is no obligation to accept the loan if you qualify. The SBA typically allows 60 days to accept the loan offer, but you can always	No. Now that the CARE Act is law, the SBA will give their loan guidelines to the banks. The banks will then prepare their loan application process. We expect this to take at least two weeks

extend this if needed. Therefore, it is better to apply ASAP	
<i>What businesses/entities can apply and what are the affiliation rules?</i>	
<p>Small businesses. There are several standards the SBA uses to define a small business, and it varies by industry. As a general guide, less than 500 employees and \$35 million in revenue would typically qualify. Applicants for SBA loan programs typically must include their affiliates when applying size tests to determine eligibility. This means that employees of other businesses under common control would count toward the maximum number of permitted employees</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Businesses and entities must have been in operation on February 15, 2020 and have 500 or fewer employees. There are some exceptions based on industry <input type="checkbox"/> see below</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Individuals who operate a sole proprietorship or as an independent contractor and eligible self-employed individuals.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Any business concern that employs not more than 500 employees per physical location of the business concern and that is assigned a NAICS code beginning with 72 (Accommodation and Food Services companies)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Affiliation rules are also waived for franchises with codes assigned by the SBA, as reflected on the SBA franchise registry and businesses that receive financial assistance from one or more small business investment companies (SBIC)</p>

Note – This information is supplied to inform our clients. However, the exact terms of loans are determined solely by the lender(s) and we can make no representation as to the accuracy or completeness of any information contained herein.