



**Foundation for a
Healthy St. Petersburg**



**CENTER FOR
HEALTH EQUITY**

Questions pertaining to business and nonprofit financial assistance availability

From the April 21, 2020 Zoom Webinar Virtual Town Hall

Q: Credit scores should be waived at times like these. What are the minimum qualifying credit scores to apply for the small business loans?

A: The many small business loans available through the City of St. Petersburg and other sources have a range of requirements. Please feel free to review the City's resources to find a loan that may work best for your needs at <https://stpetegreenhouse.com/prepare/> and http://www.stpete.org/assistance/financing_programs.php.

Businesses should obtain complete program guidelines from the providers. Most lenders are familiar with U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) loan programs, and interested applicants can contact their local lender for more information on the application process. Information on SBA loan programs, business management, counseling and training services are also available at the City of St. Petersburg's Business Assistance Center. Please reach out to info@stpetegreenhouse.com with questions and or concerns for this resource.

There is also a new support program for businesses and nonprofits in St. Petersburg, the Business Resiliency Team, created as part of Grow Smarter's COVID-19 response, in partnership the Greenhouse, the St. Petersburg Area Chamber of Commerce, and the local Economic Development Corporation. The team coaches businesses and nonprofits seeking financial assistance. Contact them at

Any business or nonprofit in the St. Petersburg area. BRT outreach gives special consideration to minority- and women-owned businesses and sole proprietors. brt@growsmarterstpete.com or by leaving a voicemail at (727) 351-3249. A team member will respond within 48 hours. To learn more, visit www.growsmarterstpete.com/brt.

Q: Will there be any additional funding for FL Bridge and SBA Loans?

A: The SBA has resumed processing EIDL Loan and Advance applications that were received during the first round of funding on a first come, first-served basis. New EIDL applications are being accepted on a limited basis to provide relief to U.S. agricultural businesses.



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The Florida Small Business Emergency Bridge Loan is not currently accepting new applications. There is no further information provided at this time.

Visit <https://covid19.floridajobs.org/> for information on both programs.

Q: Are there any collateral/equity loan resources for small businesses?

A: The City of St. Petersburg has local, state and federal financing programs available to businesses in St. Petersburg. Businesses should obtain complete program guidelines from the providers. For a list of these resources, visit:

http://www.stpete.org/assistance/financing_programs.php

Q: Community Benefits Agreements are a way of giving the community tangible economic benefits and leverage inequality. What are your thoughts on this using this type of agreement as a part of strengthening the community moving forward?

A: The Foundation for a Healthy St. Petersburg believes Community Benefits Agreement could positively impact the lives of residents in Pinellas County. Local elected officials have expressed support for having Community Benefits Agreements in place. Currently, St. Petersburg Councilmember Lisa Wheeler-Bowman is working on a Community Benefits Agreement to ensure that all residents are welcome at Tropicana Field, there's affordable shopping for everyone, and to build affordable housing and more resources on the south side. Reach out to her office at lisa.wheeler-bowman@stpete.org to find out how Community Benefits Agreements are being used locally.

Q: Can individuals apply for the fighting chance fund as well as funds made available through One Community?

A: The Fighting Chance Fund provides grants (not loans) in the form of \$5,000 to impacted eligible businesses and \$500 to impacted eligible individuals. To apply and find out more, visit: http://www.stpete.org/assistance/fighting_chance_fund.php

The One Community #InThisTogether fund supports stylists, barbers, nail techs, St. Pete creatives, hard hit businesses, restaurants and caterers. Find out more by visiting <https://onecommunitystpete.com/inthistogether/>.