

# Resources to assist local leaders in answering COVID-19 inquiries

At the Governor's office we greatly appreciate the connection you and your association provide to our local government partners. We are understandably receiving a heavy volume of COVID-19 inquiries from local officials who are working round-the-clock to inform their constituents. We offer the following briefing and resource links to assist your members and to help them answer their constituent emails.

**1. General Information:** Stay in touch at the Governor's dedicated [Coronavirus website](#).

## **2. Supports for Workers:**

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE – expanded time, amounts and those covered

The unemployment insurance program, administered by the Virginia Employment Commission (VEC), provides temporary financial assistance to individuals who become unemployed through no fault of their own. Under normal circumstances, individuals who meet a strict set of employment-related criteria can receive weekly payments over a period of 12 to 26 weeks, but efforts are underway at both the state and federal level to expand eligibility, increase payments, and extend the duration coverage.

As a result, all Virginians who have experienced job or income loss as a result of the Coronavirus crisis are encouraged to file an application for unemployment insurance using the VEC's [online portal](#), selecting "Lack of Work" as their reason for separation. Please note, recipients will be required to access the portal each week to claim their unemployment insurance payment.

Detailed instructions for individuals applying for unemployment insurance benefits can be found [here](#). An FAQ on unemployment benefits can be found [here](#).

## **3. Support for Small Business**

➤ For questions other than resources listed below, email [business@virginia.gov](mailto:business@virginia.gov).

SMALL BUSINESS DISASTER LOANS

Following a request submitted by Governor Northam on March 18, the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) approved an Economic Injury Disaster Loan declaration for Virginia. Small businesses and nonprofit organizations throughout the Commonwealth affected by the COVID-19 public health crisis can now apply for low-interest federal disaster loans of up to \$2 million from the SBA to pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable, and other expenses. To submit a loan application through the SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loan program, please visit <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela/>.

RAPID RESPONSE FUNDS TO ASSIST SMALL BUSINESS

Rapid Response is a federal program to help workers, companies, and communities experiencing layoffs and closures and provide strategies to avert layoffs. This includes connecting workers and businesses to information, partners, new employment opportunities, funding, and training programs that can help lessen the impact of layoffs or avert layoffs all together.

The Additional Rapid Response Assistance for COVID-19 available through the state provides funding to help businesses avert layoffs by providing assistance in sanitization of work spaces, implementing telework options to support social

distancing that the company has not supported prior, or other innovative strategies that help keep employees on the job. Businesses may apply for assistance through their regional workforce boards. See **“FIND THE WORKFORCE DIRECTOR FOR YOUR JURISDICTIONS”** at the end of this email. Your director will review applications and provide reimbursement for qualifying projects. These directors will also be an important resource as we work to re-employ Virginians when this emergency abates and people are looking for work.

**FIND THE WORKFORCE DIRECTOR FOR YOUR JURISDICTIONS**

| DIRECTOR       | WORKFORCE BOARD         | PHONE              | EMAIL  | JURISDICTIONS SERVED  |
|----------------|-------------------------|--------------------|--|---|
| Aleta Spicer   | Southwest Virginia      | 276-883-4034       | <a href="mailto:a.spicer@swvaworks.com">a.spicer@swvaworks.com</a>             | Counties of Buchanan, Dickenson, Lee, Russell, Scott, Tazewell & Wise, City of Norton   |
| Marty Holliday | New River/ Mount Rogers | 540-633-6764       | <a href="mailto:marty.holliday@vcwnrmr.com">marty.holliday@vcwnrmr.com</a>     | Counties of Pulaski, Montgomery, Giles, Floyd, Bland, Wythe, Carroll, Grayson, Washington & Smyth. Cities of Galax, Radford & Bristol   |
| Morgan Romeo   | Western Virginia        | 540-562-8442       | <a href="mailto:mromeo@vcwblueridge.com">mromeo@vcwblueridge.com</a>           | Counties of Alleghany, Botetourt, Craig, Franklin & Roanoke. Cities of Covington, Roanoke & Salem   |
| Sharon Johnson | Shenandoah Valley       | 540-442-7134       | <a href="mailto:sjohnson@vcwvalley.com">sjohnson@vcwvalley.com</a>             | Counties of Augusta, Bath, Clarke, Frederick, Highland, Page, Rockbridge, Rockingham, Shenandoah and Warren. Cities of Buena Vista, Harrisonburg, Lexington, Staunton, Waynesboro, and Winchester                     |
| Sarah Morton   | Piedmont                | 434-979-5610       | <a href="mailto:smorton@vcwpiedmont.com">smorton@vcwpiedmont.com</a>           | Counties of Culpeper, Fauquier, Madison, Orange, Rappahannock, Albemarle, Fluvanna, Greene, Louisa & Nelson, City of Charlottesville  |
| Ben Bowman     | Central Virginia        | 434-845-5678 x221  | <a href="mailto:ben.bowman@vcwcentral.com">ben.bowman@vcwcentral.com</a>       | Counties of Amherst, Appomattox, Bedford & Campbell. Cities of Bedford & Lynchburg  |
| Debra Crowder  | South Central           | 434-542-5871       | <a href="mailto:dcrowder@vcwsouthcentral.com">dcrowder@vcwsouthcentral.com</a> | Counties of Brunswick, Halifax, Mecklenburg, Amelia, Buckingham, Charlotte, Cumberland, Lunenburg, Nottoway & Prince Edward   |
| Brian Davis    | Capital Region          | 804-652-3220 x3228 | <a href="mailto:dav113@henrico.us">dav113@henrico.us</a>                       | Counties of Charles City, Chesterfield, Goochland, Hanover, Henrico, New Kent & Powhatan; Richmond City   |
| David Hunn     | Northern Virginia       | 703-827-3782       | <a href="mailto:david.hunn@vcwnorthern.com">david.hunn@vcwnorthern.com</a>     | Counties of Fairfax, Prince William & Loudon. Cities of Fairfax, Falls Church, Manassas & Manassas Park   |
| David Remick   | Alexandria/ Arlington   | 703-228-1412       | <a href="mailto:dremick@arlingtonva.us">dremick@arlingtonva.us</a>             | County of Arlington & City of Alexandria  |
| Jackie Davis   | Bay Consortium          | 804-333-4048       | <a href="mailto:jdavis@baywib.org">jdavis@baywib.org</a>                       | Counties of Accomack, Caroline, Essex, King William, King George, King & Queen, Lancaster, Matthews, Middlesex, Northhampton, Northumberland, Richmond, Spotsylvania, Stafford & Westmoreland. City of Fredericksburg |

|                 |                   |              |  |   |
|-----------------|-------------------|--------------|--|---|
| William Mann    | Greater Peninsula | 757-826-3327 | <a href="mailto:wmann@vcwpeninsula.com">wmann@vcwpeninsula.com</a>         | Counties of Gloucester, James City & York. Cities of Hampton, Newport News, Poquoson & Williamsburg                           |
| Sophenia Pierce | Crater Regional   | 804-835-5100 | <a href="mailto:spierce@petersburg-va.org">spierce@petersburg-va.org</a>   | Counties of Dinwiddie, Greensville, Prince George, Surry & Sussex. Cities of Colonial Heights, Emporia, Hopewell & Petersburg |
| Shawn Avery     | Hampton Roads     | 757-314-2370 | <a href="mailto:savery@vcwhamptonroads.org">savery@vcwhamptonroads.org</a> | Counties of Isle of Wight & Southhampton. Cities of Chesapeake, Franklin, Norfolk, Portsmouth, Suffolk & Virginia Beach       |
| Tyler Freeland  | West Piedmont     | 276.403.4014 | <a href="mailto:tyler@vcwwestpiedmont.org">tyler@vcwwestpiedmont.org</a>   | Counties of Henry, Patrick & Pittsylvania. Cities of Danville & Martinsville  |