Steps to recovery for Lake County IL businesses affected by Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Small Business Survival Guide
Coronavirus (COVID-19)
Lake County, IL
Unprecedented but not unmanageable

Businesses all over Lake County are feeling the stifling effects of Coronavirus (COVID-19) with many business owners concerned about long-term business impact. This simple guide provides essential information for weathering the pandemic and leveraging the wide range of resources available to help you to stay in business. The situation with the virus is fluid. Visit www.clcillinois.edu/sbdc-itch frequently or contact the Illinois Small Business Development & International Trade Center for the latest information at (847) 543-2033 or IllinoisSBDC@clcillinois.edu.

Reducing spread of the virus
First things first! Slowing the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) is critical to recovery efforts and small business owners should do their part. Click this link for information from the CDC about how to reduce the spread of the virus. Similarly, understanding virus symptoms and knowing what to do in case of illness is also important. Click here for a list of Coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms and here for information about what to do if you or people you work with get sick.

Helping your people
Unemployment benefits may be available to some individuals whose unemployment is attributed to Coronavirus (COVID-19). The Illinois Department of Employment Services (IDES) recently adopted emergency rules to make unemployment benefits available to qualifying individuals. Please review this link for information about those benefits.

Additionally, employees can check into the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) (formerly Food Stamps) which helps low-income people and families buy the food they need for proper health. Click this link for additional information about SNAP.

While we cannot give definitive answers about utilities, we can offer connections to service providers that are offering support during the pandemic.

- Commonwealth Edison
- NICOR Gas
- Verizon
- T Mobile
- AT&T
- Xfinity

Making operational adjustments
Savvy business owners will consider making changes to the way business is conducted during a pandemic.
Click here for information about common issues your business may encounter. Not having a disaster plan during a disaster can be tough, but rarely is it too late to plan. Click here for tips on creating an emergency preparedness plan and here to learn about cost-cutting measures.

Complying with federal, state and local guidelines
In order to operate your businesses optimally you should understand the decisions made by our elected leaders and the information they provide to support your success. Click here to see which states are on the Presidential and SBA Agency Declared Disasters list. Note that Lake County businesses can apply for disaster assistance loans once the Small Business Administration (SBA) recognizes state of Illinois and Lake County disaster declarations.

Click here for the Illinois disaster proclamation and here for Lake County emergency/disaster declarations.

Calculating economic injury
In order for businesses to qualify for disaster assistance loans from the SBA they must quantify the economic losses incurred as a result of Coronavirus (COVID-19). Click here to report the impact your business is experiencing.

Securing operating capital
The SBA exists to support the success of your business, in good times and bad. Some businesses may need financial support to help them maintain operations during the downturn caused by Coronavirus (COVID-19), and the SBA has a program to help. Click here for an overview of the SBA’s disaster assistance loan program, here for details about required loan documentation and here for details about the application process.

Leveraging local expertise
In addition to the resources listed above, there are others in Lake County who want to help. Click the links below to learn more about your local resources.

- Congressman Brad Schneider
- Lake County Government
- Lake County Health Department
- Lake County Workforce Development
- Lake County Partners
- Lake County Municipalities, economic development and chambers of commerce
- Illinois Small Business Development & International Trade Center at College of Lake County

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