



LEON COUNTY COMMISSIONER

Rick Minor

DISTRICT 3 NEWSLETTER



COVID-19 Updates and Economic Relief Grant Program for Local Businesses (March 27, 2020)

Hello,

I hope you and your families are doing well. Below are some important new updates about our community's response to the coronavirus. Also, as I've mentioned before, [Leon County's Emergency Information Portal](#) is a great one-stop source of local information about COVID-19. It's updated every afternoon, so click [here](#) for the latest news.

If you have questions or suggestions after reading [Leon County's Emergency Information Portal](#) or the info below, please don't hesitate to contact me at MinorR@leoncountyfl.gov or my Chief of Staff, Jodi Wilkof, at WilkofJ@leoncountyfl.gov.

Stay safe. #StayHomeSaveLives #TallahasseeStrong

Rick Minor

Commissioner, Leon County District 3

MinorR@leoncountyfl.gov

P.S. If you have friends and family who might be interested in receiving this newsletter, please ask them to sign up at www.LeonCountyFL.gov/RickMinor. Thank you.

COVID-19 ECONOMIC DISASTER RELIEF GRANT

Click Here To Apply



The Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency Board of Directors (IA Board), comprised of the Leon County Board of County Commissioners and the City of Tallahassee Commissions, has activated the COVID-19 Emergency Disaster Relief (CEDR) Grant Program.

The CEDR Grant Program dedicates \$1 million locally, offering an initial lifeline to local businesses to keep employees employed. The grant thereby supports continuity of operations as local businesses weather the economic hardships during the first critical days and weeks of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The [Tallahassee-Leon County Office of Economic Vitality \(OEV\)](#) will administer the grant program to provide initial cash flow to businesses economically impacted by COVID-19. Up to \$1 million has been allocated for the program and funds will be released on a rolling basis, beginning as soon as three to five days from now.

The distribution of the grant funds will be based on the number of employees. Businesses with one to 10 employees will be awarded \$1,500, businesses with 11 to 24 employees will be awarded \$2,500, and businesses with 25 to 50 employees will be granted \$5,000.

Thirty-five grants have already been awarded, for a total of \$86,500 so far. [Earley's Kitchen](#), [Sweat Therapy Fitness](#), and [Hair on Earth](#) are among the first Leon County businesses to receive grant funding.

To see an interview with Rick about the program, click [HERE](#).

To apply for the CEDR Grant Program, visit www.oevforbusiness.org/cedr-grant. For questions regarding the CEDR Grant Program, contact the OEV at info@OEVforBusiness.org.

COVID-19 *Stay Informed.*



Earlier this week, Leon County Commission Chairman Bryan Desloge issued a stay-at-home order that went into effect Wednesday at 11 p.m. You can read the proclamation that established the stay-at-home order [HERE](#) and you can see a list of frequently asked questions about the order [here](#).

Other Updates:

- The property tax deadline has been extended. The Department of Revenue extended the deadline for citizens and businesses to pay property taxes from March 31 to April 15, 2020. More [HERE](#).
- The Governor has directed the State Surgeon General and Health Officer to issue a public health advisory to all persons over the age of 65 years old and persons with serious underlying medical conditions to stay home and take other measures to limit their risk of exposure to COVID-19. He also directed the State Surgeon General to issue a public health advisory against all social or recreational gatherings of 10 or more people.
- The President declared Florida a major disaster area, which grants access to certain federal programs and provides additional resources to the State.

Important Information:

- The Florida Department of Health has activated a 24/7 COVID-19 call center at **(866) 779-6121**. Leon County residents can also call the County Health Department at **(850) 404-6300**, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The best resource for Florida-specific COVID-19 information remains the following FDOH website: www.FLHealth.gov/COVID-19. Significant updates can always be found updated real-time at www.LeonCountyFL.gov/EI. Our Emergency

Information Portal has the most up-to-date and timely critical information right from the Emergency Operations Center.

- As a reminder, county facilities (libraries, community centers, county campgrounds, and active recreation park facilities) will remain closed through April 19.
- Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare has set up a drive-thru sample collection site at the Northwood Centre (1940 North Monroe Street) from 11 am - 6 pm, Monday - Friday. This site is only open for patients who have an order sent from a physician for testing. For more information and to learn what to expect [CLICK HERE](#).



City of Tallahassee Utility Relief Program

Yesterday the City of Tallahassee has announced the Utility Relief Program, which provides City customers facing financial hardships with an option to defer payment of current monthly bill for water, sewer, electric/natural gas and other utility charges until this fall.



Participants in the Utility Relief Program can expect the carryover to be billed in installments and clearly identified as a separate line item on their future bills beginning in September 2020 through March 2021. Participating customers will also receive a reminder notice approximately two weeks prior to receiving their statement. The City will work with customers who participate on an individual basis.

Cost: Free to participate

Who May Participate: City of Tallahassee Utilities customers (residential and commercial) who can provide documentation of hardship (loss of revenue, reduced income or unemployment) due to COVID-19 during the following active program months (utility bills issued between March 12, 2020 and May 12, 2020)

Food Resources for Seniors

The Tallahassee Senior Center has put together a wonderful and very helpful list of food resources for seniors. The list includes restaurant delivery options, grocery delivery options and other resources.

You can access the list [HERE](#).

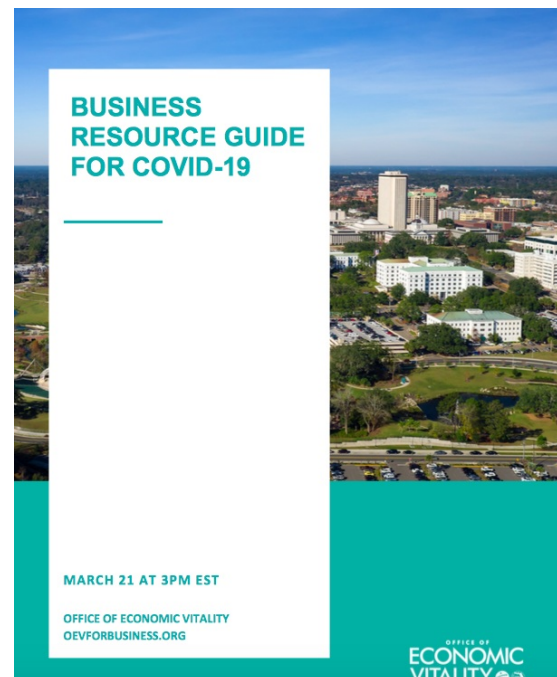


Business Resource Guide

We understand this is a difficult time for local businesses. With the limitations on customer engagement, many businesses are no doubt feeling the impact on their employees, customers, and operations.

The [Tallahassee-Leon County Office of Economic Vitality](#) (OEV) is ready to assist local businesses in whatever capacity they need. One example of this help is the Resource Guide OEV has produced for local businesses. You can access that resource guide [HERE](#).

And you can contact OEV directly [HERE](#).



Social Services

United Partners for Human Services of Florida (UPHS) has gathered information about the availability of social services during this time. To access updates about closures as well as current available services visit their website: <https://uphsfl.org/covid-19/>



Neighbors Helping Neighbors

During these times, it's important for the community to stay connected and support each other. That is why Leon County is launching our Neighbors Helping Neighbors initiative.

Share with us how you are helping your neighbor during this difficult time with the hashtag [#LoveLeon](#):

- Call your neighbors to check in.
- Help others with yardwork, mowing the

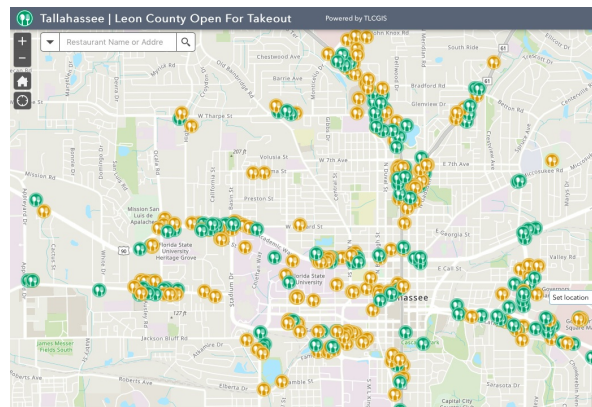
lawn, etc.

- Offer to take care of pets for those that cannot.
- Pick up supplies, groceries or other essential items.
- Order food for delivery for a neighbor using the [#OpenForTakeoutMap](#) at [OEVforBusiness.org](#)
- Sign up to volunteer at [LeonCountyFL.gov/DisasterVolunteer](#)
- Share positive messages by participating in [#ChalktheSidewalk](#)



Open for Takeout

To continue supporting local businesses in Florida's capital during the Coronavirus pandemic, the Tallahassee-Leon County Office of Economic Vitality (OEV) this week launched its "Open for Takeout" initiative to encourage residents to support local businesses while practicing social distancing to minimize the spread of Coronavirus. The initiative features an [interactive map](#) that allows users to view which businesses are open and offer takeout, curbside, delivery and drive through options.



Legal Advice

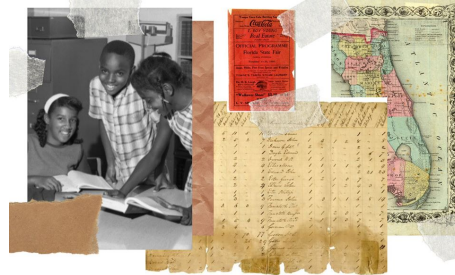
If you are in need of legal service advice, the Legal Aid Foundation of Tallahassee (850-222-3292; <http://www.legalaidtallahassee.org/>) and Legal Services of North Florida (850-385-9007; <https://www.lsnf.org/>) may be contacted for legal advice during this difficult time.



AncestryLibrary

From now until April 30, AncestryLibrary is a FREE resource available to patrons to use from home with their library card! Click [HERE](#) to start your family history journey!

Research your family history by searching the US Federal Census as well as immigration, vital, military, court, church, and ethnic records. Explore city directories, the Social Security Death Index, and more!



ancestryLibrary™
is now available!



Mental Health Services

2-1-1 Big Bend is ready to serve the community during crisis. 2-1-1 Big Bend partners with many nationally recognized mental health services and is available 24 hours a day to listen and provide emotional support, crisis counseling, suicide prevention and information. Just dial 2-1-1 or visit their website for a full list of their services: www.211bigbend.org

You can stay up to date on COVID-19 information via Big Bend 2-1-1's Emergency Information page. View their COVID-19 Information Sheet in real-time at: <https://www.211bigbend.org/emergency>

You can also watch a helpful discussion with Mayor John Dailey and Dr. Jay Reeve, CEO of Apalachee Center, regarding mental health during this crisis [HERE](#).



Disaster Unemployment Assistance

Disaster Unemployment Assistance, administered by the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, provides assistance to individuals whose employment has been either lost or interrupted as a direct result of a major disaster. You can learn more about it [HERE](#).

FloridaDisaster.biz

Helping Florida businesses prepare, respond and recover from hurricanes and other disasters.



Short Time Compensation Program for Employers

The Short Time Compensation program helps employers retain their workforce in times of temporary slowdown by encouraging work sharing as an alternative to layoff.



The program permits prorated reemployment assistance benefits to employees whose work hours and earnings are reduced as part of a Short Time Compensation plan to avoid total layoff of some employees.

To apply for the Short Time Compensation Program, please follow this link to the Employer Login page of [CONNECT](#), at the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity.

Food Distribution Portal

In tough times generosity prevails- and several local restaurants and schools are providing food to families in need during the #COVID-19 pandemic.

For more information and locations, check out the Food Distribution Portal at www.LeonCountyFL.gov/EI.



Business Outreach Survey

In light of COVID-19, the Tallahassee-Leon County Office of Economic Vitality (OEV) is taking the opportunity to get feedback from our local business owners and employers.

If you are a local business owner, please take a moment to complete this [brief survey](#) about the impacts of COVID-19 on your business. Your feedback is critical to identifying the needs of our business community, and the best ways in which OEV and that of its partner organizations can leverage resources for your business and employees.

