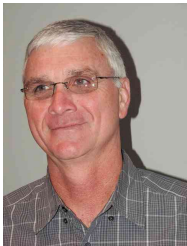


ATPA

MEMBER UPDATE

April 1, 2020 Issue

Dear Members & Affiliates:



Today's **Member Update** has important information related to the anticipated **QUICK ACTION LOANS program**, a relief loan program for Arkansas businesses. There is also information on The \$2.2 trillion federal **Coronavirus Aid, Relief & Economic Security Act** offers loans, grants and tax breaks to big and small businesses. We will continue to keep you apprised of COVID-19 related information as we monitor for both impacts and opportunities for relief in our industry and broader sector.

ATPA continues to work with partners to advocate for our collective interests. This includes the Forest Resources Association, AFA, and the American Loggers Council, among others. I have been impressed by the leadership and work of **Wes Ward, Arkansas Secretary of Agriculture**, who has brought leaders and representatives from across the AG Sector into an **Arkansas Agricultural Stakeholder Group**. This networked resources allows quick sharing of pertinent COVID-19 information and updates, as well as challenges, in a coordinated and cooperative network.

Our ATPA **Member Updates** will be posted on our FB pages ([ATPA/ARK PRO LOGGER](#), and our [IN-Woods-Expo page](#)), alongside other information. If you are not following us on FB, I encourage you to do so. We will also begin posting our **Member Updates** on our website at [arkloggers.com](#)

Please stay connected and feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns, or even useful information you think our members would appreciate. All calls to our main office number, 501-224-2232 will be routed to my cell phone, as will your emails to me directly.

In deep appreciation, concern and hopefulness,

Larry Boccarossa, Executive Director

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Larry J. Boccarossa". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Visit our website



Ark Pro Logger Training Workshops

CODIV-19 BEST PRACTICES: WORKSHOPS IN THE COMING MONTH(S) POSTPONED

As a reminder, and per earlier correspondence and announcements on our website, *Ark Pro Logger* workshops have been postponed through the beginning of April, and we anticipate there may be a need to do so in the coming weeks as well. We will work to reschedule those once we have a better idea of what the CODIV best practices will entail to contain the spread. We will keep you informed via regular electronic correspondence, via our FB page (linked below), and also on our [website](#). We appreciate your patience and understanding - we are all in this together.



COVID-19 News - FEDERAL

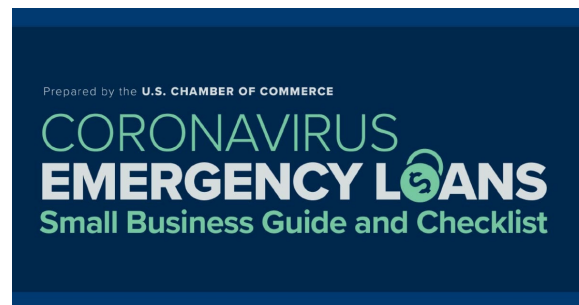
Arkansas Businesses Should Start Preparing for Federal Aid

Arkansas Congressional leaders and business representatives are urging businesses to begin preparations now to apply for Federal Aid

under the federal rescue package signed last week by President Trump. However, it will still be about two weeks before paperwork can be turned in, according to Arkansas banking and government officials.

The President signed the \$2.2 trillion Coronavirus Aid, Relief & Economic Security (CARES) Act last week. This bipartisan aid package offers relief to individuals and businesses hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic, and will include loans, grants and tax breaks to both small and large businesses. It will also send billions to the nation's healthcare system, along with states and local governments.

Arkansas' share of aid totals \$1.25 Billion, and the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) is currently developing guidance for administering some components of the package, a process that is expected to take up to two weeks. Many businesses are interested in the forgivable loan program, **Paycheck Protection**, which is designed to encourage smaller business (fewer than 500 employees) to maintain wages (maintaining above a 25% reduction in pay) and retain employees during the pandemic. Businesses will apply for **loans, up to 2.5 times their average payroll cost, through their banks.** The "Forgiveness" amount is based on the amount of payroll, salaries, healthcare benefits, rent, utilities and mortgage interest spent in the 8 weeks after the loan is received. In addition, there is a grace period for businesses that have already furloughed or laid off



employees to bring people back and restore their pay. In these scenarios, businesses will have until June 30 to rehire employees, or restore their pay, and not have either count against their loan forgiveness.

In an *Arkansas Business* article, Clay Glasgow with the business advisory and public accounting firm HoganTaylor LLP of Little Rock, offered sound advice for businesses who are hoping to take advantage of the Paycheck Protection Program loan funds. He suggested Businesses start thinking about their record-keeping practices, because they will as a condition have to document how they spent the Paycheck Protection Program loan money. “They're going to have to be able to go back to the bank later and show them that they spent the money on the expenses that are eligible for the forgiveness,” he said.

State & Association News

AEDC COVID-19 Resources for Businesses and Employers

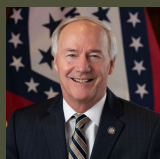
The *Arkansas Economic Development Council (AEDC)* has produced a downloadable Resource Guide for Businesses and Employers during the Challenge of CODIV-19. **We have attached that [HERE](#).** We will continue to share these up-to-date resources from AEDC when they are modified or provide additional listed resources.

ADDITIONAL LINKS FOR MONITORING CODIV-19

[Arkansas State Chamber Updates on CODIV-19:](#)

KNWA FOX24 Statewide Coverage and Resources

For Up-to-Date INFO on Reporting of CODIV-19, including not only cases, location, but also helpful information on where to get tested, KNWA FOX24 is a good resource online. LINKED [HERE](#):



Governor Asa Hutchinson: Nearly 300 Companies Seek *Quick Action Loans*

Gov. **Asa Hutchinson** says he expects \$3 million in state loans related to the COVID-19 outbreak to be distributed to Arkansas businesses early next week. *Arkansas Business* reports that by yesterday, 275 applications have been received for loans through the [Quick Action Loan Program](#), which the governor created with money from his quick action fund. The program allows small- to medium-sized companies to apply for a loan or loan guaranty of up to \$250,000.



Federal News

New Treasury Guidance on Small Business Loan Program, Employee Retention

Credit: The Treasury Department has issued new guidance on the CARES Act's \$350 billion loan fund for small businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic. Small businesses and sole proprietorships can apply for loans through the "[Paycheck Protection Program](#)" starting April 3, while self-employed individuals and independent contractors can apply starting April 10.

Please note, however, that the guidance that the Treasury Department issued was not complete. Full guidance, including operating procedures, is supposed to be out by Friday, April 3rd.

The **Paycheck Protection Program** is specifically designed to help small businesses keep their workforce employed. Click [here](#) for more information. Please contact your bank directly to discuss loan options under the [Paycheck Protection Program](#). More detailed information for borrowers can be found [here](#) and an application can be found [here](#).

The **Treasury Department** also launched the Employee Retention Credit, which you can learn more about [here](#). The Senate Finance Committee released an FAQ document on the credit [here](#).

Paid Leave Requirements go into Effect Today, April 1

Starting today, April 1, businesses with fewer than 500 employees will need to provide employees with paid time off for a variety of reasons relating to COVID-19. Under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, eligible employers will need to provide two weeks of paid leave for workers who are quarantined (due to federal, state or local government order or advice of a health care provider) and/or experiencing COVID-19 symptoms and seeking a medical diagnosis. Eligible employers will also need to provide up to 10 weeks of paid leave for workers who need to care for children whose school or childcare facilities are closed. Read more about the Department of Labor's employer requirements [here](#). Employers will have to [post notice](#) of these changes in a similar manner to other poster requirements. Businesses with fewer than 50 employees and those that produce medical products or COVID-19-related medical equipment may be eligible to receive exemptions from the paid leave requirements. Read more about exemptions [here](#).

Congressman Rick Crawford has information on his website related to various aspects of the federal CARES Act, which was signed into law recently [here](#).

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau has issued a guide regarding mortgage relief options for homeowners concerned about missing their mortgage payments: [here](#).

State News

The **Arkansas Division of Workforce Services** is waiting on guidelines from the U.S. Department of Labor that will allow them to update their system to accept Unemployment Insurance (UI) applications from small entrepreneurs, independent contractors, self-employed individuals, etc. They hope to have the guidelines by the end of the week, which will allow them to start updating their application system. [They are asking for patience as they work through this process and will have everything updated as soon as possible.](#)

The **Department of Arkansas Energy and the Environment** has issued broad enforcement guidelines in response to COVID-19. The guidance asks for entities to submit a request for regulatory flexibility to COVID19EE@adeq.state.ar.us. The Arkansas Environmental Federation (AEF) recommends copying the division director to your request. The guidance can be found on [DEQ's website](#) and on [AEF's website](#).

Gov. Hutchinson has issued an Executive Order suspending provisions of in-person witnessing and notarization of legal documents in state of Arkansas [here](#).

The **Arkansas Attorney General's office** wants to know about any instances of price gouging when purchasing essential items during the COVID-19 crisis [here](#).

The **Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism** is conducting a survey on the effects of COVID-19 and how the Department can better serve the needs of Arkansans [here](#).

Arkansas State Chamber members **Mangan Holcomb Partners/Team SI** and the **Little Rock Convention and Visitors Bureau** have partnered to create an up-to-the-minute resource to help bolster local business and nonprofit efforts in Arkansas [here](#).

Arkansas State Chamber member **Wright Lindsey Jennings** has COVID-19 guidance and resources on its website: [here](#).

The **Venture Center** is holding a webinar from 3-4 p.m. Friday, April 3 titled "Critical Help for Entrepreneurs, Solopreneurs and Small Businesses." To register, click: [here](#).

Seven leadership principles for managers during COVID-19 [here](#)

For additional information and resources, check our **COVID-19 Coronavirus and Arkansas** page [here](#).

We are proud to work as an entire sector, collaboratively, to help and keep one another safe and healthy, as well as our collective families, medical frontliners and staff, and our Natural State communities.

[Visit our website](#)

[Our calendar](#)

[Contact Us!](#)