Last week, the SBA began receiving applications from Louisiana businesses for loans to address revenue losses related to COVID-19. Low-interest loans with long-term repayment programs are available up to $2 million at a fixed interest rate of 2.75% for non-profits and 3.75% for businesses with specific terms based on your situation. SBA staff advise the process will take approximately 30-45 days to begin receiving funds and are encouraging applications immediately. Apply online by clicking HERE. While all SBA applications MUST be completed ONLINE, you can access paper copies of the forms HERE, along with instructions, in order to gather information beforehand and streamline the online process.

The Louisiana office of SBA plans to host a webinar on Monday, March 30, 11am-12:30pm to explain more about the economic injury disaster loan program. Register Here

As debate continues in Congress on additional forms of aid, LABI is also urging leaders to quickly pass forgivable loans or grants for businesses to stave off additional layoffs. The loans currently included in the CARES Act would also likely run through SBA. So if you have a relationship with a bank in your community, ask your banker if they are an SBA authorized lender. If so, your banker should be able to discuss the SBA loan options available to you. To see a complete list of SBA lenders in Louisiana, click HERE.

Small businesses are also advised to ask your current bank if they are able to offer immediate bridge loan assistance or defer existing loan payments. SBA has announced automatic deferments through December 31, 2020, for borrowers still paying back SBA disaster loans from previous disasters such as the 2016 floods and Hurricanes Gustav, Ike, Katrina, or Rita. Borrowers of home and business disaster loans do NOT have to contact SBA to request deferment.

SBA has asked LABI to share the following information related to the COVID-19 disaster loans:

- Full eligibility guidelines for non-profits and business, click HERE.
- Size and standards classification guidelines for small businesses (for use when applying), click HERE.
- Guidelines on what small businesses can do with the disaster loans, click HERE.
- Complete resource guide for small business, click HERE.

If you have additional questions - or questions specific to your business - you are encouraged to contact the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) in your area. While their offices are closed, technical advice is available remotely with SBDC experts. Click HERE to request a consultation and schedule a virtual meeting with SBDC staff in your area and/or email lasbdc@lsbdc.org.