



In an effort to provide you relevant and timely information and keep you up to date during the corona virus outbreak, the Economic Development Office will be sending a weekly bulletin. We will focus on information regarding business resources and support from various government agencies.

UPdates for March 27, 2020

Third Time Is A Charm...

Today, the U.S. Congress passed the federal stimulus act known as the CARES Act (Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security). Details and additional information will become more available in the days and weeks ahead, however, key features that relate to businesses include:

- Unemployment benefits increased by \$600/week for four months for those who already qualify, with an extension of unemployment compensation by 13 weeks beyond the eligibility time states provide under current law. There is also a \$600 benefit for unemployed workers who would not normally be eligible.
- A \$350 billion loan/grant program which can also be accessed by non-profits and individual contractors. These funds will be accessed by working through most traditional lenders.

Critical Information You Need to Know

- The City of University Place Economic Development Department is creating a special COVID-19 webpage that will include all the information we receive that effects our businesses. We hope to have the page operational by early next week and will provide an update when it is active.
- Due to the impacts of COVID-19 on businesses, the Washington Business Licensing Service (BLS) is temporarily suspending automatic termination of expired license endorsements.
- The new small business loan program unveiled by Pierce County this week applies **ONLY** to businesses physically located in unincorporated Pierce County, so it is not applicable to U.P. businesses.

What is Essential?

- Governor Jay Inslee has issued **official guidance** that “construction is not considered an essential activity” in the Stay-at-Home Order he announced on Monday. As a result, all construction – residential and commercial – must shut down during the two weeks in which the order is in place.
- Visit [here](#) to request clarification regarding whether your business is classified as "essential" or to request inclusion in the "essential business" category.

Water, Water, Everywhere!

- Tacoma Public Utilities reminds all customers that there is no threat to the water supply and that payment extensions can be requested, with no penalties. Contact [TPU](#) for all the details.

Out of concern for your health and the health of our staff, the City of University Place is conducting business on-line, over the telephone 253.566.5656 or by appointment only. Currently, we plan on operating in this manner through the month of March. Please keep checking our website at www.CityofUP.com for up to date information.

City of University Place Economic Development Department

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