



Palm Beach County – Open for Business

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The Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners' commitment to the business community remains paramount, especially during the unprecedented challenges posed by the COVID-19 outbreak. As the threat of the pandemic strengthened, the board adopted a two-pronged approach: (1) provide information and technical assistance regarding federal and state-level relief programs, and (2) ensure that Palm Beach County's existing business investment and economic development programs and services remain open and accessible.

County Administrator Verdenia Baker stands at the forefront of the local COVID-19 response, conferring with stakeholders on issuance of local emergency orders, and presenting at town hall meetings organized by the Business Development Board to keep the public up to date on the effects of Florida Governor Ron DeSantis' executive orders on the local business community.

Palm Beach County's Department of Housing and Economic Sustainability (HES) and Office of Equal Business Opportunity (OEBO), in coordination with the Emergency Management Business and Industry section, have continuously distributed important information to all chambers of commerce, economic development partners, Palm Beach County Business Loan Program borrowers, certified small/minority/women business enterprises (SMWBEs), and more than 8,000 county-registered vendors. This information includes updates, FAQs, links to live information sessions, fact sheets, and access to applications for federal, state and local relief programs. All information is also posted on the Palm Beach County website, pbcgov.com and on dedicated links within OEBO and HES web pages.

HES Business Investment and Economic Development staff stands at the ready fielding questions from borrowers and business owners regarding emergency relief programs, tracking changes to the federal opportunity zone program, and monitoring developments in the recovery process. Businesses and individuals can also rely on the Palm Beach County Library System for assistance. Ask-A-Librarian staffers are available by phone, email and online chat to answer questions or provide help filling out unemployment/reemployment forms. Employment and reemployment applications in English, Spanish, and Creole are available for pick up outside 13 library branches, including the Belle Glade location.

Most importantly, Palm Beach County is operating and delivering the critical services and programs our citizens need. The Palm Beach County Business Loan Program administered by HES continues to provide eligible borrowers with low-interest long-term financing for their business projects. In fact, in the midst of COVID-19, five loans were funded to support the expansion of existing businesses within Palm Beach County.

Be assured, once the health threat posed by the coronavirus subsides and we begin to see a return to normalcy, getting local businesses reopened and people safely back to work is Priority One. Before, during and after the crisis, Palm Beach County remains "open for business."

To learn more please contact me at 561-233-3600 or showard@pbcgov.org.