



City of Colorado Springs COVID-19 Business Relief Package

The City of Colorado Springs is committed to identifying, developing and implementing local programs in support of Colorado Springs business owners and their employees impacted by COVID-19. Local programs are being identified, developed and implemented in collaboration with community partners including state, federal and county governments, local economic development organizations, non-profits and foundations.

- **Funding Assistance** - City Economic Development is collaborating with local partners to establish business relief funds to provide financial assistance to local businesses directly affected by COVID-19. Financial assistance is being developed in the form of low cost loan and grant programs that are being managed by organizations with the appropriate experience and expertise. Several local funds are now available and listed below.
 - [Survive & Thrive COS Small Business Relief Fund](#) – The City is working in partnership with Exponential Impact and Pikes Peak Community Foundation to provide relief loans, mentorship, and resources for small businesses. The highest priority for this fund are industries most impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic such as the food industry, retail shops and personal care facilities as these businesses have had to temporarily close, are struggling to pay rent and utilities, and have had to lay off staff. Businesses with 2-25 employees in the Pikes Peak region are eligible to receive up to \$25,000 in low interest loans. Installments of funding will be provided monthly over a three month period. Repayment occurs over three years, and payments are not required for the first year. Terms are 0% in year one and increase by 1% over each of the next two years.
 - [Colorado Springs Downtown Development Authority Small Business Relief Fund](#) – The Downtown Development Authority (DDA) is offering \$2,500-\$25,000 in grant funding for certain storefront businesses that are in the boundaries of the DDA. Downtown businesses eligible for the fund include restaurants, craft breweries and distilleries, soft goods retailers and specialty food purveyors, art galleries, coffee and ice cream shops, movie theaters, bars, salons, tattoo parlors, and fitness centers. Funding can be used for payroll, utilities, suppliers, vendors, and/or lease or mortgage payments. Deadline to apply is 5pm April 22, 2020. Find out if you are in the DDA boundary with [this map](#).
 - [Pikes Peak Enterprise Zone Business Relief Fund](#) - El Paso County Economic Development, in coordination with local economic development partners, has launched the first community based, grant-funded program to provide financial assistance to small businesses impacted by COVID-19 in the Pikes Peak



Enterprise Zone (EZ). Small businesses in the EZ will have access to grants up to \$7,500 for needs such as rent or mortgage assistance, utility payments, employee payroll, accounts payable, etc. Applications are now open and due May 1, 2020. Find out if you are in the Enterprise Zone by visiting the [state EZ map here](#). The Fund is also seeking financial contributions to support their efforts, and donors will receive an Enterprise Zone state income tax credit equal to 25% of their contribution.

- [Artist Recovery Fund](#) – Pikes Peak Community Foundation and Bee Vradenburg Foundation have partnered to provide emergency support for individual artists and creative professionals in El Paso and Teller Counties who are being adversely affected due to cancellation of performances, art openings, lessons or other revenue generating artistic activity due to COVID-19. The Artist Recovery Fund will provide approximately \$500 to cover the most immediate and essential expenses. The Fund is also seeking financial contributions to support their efforts, and all donations are tax deductible and 100% of contributions will go directly to supporting local artists in need.
- **Key Resources for Businesses and Employees** - City Economic Development is acting as an information resource and conduit for state and federal assistance available to businesses and individuals impacted by COVID-19. Assistance is available in the form of low cost SBA loans and special unemployment insurance programs available from the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment. Links to these agencies, programs, and funding assistance are listed on the City Economic Development website at <https://coloradosprings.gov/economic-development/page/covid-19-response-helping-businesses>.
- **Sales and Use Taxes** - The City of Colorado Springs will waive penalty charges for late payment of February and March sales and use taxes for businesses that are unable to meet these due dates due to impacts of COVID-19. The February and March sales and use tax payment deadlines will remain in place and waivers will be granted on a case-by-case basis. For more information and to request a waiver, businesses should contact (719) 385-5903 or SalesTax@coloradosprings.gov.
- **Liquor License Renewals** - The City of Colorado Springs will waive the local late fees for hotel, restaurant and bar liquor license renewal for the duration of the declared State of Emergency for licensees that are unable to meet the renewal deadline as a result of the COVID-19 impacts. For more information contact 719-385-5901 or BusinessLicense@coloradosprings.gov.



- **Mobile Food Vendor License Renewals** - The City of Colorado Springs will waive the late fees for mobile food vendor license renewals for the duration of the declared State of Emergency for licensees that are unable to meet the renewal deadline as a result of the COVID-19 impacts. For more information contact 719-385-5901 or BusinessLicense@coloradosprings.gov.
- **Parking** - The City of Colorado Springs Parking Enterprise will suspend enforcement of the following in Colorado Springs and Old Colorado City effective March 23, 2020 through May 25, 2020:
 - Parking Meters (all meters will be free and without time limits)
 - Time limited, non-metered parking areas (e.g. 30-minute, 1-hour, 2-hour, etc.)
 - Parking Structures (all structured parking will be free)
 - Booting

The Parking Enterprise is also extending availability of designated curbside parking spaces with orange signs through the end of May for residents receiving curbside services from restaurants and businesses. Drivers must stay in their vehicle while parked at these designated curbside spaces.

The following parking enforcement activities **will continue**:

- Fire hydrant zones and fire lanes
 - “No Stopping” or “No Parking” zones to promote safety
 - Loading Zones
 - Mountain Metro Transit stops
 - Special parking permitted spaces, including but not limited to accessible spaces, reserved spaces, restricted spaces
 - Electric vehicle, compact, reserved or other signed parking spaces in structures
 - Parking on or within 20 feet of a crosswalk
 - Blocking driveways or alleys
 - Parking in travel lanes, including bike and transit lanes
 - Obedience to angle signs or markings
 - ADA violations
 - Extended/overnight parking meters
- **Utilities Payments** - As a community-owned utility, Colorado Springs Utilities is committed to the health and safety of our customers and employees as we continue to deliver essential services to the community in response to COVID-19. As a result, Utilities is offering a number of operational changes:
 - Customers will not be disconnected due to non-payment of utility bills until further notice.



- A Skip a Payment program is now available. Customers can make arrangements to skip a payment, and the amount of that payment will be added to the customer's future bills.
- A Payment Plan program is also available for customers facing financial hardship who are having difficulty paying their utilities bills.
- Project COPE offers utilities payment assistance for customers in emergency situations, and there is no income restriction. Usually this assistance is available once every 12 months. Due to COVID-19, customers with past due bills may now receive additional assistance within a 6-month period if the need is due to the coronavirus. Contact Pikes Peak United Way's 2-1-1 for the best referral to an available COPE agency.

For more information on these programs and payment options please visit the [Colorado Springs Utilities website](#), call 719-448-4800 or email askus@csu.org.

- **Airport** - The Colorado Springs Airport (COS Airport) provides essential transportation services to our community and will remain open to serve those who need to travel. At this time, COS Airport remains open and operational for those who are traveling for essential business, to care for family members, to return home or to pick up/drop off someone at the Airport. For the safety of our passengers and due to the decline in passengers and frequency of flights, many of the Airport concessionaires and amenities have either temporarily closed or have reduced hours of operations. The Colorado Springs Airport is working with the aviation industry to support federal action to provide relief to aviation workers and supporting businesses.
- **Support the Springs Campaign** - The City of Colorado Springs is an official partner of Support the Springs, an online resource that shares creative opportunities to support our local businesses in this trying time. Learn about small businesses offering alternative ways to shop, resources for up-to-date COVID-19 information, and ways to stay connected through volunteering and donating to emergency relief efforts. Visit SupportTheSprings.com for more information and to add your business to the list.

The safety and well-being of our community is our top priority. To best monitor and react to the most up-to-date information, the City of Colorado Springs is in constant contact with El Paso County Public Health and our local and state agencies to make the best decisions to respond to COVID-19 as a community. Without fail, Colorado Springs comes together when faced with challenging situations, and this time is no different. City staff members are working tirelessly to ensure we are providing all essential government services while compiling with all health and safety recommendations and requirements. For more information on the City's response and facilities and operational modifications, visit <https://coloradosprings.gov/covidcityresponse>.

Together, we are helping slow the spread of this disease so our healthcare resources can help



those who need it most. Residents can do their part to support the work of our non-profit, philanthropic, private industry, and government partners by giving blood, volunteering their time to help a neighbor or community organization, donating to the [Pikes Peak Emergency Relief Fund](#), and ordering takeout or delivery from local businesses. We all can do our part to slow the spread of this disease, and we will get through this together.

Last updated May 27, 2020