

March 30, 2020



Dear Industry Partners and Friends,

Please review this important "Special Edition" below with information on CARES Act, hospitality workforce connection and more from the Arizona Office of Tourism.

Thank you,

Trace Ward,  
Discover Flagstaff CVB Director



**Special Edition - Tourism Friday**

MARCH 27, 2020

**Good afternoon,**

This afternoon a COVID-19 economic relief package, known as the CARES Act, [was signed into law](#). The measure provides \$2.2 trillion to support the country's overall economic health and includes provisions to support the tourism industry.

## CARES Act Summary

- \$377 Billion in Loans and Loan Forgiveness for Small Travel Businesses: Provides small travel businesses (500 employees or less), self-employed individuals, and 501(c)(3) nonprofits with enhanced and expedited SBA loans through community banks.
- \$454 Billion in Federally Backed Financial Assistance for Impacted Businesses: Assists impacted travel businesses and governmental entities. Broad eligibility ensures impacted organizations can access a liquidity lifeline to keep workers employed and stay afloat through the worst months of this crisis.
- \$16.5 Billion in Total Grants for Impacted Tourism Businesses and Airports: Provides \$10 billion in airport grants to support vital operations and \$6.5 billion in Community Development and Economic Development Administration grants, which can be accessed by the tourism industry.
- Tax Relief: Allows affected businesses to temporarily defer tax liability, access an Employee Retention Tax Credit, delay or eliminate estimated quarterly tax payments and filings deadlines, and allow for a carryback of the Net Operating Loss (NOL) Deduction.

### **Arizona Hospitality Workforce Connection**

I am proud to announce that AOT partnered with the Arizona Commerce Authority Office of Economic Opportunity to launch a **new resource** aimed at **connecting our displaced hospitality workforce** with industries that are urgently hiring.

Our Arizona [hospitality workforce connection](#) resource is designed with ease-of-use in mind, allowing hospitality job seekers to find available opportunities using their skillset. Employers can also have their job opportunities posted at no charge and opportunities are updated on an ongoing basis. We'd appreciate any help in getting the word out to the industry and potential employers.

### **Expanded Access To Unemployment Benefits**

Today, Governor Ducey enacted legislation to make more Arizonans eligible for unemployment benefits. Retroactive to March 10, unemployment benefits are now available to those who are not receiving wages due to a COVID-19 closure but plan to return; those who are self-quarantining and those who left work to care for a family member. [Full details are here](#). The CARES Act also increases the dollar amount and length of time for unemployment benefits.

### **Easy Steps to Apply for SBA Loans**

Thank you to everyone who was able to join our AOT Webinar for Tourism Businesses

yesterday with the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). We want to make sure you know not only what resources are available, but also how to access them as fast as possible.

### **Quick facts on EID Loans:**

- Loans offer up to **\$2 million** in assistance at a fixed 3.75% interest rate (2.75% for private non-profits) for 30 years per small business, with no repayments required during the entire first year.
- Loans are intended to **sustain businesses for the next 3-6 months** and may be used to pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable and other bills. The loans cannot be used to refinance or pay off other existing federal debts.
- Business owners are encouraged to [apply as soon as possible](#). For more detailed information on EID Loans, [click here](#).

### **Arizona Together**

Thank you to everyone throughout our industry who shared ways AOT can help you navigate through this time. It is that sharing of information that led directly to us scheduling the call with the SBA and creating a workforce program that connects hospitality job skills with available opportunities. And we're ready to do more.

We will continue to work with our partners statewide to provide resources we think you can use and all we ask is that you share these resources with others in need and continue to provide us information on the best ways we can assist you. Together, we'll get through this!

Debbie Johnson

Director, Arizona Office of Tourism

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### **COVID-19 RESOURCES**

#### **Immediate Employment Opportunities**

Access [current information and resources](#) regarding immediate statewide employment support and openings for the hospitality workforce.

#### **COVID-19 Resource Updates**

AOT actively monitors the [evolving COVID-19 situation](#) and continues to work alongside state and national partners to communicate new developments.

### **COVID-19 Cancellations and Closures**

Check our [regularly updated list](#) of businesses, attractions, events, parks, visitor centers and pro sports leagues that have been either closed, postponed, delayed and/or canceled. Contact [aridgway@tourism.az.gov](mailto:aridgway@tourism.az.gov) to add to this list.

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