



Local/Small Business Resources

UPDATED March 20, 2020

UNEMPLOYMENT INFO: COVID-19 Impact

Responses to the questions below will assist the **Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity** in evaluating specific areas of need at this time. We appreciate your input and assure you that we are working diligently to secure all the resources we can.

Link: https://form.jotform.com/200717156003039?fbclid=IwAR1eGxYllm9cTevDLM_C68bCjKJQ2LzFNSir9LgRkSGLRjb0IVz7kBRURnA

Question came up about what local business employees should choose for the "reason" when filing unemployment online with the IDES. Choose: "*Temporary Layoff*," which is the most appropriate response. If it asks for a Return to Work date, choose 10 weeks out. (This can be changed as circumstances warrant.)

Link to the IDES FAQ: <https://www2.illinois.gov/ides/Pages/COVID-19-and-Unemployment-Benefits.aspx>

The downtown **Rockford IDES** office has been closed to the public and as such all unemployment claims should be filed online **HERE**

U.S. Small Business Administration: COVID-19 Information

For additional questions about Coronavirus in Winnebago County and the region:

Please call the County's **Emergency Operations Center (EOC)** at 815-319-6705 or by emailing covid19@wchd.org

You can apply for an **SBA Disaster Loan:** <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela>

More information or questions about the SBA Disaster Loan can be directed here:

John Phelps | John@rldc.us | 815-987-8675

Andrew Jury | Andrew@rldc.us | 815-987-8675

Additional Community Resources & Information:

RACVB created the **Rockford Area Hospitality/Tourism COVID-19 Resource Group** on Facebook group for idea sharing. Find the Group **HERE**

Many **Local Restaurants** are serving food via delivery, carryout and curbside pick-up.

Find the most updated list here at Rockford Buzz: **[Rockford Buzz Restaurant List](#)**

United Way of Rock River Valley has established a *COVID-19 Emerging Needs Fund* for Winnebago and Ogle counties. This fund will support the needs of residents and their children to help alleviate hardships they may be experiencing due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Learn More Here: <https://www.unitedwayrrv.org/covid-19>

Donate Here: <https://app.mobilecause.com/form/UhZyfg?vid=5xrim>

Family Resources from RPS 205 **HERE**

Winnebago Buy Local MEMBER Digest Here: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/WBLMembersOnly/>

Need info and not finding it? If your business or attraction/venue has a legislative or regulatory question and can't find that info on one of the local/state/federal websites (look there first), email covid19@gorockford.com and RACVB will do their best to track that information down for you.



Important Links

City of Rockford: <https://rockfordil.gov/preparing-for-covid-19/>

Winnebago County Health Department (WCHD): www.wchd.org

Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH): <http://www.dph.illinois.gov/>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

You can also sign up for regular email updates from the Mayor at <https://bit.ly/33mU9v5>

Send the features, press releases, and special ways your business is navigating COVID-19 to:

Rockford Buzz: jbradt@rockfordbuzz.com, courtney@rockfordbuzz.com

GoRockford / RACVB: acook@gorockford.com

Rock River Times: Donna.george@rockrivertimes.com

Online Tech/Marketing Resources for Business Owners: *(List Curated by Tyler McCall)*

Here is a master list of currently available resources for online business owners impacted by COVID-19:

The Creator Fund from ConvertKit - Emergency Fund

ConvertKit and its partners have established an emergency assistance fund to help creators in need during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Details: <https://creatorfund.ck.page/>

Facebook Small Business Grants

Facebook is offering \$100M in cash grants and ad credits to help during this challenging time.

Details: <https://www.facebook.com/business/grants>

Loom - Free Screen Recording

Through July 1, 2020, Loom will remove the recording limit on their free plan — what was 25 is now unlimited; cut the price of Loom Pro in half — what was \$10/month is now \$5/month; extend all trials of Loom Pro from 14 to 30 days.

Details: <https://www.loom.com/blog/coronavirus-response>

Rising Tide Society & Honeybook - Free Resources

RTS and Honeybook are offering a number of free business resources and tools including legal templates and more for creative business owners.

Details: <https://www.honeybook.com/risingtide/>

Google Meetings - Free Virtual Meetings

Google is rolling out free access to their advanced Hangouts Meet video-conferencing capabilities to all G Suite customers globally including: larger meetings, for up to 250 participants per call; live streaming for up to 100,000 viewers within a domain; the ability to record meetings and save them to Google Drive.

Details: <https://gsuite.google.com/products/meet/>

Postable - Free Stamps

Postable is offering free domestic postage for the rest of March.

Details: <https://www.postable.com/>