



## St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners

Office of the County Administrator | Economic Development

As Director of Economic Development for St. Johns County, I want to express the County's genuine interest in supporting our local businesses during these unprecedented times. The County's Office of Economic Development is diligently working to stay informed of the evolving issues related to this pandemic.

We are closely following efforts of U.S. Small Business Administration, Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, and the Florida Small Business Development Center, as well as the various industry-specific associations to ensure we are prepared to support our community in any way possible.

As many business owners are aware, a multitude of requests of the State and Federal Government have been made to assist those businesses hardest hit by the effects of the Coronavirus (COVID-19). Some level of assistance has already been authorized, but it is anticipated that there is more to come.

On the state level, Gov. Ron DeSantis activated the **Florida Small Business Emergency Bridge Loan Program** to provide short-term, interest-free loans to small businesses feeling the economic turbulence from COVID-19. President Trump also activated a presidential disaster declaration in response to COVID-19. Impacted businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, and private nonprofit organizations may apply for low-interest loans through the **SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL)**.

Below are some additional resources that may be of assistance to local businesses:

- **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention - Resources for Businesses and Employers**
- **US Small Business Administration - (COVID-19): Small Business Guidance & Loan Resources**
- **US Chamber of Commerce - Guidance for Employers**
- **US Department of Labor - Guidance on Preparing Workplaces for COVID-19**
- **Business Damage Assessment Survey – Please complete if impacted by COVID-19**

Additionally, the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce, a close business partner of the County, is an invaluable resource during this time. Regardless of membership, we encourage our business community to review the Chamber's website at <http://www.sjcchamber.com> for information regarding business continuity, along with the County's website for COVID-19 updates at <http://www.sjcfl.us/index.aspx>.

Now, more than ever, we are working hard to support our invaluable local business community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Melissa S. Glasgow".

Melissa S. Glasgow  
Director of Economic Development