

## S. Scott McDowell

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**From:** MURPHY Melissa \* BIZ <Melissa.Murphy@oregon.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 17, 2020 3:15 PM  
**To:** Sherry, Seth; Dykast, Sophie; Porsche, Kate; Blair Larsen; arodgers@ci.lebanon.or.us; Price, Dave; Jesse Dolin; Hilary Norton; S. Scott McDowell; 'kkreitman@cityofmillersburg.org'; 'jbooth@cityofmillersburg.org'; Austin Ramirez; CAMP Allison K; GRIESEL Courtney; Alison Robertson  
**Cc:** MEANS Sarah \* GOV  
**Subject:** FW: NOW Update: the latest information  
**Attachments:** Layoff Aversion Examples (COVID).pdf; COVID-19 FINAL OED Resources for Employers and Workers 03.12.20.pdf

Good afternoon everybody. I know there is a lot of information flying around but wanted to make sure you had the attached info and message from OED on the Layoff Aversion Program. I've listed a few other items below as well.

1. The State has met the need for the emergency declaration and SBA loan program so that will be put in motion soon. SBA is still trying to work with the program to make it a bit more flexible and fast.
2. Business need to talk with their lenders if they have loans out and see if the lender will offer help on payments or restructuring. If not, they should let you/us know so we can keep track of how banks are responding. We can also connect them to other lenders that may be able to help with short term working capital loans.
3. If a Business has a direct loan with Business Oregon please have them contact us ASAP.
4. The SBA 7a Loan Guarantee Program is funded and ready to use. Businesses should talk with lenders about accessing this program for working capital loans now.
5. Sarah will have the Regional Recovery Team up and running by the end of the week which will help us coordinate information and share throughout our region.
6. See the attached info on the Layoff Aversion Program and the guidance below.

More guidance from Workforce:

- Employees who are laid off temporarily or permanently should file for unemployment insurance (UI) benefits immediately. If the layoff is short term, 4 weeks or less, the employee does not have to search for employment while they are receiving benefits.
- The governor recently declared that all bars and restaurants close to in-dining patrons but can still provide food through pick-up or delivery.
- If a business closure is temporary, employees are encouraged to apply for UI. If the business does not reopen, they will be provided a formal Rapid Response event. Rapid Response events will not be held for temporary business closures, per state guidance.
- At this time, all WSO centers will remain open, but will strictly follow the protocols sent out from the Governor regarding social distancing, staying home if you are sick, not holding gatherings of more than 10 people, etc. I'm sure you've all been inundated with these protocols.
- All Rapid Response activities that do go forward will be conducted on a virtual platform. Videos have been created to help employers and employees know what their options are.
- Layoff Aversion funds will be coming down from the State. They will be allocated via a formula methodology, which means that our 5-county region will receive a portion of what is available. They will come down in the

form of a contract with NOW and the HECC, so that we do not have to request funds in a piece-meal fashion, but can have access and flexibility when deploying the funds to the community.

- Layoff Aversion funds cannot be used as wage-replacement. That is why applying for UI is imperative.
- I've attached a document giving some examples of how Layoff Aversion funds can be used. I sent this out earlier, but I don't think I've sent it out to everyone.
- I've also attached a document from OED. Sorry if you're receiving it twice.

Below is a link to Work Share specifically for employers. Work Share allows for employers to keep their employees, with reduced hours, and can supplement their wages with UI benefits.

<https://www.oregon.gov/employ/Unemployment/Pages/Work-Share-Program.aspx>

## **Melissa Murphy**

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