



The Fresno Regional Workforce Development Board's Business Services Center and our partners are here to help the business community in response to the spread of COVID-19. In order to be in compliance with the City of Fresno's "Shelter in Place" Emergency Order 2020-02, our offices will be closed beginning on **Thursday, March 19th**. We anticipate re-opening on **Wednesday, April 1<sup>st</sup>**, but that is subject to change.

### **RAPID RESPONSE-LAYOFF ASSISTANCE**

If you're experiencing layoffs or business closures as a result of COVID-19, our Rapid Response program can provide assistance. Please call **559 490 7147** or visit our website [www.fresnobsc.com](http://www.fresnobsc.com) for more information.

We can offer your affected workers information and resources on how to file for unemployment insurance, re-employment opportunities, health benefits, low cost housing alternatives, and more.

On March 4, Governor Gavin Newsom signed [Executive Order N-31-20](#) to ease the regulatory burden on employers who had to close before being able to provide employees advanced notice related to the [Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification \(WARN\)](#).

Labor Code sections pertaining mass layoff, relocation and termination, which normally requires a 60 day notice, have been temporarily suspended due to this emergency and now only require as much notice as is practicable is provided, and when the notice is given, a brief statement regarding the basis for reducing the notification period is included.

### **STATE RESOURCES**

The California Employment Development Division (EDD) is granting a 60-day extension to file state payroll reports and/or deposit state payroll taxes without penalty or interest for employers experiencing hardship due to COVID-19. For the most up-to-date information, visit the [CA EDD COVID-19 resource page](#)

- **Reduced Work Hours or Layoffs**

If your employer has reduced your hours or shut down operations due to COVID-19, you can [file an Unemployment Insurance \(UI\) claim](#). UI provides partial wage replacement benefit payments to workers who lose their job or have their hours reduced, through no fault of their own. If you are temporarily unemployed due to COVID-19 and expected to return to work with your employer within a few weeks, you are not required to actively seek work each week. However, you must remain able and available and ready to work during your unemployment for each week of benefits you claim and meet all other eligibility criteria. If you're eligible, benefits can range from \$40-\$450 per week.

- **Work Sharing Program**

Employers can apply for the Work Sharing Program if they are looking for alternatives to layoffs due to reduced production, services, or other conditions. This program allows employers to keep trained employees so that when business conditions improve, the employer avoids the expense of recruiting, hiring and training new employees, and saves the existing employees the hardship of becoming fully unemployed. Hours must be reduced by at least 10 percent but not exceed 60 percent. For more information, visit the [CA EDD Work Sharing Program page](#)

The California Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz) provides many services to employers affected by COVID-19. For more information, please visit [their resource page](#)

**California Infrastructure and Economic Development Bank (IBank)** provides a Small Business Loan Guarantee Program & Disaster Relief Loan Guarantee Program. Small businesses located in California with 1-750 employees are eligible. For more information, visit [the IBank's Small Business Finance Center page](#)

## **FEDERAL RESOURCES**

**The US Department of Labor Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)** has issued a guide on preparing your workplace in response to COVID-19. Visit this [here](#).

**The Small Business Administration (SBA)** is offering up to \$ 2 million in low-interest disaster recovery loans to small businesses that are impacted by COVID-19. Visit their page for more information [here](#).

**The Internal Revenue Service (IRS)** has established a special section focused on steps to help taxpayers, businesses and others affected by the coronavirus. View more [here](#).

## **LOCAL RESOURCES**

### **City of Fresno**

- The City resource page can be found here: <https://www.fresno.gov/>
- Coronavirus Update: <https://www.fresno.gov/coronavirus/>
- County Public Health: <https://www.co.fresno.ca.us/departments/public-health/covid-19>
- Those businesses with questions about whether they are an essential business should call the Code Enforcement hotline at **621-8400**.

**The Fresno County Economic Development Corporation (Fresno EDC)** offers great information on local resources. View more information [here](#). For additional business inquiries pertaining to COVID-19, please call their emergency hotline at **559 476 2509** or email them at [covid@fresnoedc.com](mailto:covid@fresnoedc.com)