

To the Fashion District Community,

As we all continue to monitor the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) situation very closely, we wanted to share with you some information to help support your businesses.

You may be aware that we are taking [precautionary steps](#) in response to this developing public health impact, including increased cleaning and sanitizing procedures with our Clean & Safe Team operational procedures. We are also working to gather as much information on efforts that may help you as you make decisions regarding your business, employees and customers.

Here are some State of California efforts to assist businesses and workers.

Employer: Reduced Work Hours

Employers experiencing a slowdown in their businesses or services as a result of the COVID-19 impact on the economy may apply for the UI Work Sharing Program. This program allows employers to seek an alternative to layoffs. Visit [Work Sharing Program](#) to learn more about its benefits for employers and employees, and how to apply.

Employers: Potential Closure or Layoffs

Employers planning a closure or major layoffs as a result of COVID-19 can get help through the Rapid Response program. For more information, refer to the [Rapid Response Services for Businesses Fact Sheet \(DE 87144RRB\) \(PDF\)](#) or contact your local [America's Job Center of CaliforniaSM](#).

CA Infrastructure and Economic Development Bank (IBANK)

IBank offers loan programs for businesses affected by disasters in California. IBank, a unit within California Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz), offers the following loan programs for businesses from one to 750 employees (small businesses):



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Disaster Relief Loan Guarantee Program (DRLGP)

IBank will issue loan guarantees up to 95 percent of the loan through its partner Financial Development Corporations to help small business borrowers who were impacted by disasters or public safety power shutoffs and who need term loans or lines of credit for working capital.

Jump Start Loan Program

IBank is offering loans from \$500 to \$10,000 to low-wealth entrepreneurs in the declared disaster and emergency areas through its Jump Start Loan Program.

Access to IBank's Disaster Relief Loan Guarantee Program and Jump Start Loan Program can be made through its partner Financial Development Corporations (FDCs). For more information on how to apply, visit the [IBANK website](#).

California Capital Access Program (CalCAP)

The California Capital Access Program for Small Business (CalCAP SB or Program) encourages banks and other financial institutions to make loans to small businesses that have difficulty obtaining financing. If you own a small business and need a loan for start-up, expansion or working capital, you may receive more favorable loan terms from a lender if your loan is enrolled in the CalCAP Loan Loss Reserve Program. This program helps communities by providing financing to businesses that create jobs and improve the economy. To find a participating lender and more information, visit the [California State Treasurer's Office website](#).

Worker: Reduced Work Hours

If your employer has reduced your hours or shut down operations due to COVID-19, you can [file an Unemployment Insurance \(UI\) claim](#). Workers who are temporarily unemployed due to COVID-19 and expected to return to work with their employer within a few weeks are not required to actively seek work each week.

If you're unable to work because you are caring for an ill or quarantined family member



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with COVID-19 you may qualify for Paid Family Leave (PFL). If you're unable to work due to medical quarantine or illness, you may qualify for Disability Insurance.

If a worker or a family member is sick or for preventative care when civil authorities recommend quarantine, workers may use accrued paid sick leave in accordance with the law.

If workers are unable to do their usual job because they were exposed to and contracted COVID-19 during the regular course of their work, they may be eligible for workers' compensation benefits. All information and resources can be found at Labor.Ca.Gov/Coronavirus2019.

California Fashion Association (CFA)

Additionally, [California Fashion Association](#) has sent a letter to Larry Kudlow, Director of National Economic Council, asking the Administration, as part of its emergency response to immediately eliminate tariffs imposed under Section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974 and retroactively refund duties imposed on US imports of consumer and commercial products from China - such as travel goods, clothing, footwear, headwear, accessories, furniture, building products, baby products, textiles and back to school items. "This action would provide certainty to American companies and encourage new hiring and new investment-moves that are now on hold given the unprecedented uncertainty facing the US economy. American consumers would also see benefits given that the tariffs act as a tax that often show up at retail in the form of higher prices. The lifting of the tariffs also requires no congressional action."

Please note that more information will be shared as we work through this health and economic crisis.

Rena Leddy, Executive Director



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