

COVID Economic Impacts to Humboldt County and Economic Development Report to the BOS for April 28th, 2020

### **Current mitigation efforts, OES and the Emergency Operations Center**

During this pandemic, select staff from the CAO's office of Economic Development have been activated as Disaster Service Workers (DSW's) to support the COVID-19 incident by working in the Office of Emergency Service's "EOC" (Emergency Operations Center) to aid and assist with the County's economic response and long term recovery efforts. This includes sustaining COVID-19 response activities which includes ongoing economic impact analysis, recovery planning and private sector coordination.

As part of the Office of Emergency Services' (OES) economic response to the crisis, and in accord with state guidelines and objectives, the Humboldt County OES has established the Economic Impact & Recovery Branch in the EOC. This Branch has been tasked with certain objectives related to this crisis and is led by the Private Sector Coordinator (Currently, Scott Adair) who reports directly to OES/EOC Command.

### **OES/EOC Objectives**

These objectives, which are in accord with the COVID 19 incident objectives of the Humboldt County OES/EOC, include the following sub-objectives:

1. Collect, vet, document, and communicate (to Humboldt County's businesses, partner agencies, and the business community) information related to;
  - a. The County of Humboldt's COVID-19 economic development response;
    - i. Community Economic Resiliency Committee (CERC)
    - ii. OES Business Task Force
  - b. Information regarding business support services and resources
    - i. Business, Employer, Employee Resource Tracking
2. Track the adverse economic impact of COVID-19 on Humboldt County, its businesses, and the business community, assess county wide economic injury for future analysis, and document economic response and activities for a future damage assessment.
  - a. Economic Impact Survey
  - b. Economic Impact Damage Assessment
  - c. Damage Projection and Recovery Analysis
3. Serve as OES PPOC to external state and federal economic development jurisdictional counterparts and agencies.
  - a. CALED, Go-Biz, EDA, SBA, CDC, FEMA

4. Maintain the COVID Business information line. Field and respond to queries from the business community.
  - a. JIC and PIO Collaboration
5. Private Sector Coordination

The duties and responsibilities of Economic Development staff in the EOC also includes giving operational guidance and advice to EOC Command and the Policy Team concerning essential businesses and an incremental re-opening of the economy.

### **Damage Assessment – Private Sector**

The most recent COVID economic impact and damage assessment as of April 16<sup>th</sup> 2020 is reflected below. Note, data is based on Humboldt county businesses who are self-reporting and who have submitted responses through the Humboldt County OES Economic Impact Survey. Losses have not been independently verified and may be subject to change.

- Reported business Revenue losses: \$26,490,266
- Reported Business Closures 15
- Permanent job losses: 1874
- Unemployment Claims (as reported by EDD) 8,521

### **Damage Assessment – Public Sector**

The OES Economic & Recovery Branch has assisted the OES Finance team with the collection and analysis of public sector reported losses by public agencies and municipalities. These losses were reported in our initial damage assessment (IDE) to the state and totaled \$17,173,204

### **Other efforts which are COVID related**

Other Economic Development related activities which are ongoing as part of the CAO's office of Economic Development and its response to COVID-19 include:

1. Creation of Headwaters Business Revolving Emergency Loan Fund (BRELF).
2. Submittal of workforce disaster recovery national dislocated worker grant to the Department of Labor.
3. Submittal of request for workforce supportive services funding through California Workforce Development Board.
4. Providing support to the CAO's office for long term revenue forecasting.

### **Continuation of Governmental Services (COGS)**

In addition to the above, the CAO's office of Economic Development continues to engage in the delivery of normal governmental services which are not specifically related to COVID 19. This includes but is not limited to;

1. Pursuing and aiding new business recruitment opportunities, such working with Nordic Aquafarms.
2. Project Trellis micro-grant program modifications and new equity funding (\$2.4M)
3. Dislocated worker services and layoff aversion for Humboldt County based businesses.

## **Recovery**

The CAO's office of Economic Development, its staff, and those who are currently placed in the EOC as part of the OES Economic Impact & Recovery Branch, and Private Sector Coordination, are also working with state and local counterparts on planning efforts for long term economic recovery. This includes taking a hard look at the CEDS, ongoing coordination and recovery calls with Cal OES, and the drafting and preparation of long term recovery action plans such as the BOC (Business Operations Center).

## **Where to find support and assistance**

News regarding local, state and federal funding programs, and resources for Employers and Employees are available online under the Business Resources tab at [www.humboldt.gov](http://www.humboldt.gov)

Employers and employees looking for information and assistance can also contact the COVID Business Information Line at 707-268-2527. Businesses looking for business counseling and guidance can contact the Northcoast Small Business Development Center at 707-445-9720 or online at [www.northcoastsbdc.org](http://www.northcoastsbdc.org)

## **Economy Impact Survey**

The purpose of this survey is to capture current, ongoing, and cumulative data on the total amount of economic loss for businesses in Humboldt County. This data will be used in the total claim submitted by Humboldt County for disaster relief. This data in the survey will have a direct correlation to the funding Humboldt County will get for economic recovery.

[COVID-19 Economic Impact Survey.](#)

## **Resources for Businesses**

- [CA - Business Info](#)
- [CA - Resources for Employers](#)
- [CA - State Treasurer](#)
- [CALED - Economic Development Resources](#)
- [CALED - Webinars & Training](#)
- [DHS - Disaster Assistance](#)
- [DHS - Identification of Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers \(PDF\)](#)
- [IRS - Federal Income Tax Payment Extension](#)
- [NCDF - National Center for Disaster Fraud](#)

- [North Coast SBDC - Resources](#)
- [North Coast SBDC - Updates](#)
- [Save Small Business](#)
- [SBA - Disaster Loan Program](#)
- [SBA - Economic Injury Disaster Loans](#)
- [SBA- Small Business Guidance](#)
- [SBC - Small Business Owner's Guide to the CARES Act](#)
- [SMART - Available Help](#)
- [U.S. Chamber of Commerce Fund - Save Small Business](#)
- [USDA - Immediate Measures to Help Rural Communities](#)

### **Resources for Employees**

- [CA - California Labor Secretary Open Letter on Unemployment Insurance](#)
- [CA - General Assistance & Relief](#)
- [CA - Labor Laws](#)
- [CA - Resources for Workers](#)
- [CA - Support Services \(FAQs\)](#)
- [CA - Unemployment Insurance](#)
- [CALED - Webinars & Training](#)
- [IRS - Economic Impact Payment](#)
- [IRS - Federal Income Tax Payment Extension](#)
- [National Center for Disaster Fraud](#)
- [OnwardCA - Have you lost your job?](#)
- [SMART - Available Help](#)
- [USDA - Immediate Measures to Help Rural Communities](#)

### **Fraud**

It is not unusual for criminals to use a disaster to take advantage of a business and or its employees. Report fraudulent activity to law enforcement or contact the National Center for Disaster Fraud. This agency can be reached at <https://www.justice.gov/disaster-fraud>, by phone 1-866-720-5721.