COVID-19 April 16 Daily Update

Special Bulletin

**PPP Funds run out.** Funds for the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) were exhausted late **Wednesday evening.** By law, the SBA will not be able to issue new loan approvals once the programs experience a lapse in applications. Talks are ongoing on how to address this issue, fund the PPP, and protect and support small businesses around the country that are depending on the federal government during this crisis [here](#).

Don’t forget that April SNAP supplemental payment will go out on the 20th and 25th of April.

AGRMA is also working with the state to ask them to apply for the online SNAP pilot. This is a work of progress but the state isn’t confident they will be able to support the program from their end.

Sen Jimmy Hickey of Texarkana has been elected by the Senate as the next Senate president pro tempore.

State News

Summary of **Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson’s April 15 Press Conference** [here](#).

The **Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) program** is still being worked out and will likely not be operational for several weeks [here](#).

**Self-employed workers, freelancers and others** newly eligible for unemployment insurance benefits can sign up to receive direct notice of when their application procedure is ready [here](#).

**Bank On Arkansas+** is offering access to certified checking accounts to ensure Arkansans are able to receive government-issued relief in a timely manner [here](#).

**Gov. Asa Hutchinson** has issued two executive orders to protect first responders and healthcare workers who are on the frontline in the coronavirus pandemic [here](#) and [here](#).

**CARES Act** provides $51 million in grants to Arkansas airports [here](#).

State Chamber member **Friday, Eldredge & Clark, LLP** has provided a Coronavirus news alert titled “**What Employers Need to Know: Unemployment, Shared Work Program & Other CARES Provisions**” [here](#). To access their Coronavirus web page, click [here](#).

The **Venture Center** is holding a couple of events this week [here](#).

A **WalletHub study** has found that Arkansas is the state least impacted by COVID-19’s impact on tourism [here](#).

Federal News

The **lack of available testing** has significantly negatively impacted the COVID-19 crisis. Two Michigan State University researchers developed an extremely accurate test in early March that does not require reagents that are in low supply. Yet the FDA’s bureaucracy has held up approval [here](#).
By the end of the day yesterday, nearly 80 million Americans should have received their Economic Impact Payments established by Congress in the CARES Act in their bank accounts. The payments were automatic for many taxpayers who filed tax returns for 2018 and/or 2019, as well as most senior citizens and retirees who have their bank account information on file with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).

If you are eligible for an Economic Impact Payment, but did not receive your payment through direct deposit, click here to submit additional information to the IRS in order to have your money processed. If you have a question about your Economic Impact Payment, including eligibility, check the IRS "Information Center" for answers to frequently asked questions.

Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) grants program are overwhelmed and running weeks behind here.

SBA Provides Report on Paycheck Protection Program; Arkansas businesses approved for more than $2 billion in loans here.


U.S. Chamber Foundation launches fund to support small business community here.

Asset Funders Network provides information on how to protect financial health during COVID-19 here.

Search for a COVID-19 vaccine heats up in China and the U.S. here.

Trump Administration reaches deal with major airlines for $25 billion deal to prop up industry here.

3M could double respirator production with help from Cummins factory here.

Coronavirus sours already-reeling dairy industry here.

For additional information and resources, check our COVID-19 Coronavirus and Arkansas page here.