



# TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

## COMMISSIONER SID MILLER

### COVID-19 Resource Guide

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#### Business

##### Federal:

- [Federal Resources for Small Business](#)
  - [U.S. Senate Committee on Small Business & Entrepreneurship: Guide to the CARES Act](#)
  - [U. S. Small Business Administration \(SBA\):](#)
    - [SBA Guidance for Businesses in Responding to COVID-19](#)
    - [Coronavirus Relief Options- Funding Options](#)
      - [Economic Injury Disaster Loan \(EIDL\)](#)
      - [SBA Debt Relief](#)
      - [Paycheck Protection Program \(PPP\)](#)
      - [Shuttered Venue Operators Grant \(SVOG\)](#)
      - SBA Texas District Offices:
        - [Dallas/Fort Worth District Office](#)
        - [El Paso District Office](#)
        - [Houston District Office](#)
        - [Lower Rio Grande Valley District Office](#)
        - [Lubbock District Office](#)
        - [San Antonio District Office](#)
- \*Customer Service can be reached at 800.659.2955 or [disastercustomerservice@sba.gov](mailto:disastercustomerservice@sba.gov)\*
- [Export - Import Bank of the United States: Coronavirus Response](#)
  - [Internal Revenue Service \(IRS\):](#)
    - [COVID-19 General Info](#)
    - [IRS Payment Plan](#)
    - [COVID-19-Related Tax Credits for Required Paid Leave Provided by Small and Midsize Businesses FAQs](#)

Last updated: **May 2021**

Compiled by the [Texas Department of Agriculture](#)

For questions, reach out to Roxana Newton at [Roxana.Newton@TexasAgriculture.Gov](mailto:Roxana.Newton@TexasAgriculture.Gov)

Note: Programs continually evolve and everything listed may not be available at the time inquiries are made.

## [Coronavirus Tax Relief for Businesses and Tax-Exempt Entities](#)

- **[U.S. Department of Agriculture \(USDA\)](#)**
  - **[USDA's Resource Guide](#)** organizes funding opportunities identified in the CARES Act and other federal resources that can help support rural America. Opportunities are categorized by customer and assistance type.
  - Visit the USDA Rural Development [website](#) for a comprehensive list of resources available to assist rural residents, businesses and communities impacted by COVID-19.
  - For assistance to Farmers, please visit USDA's [website](#) for program and service updates from the Farm Service Agency, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Risk Management Agency.
    - **[Coronavirus Food Assistance Program \(CFAP\)](#)**
  - **[USDA B&I CARES Act Program](#)**: A 90% loan guarantee program open until September 2021. Loan proceeds can be used for working capital (loan payments, payroll, inventory etc.) to prevent, prepare and respond to the pandemic. Maximum loan amount is \$25 million. Unlike the B&I program, the B&I Cares Act, agricultural producers are eligible. There are no size restrictions. However, there are eligibility requirements, including business must be located in a rural area as defined by USDA.

## **State:**

- **[Office of the Governor \(OOG\)](#)**: Visit the OOG [website](#) for a comprehensive list of resources and important COVID-19 updates.
  - The [OOG website](#) also has a list of waivers issued by the Governor.
  - **[Texas Music Office: Assistance Information and Resources For Music Industry Professionals Affected by COVID-19](#)**
- **[Texas Workforce Commission \(TWC\)](#)**: Visit the TWC [website](#) for resources available to employers and job seekers impacted by the COVID-19.
  - **[Resources for Employers](#)**
    - The Commissioner for Employers' legal team is available Monday through Friday (8 a.m. to 5 p.m.) to answer employment law questions. Please contact them at 800-832-9394 or [employerinfo@twc.state.tx.us](mailto:employerinfo@twc.state.tx.us).
    - **[Shared Work Program](#)**
    - **[Skills Development Fund COVID 19 Initiative](#)**: The Skills Development Fund is launching a new training initiative to assist businesses across Texas during the COVID-19 pandemic. Public community and technical colleges, Workforce Development Boards and TEEX (Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service) can assist businesses who want to train their workforce. The Skills Development Fund pays for the training.
  - **[Resources for Job Seekers](#)**

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- If an individual's employment has been affected by COVID-19 they may apply for benefits either online by using the [Unemployment Benefits Services \(UBS\)](#) or by calling TWC at 800.939.6631 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday – Friday. UBS can be accessed at any time. For additional information, visit TWC's [website](#).
  - For questions about unemployment of employment insurance call 800.832.2829 or email [laborinfo@twc.state.tx.us](mailto:laborinfo@twc.state.tx.us)
  - [Overview: How to File for Unemployment Benefits](#)
  - [UI Eligibility Overview under the CARES ACT](#)
  - [Understanding Unemployment Available Under the CARES Act](#)
  - [TWC Call Times According to Texas Zip Code](#)
- **[Texas Comptroller \(CPA\)](#)**: Visit the CPA [website](#) for tax-related information related to COVID-19.
  - The agency is offering assistance in the form of short-term payment agreements, and in most instances, waivers of penalties and interest. To learn about options for remaining in compliance and avoiding interest and late fees on taxes due, contact the Enforcement Hotline at 800.252.8800.
- **[Texas Department of Insurance \(TDI\)](#)**: Visit the TDI [website](#) for an overview of insurance-related questions related to COVID-19.
- **[Texas Department of Licensing & Regulation \(TDLR\)](#)**: Visit the TDLR [website](#) for updates related to their programs.
- **[Texas Department of Agriculture \(TDA\)](#)**: Visit the TDA [website](#) for an overview of information related to school meals, consumer protection, rural hospitals, weights and measures and licensing.
  - The [Texas Agricultural Finance Authority \(TAFA\) Agricultural Loan Guarantee Program](#) provides financial assistance to establish or enhance farming or ranching operations or to establish an agricultural-related business. This program provides assistance in the form of a guarantee based on a tiered structure, not to exceed \$500,000 or 80% of the loan. For additional information, please visit the TDA [website](#).

## Other:

- The [Consumer Data Industry Association \(CDIA\)](#) provided [guidance](#) to those directly or indirectly impacted.
- [Community Development Financial Institutions \(CDFIs\)](#) are an alternative source of finance for small businesses. For additional information, please visit with each organization:
  - [PeopleFund](#)
  - [LiftFund](#)
  - [BCL of Texas](#)

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- [Opportunity Finance Network: CDFI Locator Tool](#)
- [SBA Lender Match: Connects Small Business with Participating SBA-approved Lenders](#)
- [Small Business Development Centers \(SBDCs\)](#) provide counseling to small businesses throughout Texas. For a list of resources to manage the impact and recovery, visit their [website](#).
  - [Northwest Texas SBDC Small Business COVID Resources](#)
- [SCORE](#) has chapters throughout Texas and provides in-person and virtual counseling and mentorship. They have also published resources and information to support small business, including:
  - [The COVID-19 Economic Impact: Will Business Interruption Insurance Help \(& What Are My Other Options\)?](#)
  - [How Small Businesses Can Prepare for the COVID-19](#)
- [The U.S. Chamber of Commerce: Combating Coronavirus](#)
  - [U.S. Chamber Disaster Help Desk](#)
  - [Summary of Congressional Action on COVID-19](#)
  - [Coronavirus Small Business Guide](#)
- [National Restaurant Association: Coronavirus Information and Resources](#)
- [National Retail Federation: Coronavirus Resources for Retailers](#)
- [NFIB: Small Business Resources in Response to Coronavirus](#)
- [Texas International Produce Association: COVID-19 Update](#)
- [Communities Unlimited FAQs - Families First and CARES Act for Individuals, Small Businesses & Nonprofits](#)

## AGRICULTURAL BUSINESSES

### Federal

- [U.S. Senate Committee on Small Business & Entrepreneurship: Guide to the CARES Act](#)
- [U.S. Department of Agriculture \(USDA\)](#)
  - [USDA's Resource Guide](#) organizes funding opportunities identified in the CARES Act and other federal resources that can help support rural America. Opportunities are categorized by customer and assistance type.
  - Visit USDA's [website](#) for program and service updates from the Farm Service Agency, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Risk Management Agency.
    - [Coronavirus Food Assistance Program \(CFAP\)](#)

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- [FSA Coronavirus Food Assistance Program \(CFAP\) Webinars](#)
- [U. S. Small Business Administration \(SBA\)](#):
  - [SBA Guidance for Businesses in Responding to COVID-19](#)
  - [Coronavirus Relief Options- Funding Options](#)
    - [Economic Injury Disaster Loan \(EIDL\)](#)
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## State

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- [Office of the Governor \(OOG\)](#): Visit the OOG [website](#) for a comprehensive list of resources and important COVID-19 updates.

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- **[Texas Workforce Commission \(TWC\)](#)**: Visit the TWC [website](#) for resources available to employers and job seekers impacted by the COVID-19.
  - [Resources for Employers](#)
    - The Commissioner for Employers' legal team is available Monday through Friday (8 a.m. to 5 p.m.) to answer employment law questions. Please contact them at 800-832-9394 or [employerinfo@twc.state.tx.us](mailto:employerinfo@twc.state.tx.us).
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- **[Texas Department of Insurance \(TDI\)](#)**: Visit the TDI [website](#) for an overview of insurance-related questions related to COVID-19.
- **[Texas A&M AgriLife COVID-19 Resources | Find Your County Agent's Office](#)**
- **[Texas Animal Health Commission: Livestock & COVID-19](#)**

## Other

- **[Texas Farmers Markets & COVID-19](#)**
- **[Texas Farm Bureau COVID-19 Resources | Locate the county Farm Bureau office nearest you](#)**
- **[Community Development Financial Institutions \(CDFIs\)](#)** are an alternative source of finance for small businesses. For additional information, please visit with each organization:
  - [PeopleFund](#)
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  - [How Small Businesses Can Prepare for the COVID-19](#)
- [\*\*The U.S. Chamber of Commerce: Combating Coronavirus\*\*](#)
  - [U.S. Chamber Disaster Help Desk](#)
  - [Summary of Congressional Action on COVID-19](#)
  - [Coronavirus Small Business Guide](#)
- [\*\*Texas International Produce Association: COVID-19 Update\*\*](#)
- [\*\*Communities Unlimited FAQs - Families First and CARES Act for Individuals, Small Businesses & Nonprofits\*\*](#)
- [\*\*Selling Direct & Online During the COVID-19 Crisis | Community Alliance with Family Farmers\*\*](#)
- [\*\*Webinar: Online Sales Platforms for Farmers | Oregon Tilth\*\*](#)
- [\*\*Young Farmers COVID-19 Response | National Young Farmers Coalition\*\*](#)
- [\*\*ATTRA Sustainable Agriculture COVID-19 Response | National Center for Appropriate Technology \(NCAT\)\*\*](#)
- [\*\*Support for Local and Regional Food Systems in COVID-19 Response | Harvard Food Law Policy Clinic\*\*](#)
- [\*\*Sea Grant Law Center: CARES Act Tip Sheet for Texas Commercial Fishermen\*\*](#)

## **Communities & Individuals**

### **Communities**

- [\*\*Resources Guide to COVID-19 for Government Leaders\*\*](#)
- [\*\*Office of the Governor COVID-19 Executive Orders\*\*](#)
- [\*\*OneStar Foundation - Texas COVID Relief Fund\*\*](#)
- [\*\*Texas Department of State Health Services: COVID-19 Communication Tools\*\*](#)
- [\*\*Texas Department of Emergency Management: Local Official Resources\*\*](#)
- [\*\*EDA Cares Act Recovery Assistance\*\*](#)
  - [Funding FAQs](#)

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- [\*\*USDA Implements Immediate Measures to Help Rural Residents, Businesses and Communities Affected by COVID-19\*\*](#)
  - [USDA's resource matrix](#) organizes funding opportunities identified in the CARES Act and other federal resources that can help support rural America. Opportunities are categorized by customer and assistance type.
  - [Distance Learning & Telemedicine Grants](#): USDA announced a second application window for funding under the Distance Learning and Telemedicine (DLT) grant program. Applications will be accepted between April 14, 2020 and July 13, 2020
  - [\(April 17, 2020\) USDA Rural Development Deputy Under Secretary Bette Brand today announced that USDA is temporarily deferring payment for borrowers participating in the USDA Community Facilities Direct Loan program due to the COVID-19 pandemic.](#)
- [\*\*Texas AgriLife: Resources for Rural Communities\*\*](#)
  - [Free online trainings to help local officials understand, acquire and administer federal assistance available to the state of Texas and municipalities through the Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act and CARES](#)

## Families & Individuals

- [\*\*Center for Disease and Control \(CDC\): COVID - 19\*\*](#)
- [\*\*Texas Department of Agriculture \(TDA\)\*\*](#): Visit the TDA [website](#) for an overview of information related to school meals, consumer protection, rural hospitals, weights and measures and licensing.
- [\*\*Meals for Kids\*\*](#)  
[TxSchools.gov: Meals for Students](#)  
[School Meal Finder \(map\)](#)
- [\*\*Texas Workforce Commission \(TWC\)\*\*](#): Visit the TWC [website](#) for resources available to employers and job seekers impacted by the COVID-19.
  - [Resources for Job Seekers](#)
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- [Internal Revenue Service \(IRS\): COVID-19 General Info](#)  
[IRS Payment Plan](#)  
[IRS Payment Deadline Extended: Filing and Payment Deadline Extended to July 15](#)  
[Economic impact payments: What you need to know](#)
- [Communities Unlimited FAQs - Families First and CARES Act for Individuals, Small Businesses & Nonprofits](#)

## **Child Care Resources & Information:**

- [Frontline Child Care](#): Information on child care options for Texas' frontline workers.
- [Texas Workforce Commission - Childcare COVID-19 Resources](#)
- [Texas Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies – Find your local CCR&R](#)
- [Health & Human Services: Texas Child Care Licensing](#)
- [Emergency Funding Resources that Child Care Providers Can Use Now](#)
- [ChildCare Aware Child Care Licensing, Fact Sheet, CACFP, and other information](#)

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