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website

Special Edition Newsletter: COVID-19 Response

We realize it's been overwhelming to keep up with the news and updates surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic. Like many other organizations, we have [updated our website](#) to provide you with the most important news and resources available to those in our region.

We are engaged and committed to working with our partners, local government, and community leaders to keep people educated, informed, and safe. [Please fill out our short needs survey in order to guide us in supporting you and your community.](#)

News

- [Update906.com](#) lead by [InvestUP](#) in coordination with its partners in economic development has the most up to date and relevant resources for businesses and development organizations. The website features the definition of critical infrastructure industries/workers, small business relief programs, COVID-19 business impact surveys, and key web links. In addition, there is a comprehensive list of contacts for local economic development organizations along with regional, state, and federal representatives dedicated to supporting the Upper Peninsula.
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- [MSU Extension](#) has resources and webinars to help Michigan local governments navigate the outbreak of coronavirus to better help them manage by providing information to residents and ensuring the health and safety of their resources. Their resources include but are not limited to:
 - **Virtual Public Meetings** - information on holding virtual meetings
 - **Michigan Specific Resources** - information local officials need to know
 - **Business Support** - available grants and loans
 - [The 2020 Census](#) is being done online and over the phone, so please continue to spread the news and emphasize the importance of completing the Census .
 - [The CARES Act was signed into law](#): the largest stimulus package in U.S. history. The Act provides aid to those affected by the novel coronavirus. Some highlights include:
 - \$500 billion in loan and loan guarantees to stabilize the economy.
 - \$150 billion for local governments.
 - \$130 billion for medical resources.
 - \$250 billion for extended unemployment benefits.
 - \$10 billion in economic injury disaster loans.

- And more
- **The U.P. Energy Task Force publicly released 14 draft recommendations it is making to the Governor on propane availability in the Upper Peninsula.** The Propane Supply and the Analysis of Propane Supply Alternatives for Michigan can be found at Michigan.gov/UPEnergyTaskForce. The public can comment on the recommendations through 5 p.m. **April 6**.
- **Orders and Directives from the Governor's Office** will be updated at [Coronavirus Executive Orders and Directives](#). Current Orders and Directives are listed there.
- **Mutual Aid Networks** have been growing as a result of the Covid-19 crisis. Mutual Aid Networks are ad hoc volunteer community groups that support basic needs on a neighborhood scale by providing basic assistance such as prescription pickup, grocery delivery to quarantined or high risk households, wellness calls/ texts, tech assistance to facilitate virtual connections, and more. Mutual-aid networks have long been used by community organizers, especially during emergency situations like natural disasters.
 - [Here's how four young adults organized their mutual aid network in Boston, MA.](#)
 - A list of the larger mutual aid networks can be [found here](#).
 - A template for [how to start a mutual aid network in your neighborhood can be found here on google docs](#).

As the situation changes daily, we are updating our [website](#), [Facebook](#), and keeping lines of communication open with our local leaders and partner organizations. By fostering an environment of cooperation, we can help to mitigate damage to our economy and lift up our neighbors.

Funding Opportunities

MEDC Small Business Relief Program

The Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) has opened [a grant program for small businesses](#) in the U.P. with awards of up to \$10,000. To qualify for the Michigan Small Business Relief Program you must meet these fundamental criteria:

1. Does your company have 50 or less employees (grant); or 100 or less employees (loan) as of March 16, 2020?
2. Does your company need working capital to support: payroll expenses, rent, mortgage payments, utility expenses, or other similar expenses that occur in the ordinary course of business?
3. Can your company demonstrate an income loss resulting from an Executive Order and/or the COVID-19 outbreak?

More information is available from **InvestUP** at <https://update906.com/medc-relief-programs>, including a FAQ and links to local economic development offices. The applications are available for those who qualify through these offices and will have a deadline of **April 5, 2020 at 11:59PM**. ***Be sure to share this information with your local businesses!***

- Alger County: [Greater Munising Bay Partnership for Commerce](#)
- Delta County: [Delta County Economic Development Alliance](#)
- Dickinson County: [Dickinson Area Economic Development Alliance](#)
- Marquette County: [Lake Superior Community Partnership](#)
- Menominee County: [Menominee Business Development Corporation](#)
- Schoolcraft County: [Schoolcraft Tourism & Commerce](#)

SBA Disaster Loan Assistance

The [Small Business Administration](#) (SBA) is offering disaster loan assistance. If you have suffered substantial economic injury and are one of the following types of businesses, you may be eligible for an SBA [Economic Injury Disaster Loan](#):

- Small Business
- Small agricultural cooperative
- Most private nonprofit organizations

The new Payment Protection Program created through the CARES Act will also be offered by the SBA; however, details on this program are forthcoming. Stay tuned to this website for the latest news.

[FEMA Simplified Public Assistance Application](#)

[FEMA](#) is simplifying the Public Assistance application process. FEMA is developing a simplified online form applicants can complete, and on which they may explain work activities, answer basic questions, provide limited supporting documentation, and provide a cost estimate. FEMA and the recipient will review this information, follow up with limited requests for additional information if necessary, and award assistance.

[Strategic Economic and Community Development](#)

Strategic Economic and Community Development is a Farm Bill provision that allows USDA to give priority for projects that support the implementation of regional economic development plans through the following four traditional USDA Rural Development programs:

- [Community Facilities Loans, Grants and Loan Guarantees](#)
- [Water and Waste Disposal Program Loans, Grants and Loan Guarantees](#)
- [Business & Industry Program Loan Guarantees](#)
- [Rural Business Development Grants](#)

[Training Opportunities](#)

[Webinar: What Covid-19 Means for Gateway Communities](#)

[The Conservation Fund](#) and partners are responding by launching a Webinar to discuss what COVID-19 means for gateway communities. These are uncertain times that are calling for direct response by communities to weigh public health priorities with the measures that limit business and community use of outdoor recreational assets and our downtowns.

On **April 1, 2020 at 3:00pm Eastern time**, please join this 90-minute Webinar and discussion with leading experts on gateway and rural communities.

[How-to for Video Conferencing](#)

New to video conferencing? Check out this informational and short video from [Michigan Townships Association](#) explaining the ins and outs of this recently necessary technology.

Michigan Municipal League also has [posted a recorded webinar on virtual meetings](#) on youtube that was produced on March 20, 2020. This recording includes a powerpoint presentation with a helpful question and answer section at the end.

[*NEW* Recorded Webinar on Emergency Changes to the Open Meetings Act](#)

Mary Reilly ([MSU Extension](#)) partners with attorney Richard Wilson (Mika, Meyers), and Kathy Egan (Networks Northwest) to describe changes to Open Meetings Act meeting procedures in Michigan as a result of the novel Coronavirus and Executive Order 2020-15 and recently adopted 2020-21. This presentation includes options and best practices for remote meetings, meeting prohibitions, and additional resources. All information is valid until 4-13-2020 until stated otherwise.



[Citizen Planner Program to Continue as Video Conference Sessions](#)

The flagship MSU Extension [Citizen Planner Program](#) is now being offered **as a video conference (webinar) for local officials throughout the UP beginning April 22**. This is the Citizen Planner classroom program previously scheduled for Marquette County, now revised for web-based delivery open to all. Register now!

Dates & Location

The UP Citizen Planner via Zoom will be held on **Wednesday evenings from 6 until 9pm** on the following dates: **April 22, 29, May 6, 13, 20 and 27**



[Community Mitigation Strategies](#)

From the [Michigan Department of Health and Human Services](#), these strategies provide essential protections to individuals at risk of severe illness and to health care and other critical infrastructure workforces. **Preventing a sudden, sharp increase in the number of people infected with COVID-19 will help minimize disruptions to daily life and limit the demand on health care providers and facilities.**

[A Short Needs Survey](#)



What has changed for your community during Covid-19? We want to assess and assist our communities wherever we can. [The survey](#) takes only 2 minutes to complete and will guide us in how to best support you!

Stay safe! Stay informed!

