



March 24, 2020

To My Fellow Mayors and Public Servants,

I want you to know first and foremost, my thoughts are with all of you right now as we navigate this difficult time in our communities. My message over the past two weeks to Salt Lakers has been 'we're in this together.' I truly believe that. As elected officials, we are also in this together as we develop solutions to minimize the impacts of COVID-19 in our cities and towns.

I'm sending you all an idea. 10 days ago, as we began to see the spread of COVID-19 in the country and the imminent threat to our local economy became clear, I asked the Salt Lake City Council to approve \$1,000,000 in funds to help small businesses during this difficult time.

I charged our Department of Economic Development with the daunting task of creating a program which could provide some financial relief as federal programs were being developed. Speed was critical during this process. We simply could not wait for federal funds to be released while our small businesses were already hurting.

Our City Council showed support for the idea and here is the result. The Salt Lake City Emergency Loan Program. It is a no-interest loan from Salt Lake City to small businesses up to \$20,000. The repayment period is five years and no repayments are required until 90 days after the local state of emergency is lifted.

Today, I want to share the results of that idea with you as an effort to save your community time and money.

I'm enclosing some of the process our team went through to develop this program. If your community is interested in doing the same, please reach out to our Department of Economic Development marketing and research manager [Andrew Wittenberg](#) for more details. He can provide documents and guidance that will expedite the process and save you money and manpower.

I know we won't be able to help every business that is hurting right now but our goal is to help as many as possible.

Thank you,

Erin Mendenhall