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Answering Your Legal, Tax, and Accounting Questions as Ohio Goes Back to Work

PRESENTED BY APPLE GROWTH PARTNERS AND MEYERS ROMAN

Welcome



- + All attendees are placed on listen-only mode
- + Submit a confidential question at any time
- + Questions will be reviewed by our team and followed up after the webinar
- + Contact information will be provided
- + Today's webinar recording will be sent via email within 2 hours



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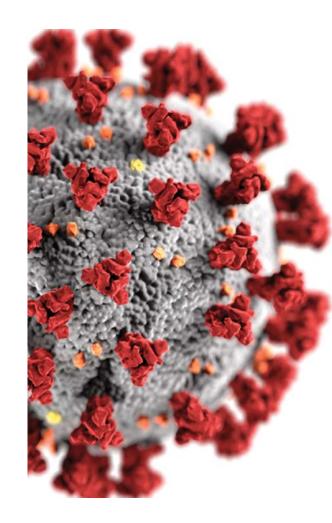


CORONAVIRUS PART 2½: THE SMELL OF FEAR

Seth Briskin & Jon Hyman Meyers, Roman, Friedberg & Lewis

What We Will Be Covering

- Administering Paid Sick Leave and Family Leave Under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act
- Unemployment Compensation Impact
- Preparing Your Business for a Safe Return to Work







Categories of Leave

- The employee is under a government quarantine or self-isolation order (PSL only @ 100%)
- The employee is quarantined or self-isolating because of coronavirus concerns (PSL only @ 100%)
- The employee is experiencing symptoms of coronavirus and seeking a medical diagnosis (PSL only @ 100%)
- The employee is caring for an individual who is quarantined or self-isolating because of coronavirus concerns (PSL only @ 2/3rds)
- The employee is caring for a child whose school or place of care has been closed, or the care provider is unavailable due to coronavirus precautions (PSL and eFMLA @ 2/3rds)



PTO vs. EPSL / EFMLA

- An employer can never require an employee to substitute PTO for EPSL.
- If an employee qualifies for both EPSL and EFMLA, it is the employee's sole choice whether to use EPSL during the initial two unpaid weeks of EFMLA, or save the EPSL for later use.
- An employer can require an employee to use available PTO during the unpaid portion of an EFMLA leave, to run concurrently.
- An employer and employee can agree to "top-off" EPSL or EFMLA (that is, true up the employee's pay through the substitution of PTO so that the employee earns his or her full pay). But the employer cannot require it.



Notice and Documentation

No written notice required. **Oral** notice suffices.

For All Leaves:

- Employee's name;
- 2. Date(s) for which leave is requested;
- 3. Qualifying reason for the leave; and
- 4. Oral or written statement that the employee is unable to work because of the qualified reason for leave.



Notice and Documentation

For *Specific* Leaves:

- For paid sick leave relating to a government quarantine or isolation order, the name of the government entity that issued the order.
- 6. For paid sick leave based on the advice of a health care provider to self-quarantine due to concerns related to coronavirus, the name of the advising health care provider.
- 7. For paid sick leave relating to the care of an individual who is subject to governmental or quarantine order, the name of the government entity that issued the order or the name of the advising health care provider.
- 8. For paid sick leave relating to the care of the employee's child because the child's school or child-care provider is closed: (i) the name of the child being cared for; (ii) the name of the school, place of care, or child care provider that has closed or become unavailable; and (iii) a representation that no other suitable person will be caring for the child during the leave.

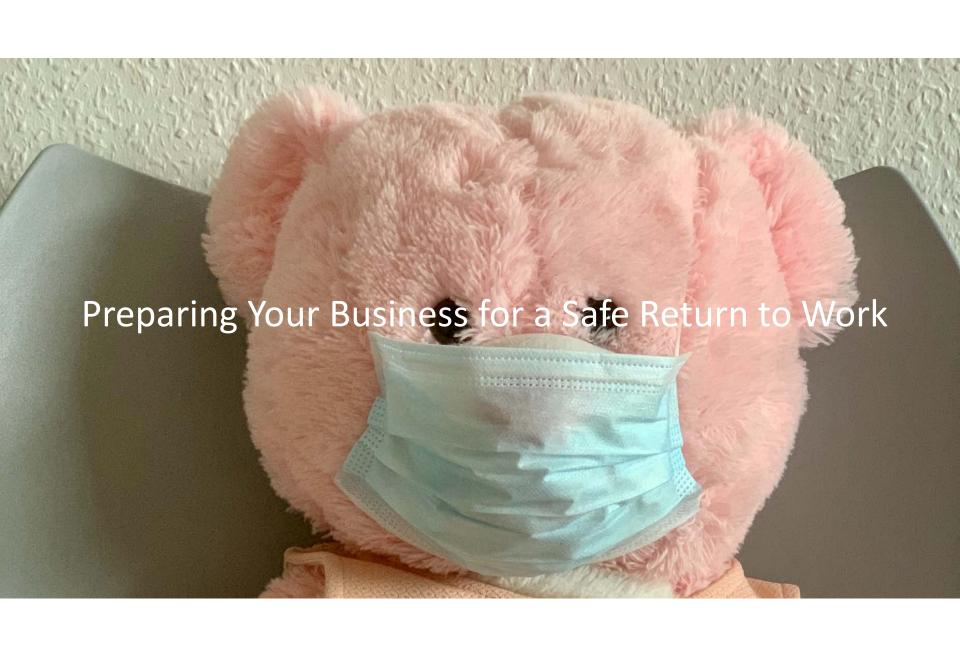




Unemployment Compensation Impact

- An additional emergency increase of \$600 per week payment—termed by the CARES Act as "Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation."
- + An additional 13 weeks of unemployment benefits through December 31, 2020.
- + 100% federal funding of "short-time compensation" programs through December 31, 2020, for furloughed employees who receive partial unemployment benefit.
- + A temporary Pandemic Unemployment Assistance program through December 31, 2020, to provide UI payments to the selfemployed, independent contractors, and gig economy workers.
- + The ODJFS has waived the waiting period, requirement to seek work, and streamlined the application process. That said, there have been a lot of reported problems with the unemployment system to date.





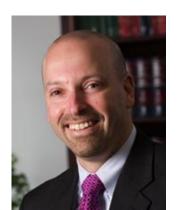
Preparing Your Business for a Safe Return to Work

- Establishing a COVID-19 Response Plan/Team
- + Implement Infection Prevention Measures
 - + Handwashing stations and disinfecting wipes
 - + Regular workplace sanitation
 - + Social distancing
 - + Split shifts
 - + Mandatory masks, and other PPE/gloves
 - + Taking temperatures/asking about COVID-19 symptoms
 - + Required testing of employees
- + Engineering controls vs. Administrative controls





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Update Based on FAQs

PRESENTED BY ROBERT JACKSON, ASHIRA NELSON, ROBERT NEIDES, SUSAN PEIRCE

COVID-19 Response Team

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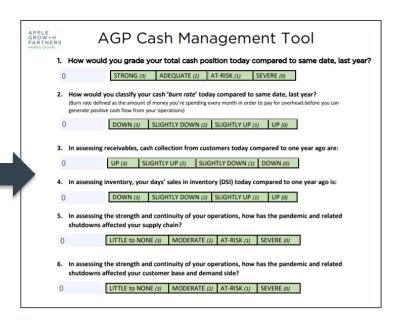
A'Shira Nelson, CPA Manager



Matt Silla, ASA, CFA Senior Manager

Business Planning

AGP Cash Management Tool applegrowth.com/COVID19



For existing 7a loans, SBA will make P&I payments for 6 months

- The deferment will NOT cancel any established Preauthorized Debit (PAD) or recurring payments on your loan.
- Borrowers that have established a PAD through Pay.Gov or an Online Bill Pay Service are responsible for canceling these recurring payments.
- Borrowers that had SBA establish a PAD through Pay.gov will have to contact their SBA servicing office to cancel the PAD.

Business Planning



- + Tax Planning
 - + Net Operating Loss carryback
 - + Qualified Improvement Property / Bonus Depreciation

City Taxes for Working Remotely



+ Prior to COVID-19

+ Employee may generally perform services on temporary basis up to 20 days per year before triggering city income tax withholding rules

+ Changes under House Bill 197 enacted March 27, 2020

- + Treats employees who report to a temporary worksite during the COVID-19 emergency period as working at their principal place of work.
- + Employees working from home during the pandemic (or within 30 days after the emergency is lifted) are considered to be working in the location where they would typically be reporting on a regular and ordinary basis (*i.e.*, their principal place of work).

Student Loan Relief



- The government has announced that it will give almost all federal student-loan borrowers the option to suspend payments for at least two months.
- + The repayment and interest suspensions apply to most of 43 million Americans who owe \$1.5 trillion in federal student debt.
- + If you are not sure if your loans qualify, contact your service provider.

Educational Assistance Programs



- + Programs may now include repayment of a qualified education loan incurred by the employee for the employee's own education, provided the employer's payment is made after March 27, 2020, and before January 1, 2021.
- + Payment may be made to the lender or directly to the employee
- + Excludable from the employee's gross income to the extent the payment doesn't exceed the annual maximum of \$5,250.

- + Changes may be permitted due to life events
 - + Includes dependent care
- + Prescription requirement is removed
 - + Can purchase OTC
 - Menstrual care products are qualified medical expenses

Employer Social Security Tax



- + The CARES Act provides that employers may defer the deposit and payment of the employer's portion of Social Security taxes.
- + However, Employers that received a PPP loan may not defer the deposit and payment of the employer's share of Social Security tax after the employer receives a decision from the lender that the loan was forgiven.
- + The deferral applies to deposits and payments of the employer's share of Social Security tax beginning on March 27, 2020 and ending December 31, 2020.

Other Payroll Tax Considerations



+ Employee retention credit

Elective (by quarter) refundable payroll tax credit per employee (50% of qualified wages; annual max credit of \$5,000) for qualified wages paid during the governmental order period or the receipts decline period

No credit for the same wages used for work opportunity credit or the FFCRA credits (new sick and family medical leave credits), or for RELATED PARTY WAGES

Credit computations differ depending on small (average of 100 or less FTEs (under Sec. 4980H) for 2019) or large employer (greater than 100 FTEs for 2019)

• All qualified wages for eligible days/quarter for small employers qualify; for large employers only qualified wages paid for time that the employee is not providing services are eligible. Aggregation rules apply in determining size of the employer.

No credit at all if employer (or if aggregated, any one of the employers) received a PPP Loan

Must choose between PPP loan (as well as loan forgiveness net of lost tax deductions) vs. Employee Retention Credit (net of lost deduction for wages)

Forgiveness



+ Help me understand the IRS position that the forgiven expenses aren't deductible

FAQs Directly from IRS:



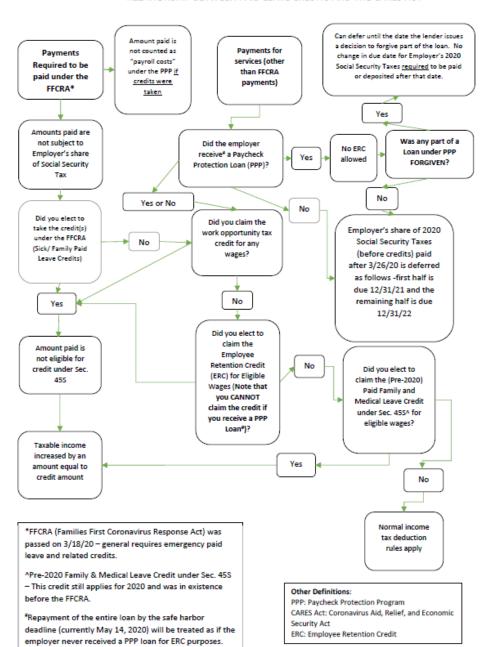
Home / News / Topics in the News / Coronavirus Tax Relief / COVID-19-Related Tax Credits for Required Paid Leave Provided by Small and Midsize Businesses FAQs

COVID-19-Related Tax Credits for Required Paid Leave Provided by Small and Midsize Businesses FAQs



Download at applegrowth.com/covid19

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PAID LEAVE CREDITS AND THE CARES ACT



Understanding PPP Loan Documentation



- + Documents vary by bank
- + Make certain you have copy of all the loan documents
 - + SBA note
 - + Bank's loan agreement
 - + Acknowledgement of receipt
 - + Certification
 - + Errors and omissions agreement
 - + Notice of forgiveness documentation
 - Notice of PPP forgiveness
 - + Agreement to provide additional documentation post closing
 - + Loan forgiveness affidavit

Understanding the Forgiveness Process



- + The lender in its sole and absolute discretion will determine the amount of forgiveness based on the attestations of the Borrower and the truth and accuracy of the documentation provided by the Borrower.
- + Awaiting further SBA guidance
- + Document, document, document!!!

Documentation

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Items to Consider for Documentation

Payroll tax reports

- IRS Forms 941 for the 1st and 2nd guarter of 2019 and 2020
- OH Form JFS-20125 for the 1st and 2nd guarter of 2019 and 2020

Compensation

- · Gross wages for each employee for the following:
 - During the 8-week covered period
 - During the most recent full quarter before the 8-week covered period

Identify employees who during any period in 2019, received annualized pay of > \$100,000

Identify employees whose principal place of residence is outside the United States

Identify employees who are electing to utilize the qualified sick or FMLA option under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act

State and local employer taxes

- Determine state unemployment tax (SUTA) assessed on employee's comp during the 8week period
- Document payment (canceled checks, bank statements supporting electronic payments)
- Document confirmation of payment

Group health benefits

- Document (canceled checks, bank statements supporting electronic payments) total costs paid for all health care benefits including insurance premiums paid by the employer
- Prepare reconciliation schedule showing
 - Total amount paid for all employees including owners
 - Employee withholdings for their portion of plan(s)

Retirement plan benefits

- Document (canceled checks, bank statements supporting electronic payments) all retirement plan funding costs remitted by the employer
- Document confirmation of deposits by investment custodian/trustee
- Prepare reconciliation showing
 - Total amount paid for all employees including owners
 - Employee withholdings/deferrals for their contribution to the plan

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Full-time Equivalents (FTEs)

- The average number of FTEs per month for the following periods
 - During the 8-week covered period
 - February 15, 2019 through June 30, 2019 THIS PERIOD TO BE USED BY SEASONAL EMPLOYERS
- January 1, 2020 through February 29, 2020

Other expenses

- Mortgage interest, lease payments, utility payments including electricity, gas, water, transportation, telephone, or internet access for which service began before 2/15/2020.
 Sewerage is not specifically mentioned but is generally considered a utility.
 - Invoices/bills
 - o Canceled checks
 - o Bank statements supporting electronic payments
 - Credit card statements supporting payment by CC
 - Account statements
 - Lease agreements

Documentation List and Calculator Available on applegrowth.com/COVID19

Understanding the Time Periods



ILLUSTRATION:

| Period 1 | Period 2 (aka Covered Period) Forgivable Period | Period 3 | Post 6/30 |
|--|--|---|---|
| Reimburse business for expenses already incurred and paid following 2/15 and prior to receipt of funds using PPP funds | forgiveness | Allowed to spend any remaining PPP funds on allowable expenses until 6/30 | Awaiting further guidance from SBA |

2/15

Allowable Uses Forgivable Expenses



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Allowable uses (Section 1102)

Time period for allowable uses - February 15, 2020 through June 30, 2020

Must be paid between February 15, 2020 and June 30, 2020

(There is no reference to costs being incurred when determing Allowable Uses)

payroll cost -see below

costs related to the continuation of group health care benefits during periods of paid sick, medical, or family leave, and insurance premiums

employee salaries, commissions, or similar compensations (note the statute does not limit this category to \$100,000) payments of interest on any mortgage obligation (which shall not include any prepayment of or payment of principal on a mortgage obligation)

rent (including rent under a lease agreement)

utilities

interest on any other debt obligations that were incurred before the covered period

Forgivable expenses (Section 1106)

Time period for forgiveable expenses - 8 week period [56 days] from date of loan disbursement Must be incurred and paid during the 56 day period

payroll cost - see below

payments of interest on any mortgage obligation (which shall not include any prepayment of or payment of principal on a mortgage obligation in existense prior to February 15, 2020) payments on any covered rent obligation in existence prior to February 15, 2020 covered utility payments

Grid Available on applegrowth.com/COVID19

Recent SBA Updates



Added May 6, 2020

45. Question: Is an employer that repays its PPP loan by the safe harbor deadline (May 14, 2020) eligible for the Employee Retention Credit?

Answer: Yes. An employer that applied for a PPP loan, received payment, and repays the loan by the safe harbor deadline (May 14, 2020) will be treated as though the employer had not received a covered loan under the PPP for purposes of the Employee Retention Credit. Therefore, the employer will be eligible for the credit if the employer is otherwise an eligible employer for purposes of the credit.

Recent SBA Updates



Excerpt from Question 31:

Although the CARES Act suspends the ordinary requirement that borrowers must be unable to obtain credit elsewhere (as defined in section 3(h) of the Small Business Act), borrowers still must certify in good faith that their PPP loan request is necessary. Specifically, before submitting a PPP application, all borrowers should review carefully the required certification that "[c]urrent economic uncertainty makes this loan request necessary to support the ongoing operations of the Applicant." Borrowers must make this certification in good faith, taking into account their current business activity and their ability to access other sources of liquidity sufficient to support their ongoing operations in a manner that is not significantly detrimental to the business.

Recent SBA Updates



- + **40. Question:** Will a borrower's PPP loan forgiveness amount (pursuant to section 1106 of the CARES Act and SBA's implementing rules and guidance) be reduced if the borrower laid off an employee, offered to rehire the same employee, but the employee declined the offer?
- + Answer: No. As an exercise of the Administrator's and the Secretary's authority under Section 1106(d)(6) of the CARES Act to prescribe regulations granting de minimis exemptions from the Act's limits on loan forgiveness, SBA and Treasury intend to issue an interim final rule excluding laid-off employees whom the borrower offered to rehire (for the same salary/wages and same number of hours) from the CARES Act's loan forgiveness reduction calculation. The interim final rule will specify that, to qualify for this exception, the borrower must have made a good faith, written offer of rehire, and the employee's rejection of that offer must be documented by the borrower. Employees and employers should be aware that employees who reject offers of re-employment may forfeit eligibility for continued unemployment compensation.

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Thank You

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