

United States Senate  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 14, 2020

The Honorable Jovita Carranza  
Administrator  
Small Business Administration  
409 Third Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20416

Dear Administrator Carranza:

Thank you for the work that you and the SBA have done for small businesses in Maine and throughout the Nation during this difficult time for our country. We appreciate the time that you took last week to speak to each of us about the Paycheck Protection Program (“PPP”) and look forward to future communication with you as we continue to support small business.

The coronavirus epidemic has created extraordinary hardship for small businesses and their employees in every part of our Nation. When Congress voted to establish the Emergency Economic Injury Disaster Loan (“EIDL”) Grant program, we did so because small businesses require direct financial support today. The EIDL program, similar to the PPP, is under tremendous financial strain due to overwhelming demand, and we urge the Administration to request additional funding for EIDLs in addition to the request it has made for the PPP.

We also ask that the SBA release emergency EIDL grants to businesses promptly and issue clear, concise, and accurate guidance on the EIDL program immediately. Doing so will ensure that small businesses speedily access EIDL and emergency EIDL grant resources, as Congress intended.

The Emergency EIDL Grant program has very simple requirements. Generally, a small business must have 500 employees or less, apply for an EIDL loan (which, under law, is available in amounts up to \$2 million), and self-certify that it is an eligible entity. If a small business meets these requirements, then the business may request an advance of up to \$10,000 on its EIDL. The SBA must deliver that advance within three days of the business’ request – yet, many businesses have waited for a week or more to receive grant funds.

Additionally, during this hour of maximum need for small businesses and their employees, the lack of appropriate SBA guidance on either the EIDL program or the Emergency EIDL Grant program has prevented small businesses from receiving full EIDL grants and loans in a timely fashion. Rumor has superseded fact, leading some eligible businesses not to apply for emergency EIDL grants, and some businesses with information that is at odds with the law –

such as the notion that EIDL grants are tied to the number of workers that a business employs, or that EIDLs are capped at \$15,000.

Small businesses need full EIDL loans, emergency EIDL grant funds, and clear, concise, and accurate guidance on how to obtain them today. We urge the SBA to request additional money from Congress for the EIDL program to ensure that funding is sufficient to support businesses' need and to release EIDL loan and grant money speedily to the businesses that have applied for it. Additionally, we ask that the SBA immediately publish a one-page fact sheet providing program details. Your swift and thoughtful action will ease the hardship that the coronavirus epidemic has caused for small businesses and their employees.

Sincerely,



---

ANGUS S. KING, JR.  
United States Senator



---

SUSAN M. COLLINS  
United States Senator