**Crisis Financing of Small Businesses and Self-Employed. Foreign Nationals Are Also Eligible.**

Paycheck protection program ran out of money during the first 2 weeks. More funding will soon be available, but it might be short of finances even sooner.

What other resources are available? Are **foreign nationals** eligible for any funding? Let’s find out. Better hurry, resources are limited.

**Different Sources of Financial Aid**

Coronavirus crisis will have severe economic consequences. People stay inside, businesses shut down and often reduce the number of employees. Federal government as well as local governments and private organizations offer different types of debt relief.

Not only U.S. citizens, but also **immigrants** might be eligible for some of those funds. Maybe you are worried about the **public charge rule**.

**CARES Act** provides relief for those financially impacted by coronavirus pandemics:

* Stimulus check
* Financial aid to small businesses
  + Paycheck Protection Programme – PPP
  + Economic Injury Disaster Loan initiative **-** EIDL

Emergency or disaster relief is not considered as a public benefit.

1. **Paycheck protection programme - PPP**

This program should support employment. It provides loans for payroll costs and some additional expenses. Initially, the programme had **$349 billion** assigned, which might soon be supplemented by additional **$300 billion.** From this sum, 60 billion should be assigned for loans through small banks and community development financial institutions.

**Who is eligible?**

Each business that was existing and paying payroll and payroll taxes on or before February 15, 2020, with no more than 500 employees, can apply. This includes **small companies** as well as **self-employed persons,** sole proprietorships or independent contractors. Private non-profit organizations are also eligible. The program should work on a first come, first serve basis.

**And foreigners as well?**

The business owner or a self-employed person does not have to be a U.S. citizen. Their employees, however, must have the principle place of residence in the U.S. This means, that even if you are a business owner with **E-2 visa or a green card**, you can still apply.

However, businesses located in a foreign country or **owned by undocumented (illegal) aliens** are not eligible.

The loan can be fully forgiven if you use at least 75% for payroll costs. The rest can be used for interest on mortgages, rent, and utilities. Employees must be kept on the payroll or rehired quickly, and salary must not decrease.

**Sole proprietor** or independent contractor can cover wages, commissions, income, or net earnings from self-employment.

1. **Economic Injury Disaster Loan initiative -** **EIDL for COVID-19**

This existing program has been adapted for the coronavirus crisis. The program can be combined with PPP. **Eligibility** is similar to PPP. You have to comply with SBA definition of small business (max. 500 employees). Program also applies to sole proprietorships, independent contractors, and self-employed persons.

Currently, funding is not available due to lack of resources, but there is hope that **additional funding will be approved.**

Within the program, you can apply for an **advance** in the amount up to 10.000 USD (USD 1.000 per employee), which doesn’t have to be repaid. Then, you can apply for a quick loan. Up to USD 200.000 can be borrowed without personal guarantee.

**Additional Support for Immigrants**

As we discussed earlier, undocumented immigrants without SSN, though they pay taxes (appr. $27 billion in federal, state, and local taxes in 2017*)*, cannot receive the stimulus check. The same applies if you have undocumented spouse on your tax return.

The proposed bill - Coronavirus Immigrant Families Protection Act – addresses this issue. Its aim is to:

* Suspend the implementation of public charge policy
* Ensure that uninsured individuals get medical help related to COVID-19
* Include immigrant families to CARES act support
* Prohibit enforcement agencies from carrying out enforcement in places where people seek care, such as hospitals