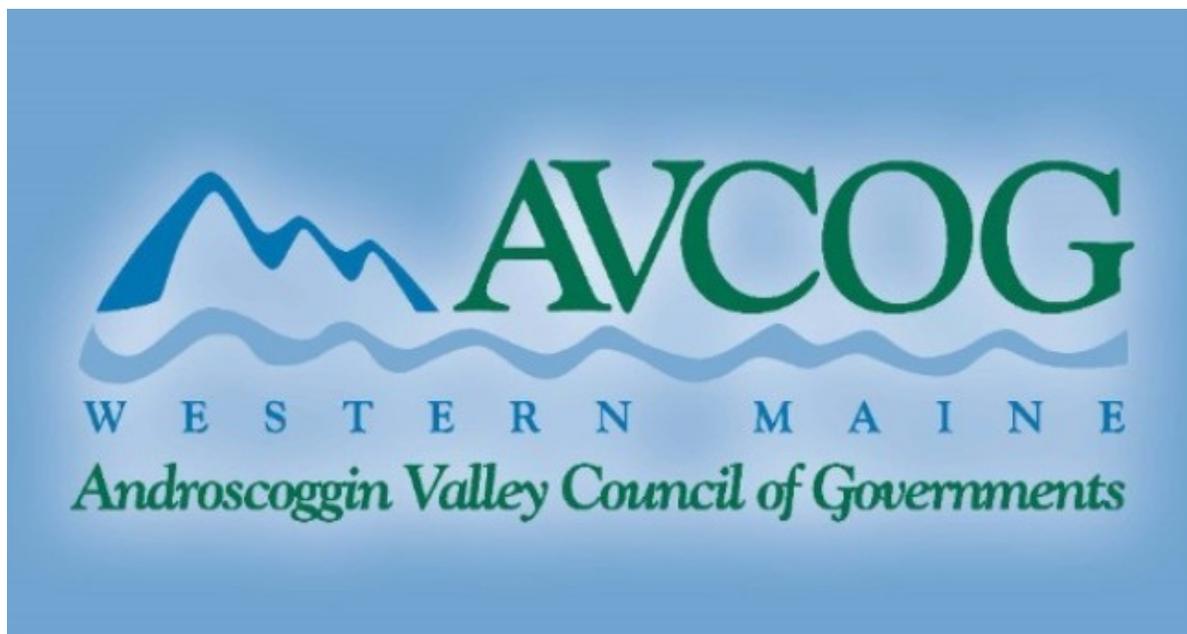


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## COVID-19 Update: PPP Resumes & More

- [Paycheck Protection Program Resumes Monday, April 27 at 10:30 a.m. EDT](#)
- [Governor Mills Launches Portal for Maine Businesses & Residents to Offer Ideas](#)
- [Grants & Assistance for Maine Farmers](#)
- Click [here](#) to access AVCOG's COVID-19 Resource Page

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### Paycheck Protection Program Resumes Monday, April 27 at 10:30AM EDT

The Small Business Administration will resume accepting PPP loan applications on Monday, April 27 at 10:30 a.m. EDT from approved lenders on behalf of any eligible borrower.

- Helpful links
  - [Treasury's Website](#)
  - [SBA's website](#)

Contact a [SBDC Advisor](#) to assist you with the SBA loan process.

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### Governor Mills Launches Portal for Maine Businesses & Residents to Offer Ideas

The Maine Department of Economic and Community Development is working in close partnership with different economic sectors to analyze business practices, consider modifications to prioritize safety and security, and consult with public health experts to confirm that such modifications will be effective to mitigate the spread of the coronavirus. These accommodations may be as simple as closing break rooms, providing flexible working hours, and installing plexiglass shields, or as complex as adjusting a business' sales process to ensure employee and customer safety.

To that end, Governor Mills launched a portal through the Department of Economic and Community Development to serve as an avenue for business owners, employees, and Maine residents to offer their ideas. The portal can be accessed at [www.maine.gov/decd](http://www.maine.gov/decd).

"We invite all Maine people to take part in the discussion," said Governor Mills. "Give us your specific ideas on how we can do things differently, how we can restart the economy and keep all our people safe and healthy. We want to hear from you."

The Governor cautioned, however, that decisions to reopen sectors of Maine's economy will be driven by public health considerations and cautioned that moving too aggressively risks a surge of the virus.

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## Grants & Assistance for Maine Farmers

- Maine Farmland Trust (MFT) and the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association (MOFGA) are introducing new Maine Farm Emergency Grants to assist farmers impacted by the COVID-19 crisis. This collaborative effort will provide support to farmers who need assistance mitigating the economic impact of COVID-19 and will help them adapt their businesses to be responsive to changing markets. **The application deadline is April 27, 2020 at 11:59 p.m.** Grants will be awarded during the week of May 4, 2020. **Apply here.**
- If you are you a business or service provider with a breadth of professional expertise to offer instruction or mentoring regarding online sales, websites, internet security and technology, please join the technology **mentor list**.
- If you are a Maine farmer seeking technical assistance with a technology mentor, please **submit** your farm name and email address so we can quickly share information with you about upcoming topics.
- Beginning Farmer Resource Network of Maine - Agricultural organizations agencies are continuing to collect information to assess the impact this virus is having on Maine farms to better inform direct assistance and policy in this changing time. IF YOU HAVE ALREADY TAKEN THIS SURVEY, PLEASE TAKE IT AGAIN. New questions have been added as we track changes over the past few weeks. **COVID-19 Maine Farmer Survey**



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