



Reopen Boston Fund - Get Up to \$2,000 for PPE for Your Small Business

The \$6MM Reopen Boston Fund will help small businesses put in place the necessary public health guidance requirements needed to reopen like purchasing PPE, installing safety partitions, and managing outdoor spaces approved for use.

Applications for businesses will open on **Thursday, May 28, at 5 p.m.** and will be reviewed and approved on a rolling basis. It is important that you have (1) proof of your commercial address, (2) have a Vendor ID form from the City **BEFORE** you apply, (3) complete the mandatory budget template.

You don't have to have a vendor ID to submit your application but you will need one to receive your payment.

For more info: <https://www.boston.gov/departments/small-business-development/reopen-boston-fund>



Mayor's Office of Arts and Culture & MassCreative Survey

The Mayor's Office of Arts and Culture is working in partnership with MassCreative to gather information about artists and creative workers in Massachusetts, with the goal of ensuring equity in the storytelling and distribution of resources related to COVID-19.

We're asking you to please take this 15 question survey if you are an artist or creative worker in Massachusetts - it should only take about ten minutes! Please also share this survey with your networks, so that we can better advocate for freelancers, gig workers, and the self-employed in our cultural communities, and make sure artists and creative workers are getting the support they need during this difficult time. Please spread the word about the survey, which can be found at bit.ly/artistworkersurvey.



FedEx: We Are Giving \$1 Million to Small Businesses

Small businesses strengthen communities and make them more vibrant; you create jobs, as well as unique products, services and spaces. And many small businesses are hurting right now. We know you're putting your all into not just surviving but becoming more creative and resilient than ever.

We want to honor that spirit and show some love to small businesses to help you ride out this storm. That's why we've committed \$1 million to provide grants for small businesses in the U.S. Whether you're making the move to selling and shipping online or you're ramping up your safety and cleanliness measures to keep customers and employees safe, we want to help keep your business moving forward. In these trying times, your communities are depending on you.

Each grant recipient will receive \$5,000, plus a \$500 credit from FedEx Office that can be used for printing banners, posters, floor graphics, custom branded boxes, and more. [See Terms and Conditions for full details.](#)



Are You Looking to Buy or Are Currently Supplying PPE?

Sign up for our latest initiative, Protect MA - an online marketplace that connects Black and Latinx designers, makers, and manufacturers of non-medical masks, cloth face covers, and other PPE with potential buyers in business and households in need of them.



**CENTERS FOR DISEASE
CONTROL AND PREVENTION**

CDC Reopening Guidelines for Cleaning and Disinfecting Public Spaces, Workplaces, Businesses, Schools and Homes

This guidance is intended for all Americans, whether you own a business, run a school, or want to ensure the cleanliness and safety of your home. Reopening America requires all of us to move forward together by practicing social distancing and other [daily habits](#) to reduce our risk of exposure to the virus that causes COVID-19.

Reopening the country also strongly relies on public health strategies, including increased testing of people for the virus, social distancing, isolation, and keeping track of how someone infected might have infected other people. This plan is part of the larger [United States Government plan](#) and focuses on cleaning and disinfecting public spaces, workplaces, businesses, schools, and can also be applied to your home.

For more information: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/reopen-guidance.html>



Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for Small Businesses

The Mayor's Office is making sure all small businesses can access the required personal

protective gear and cleaning supplies needed to safely and responsibly operate.

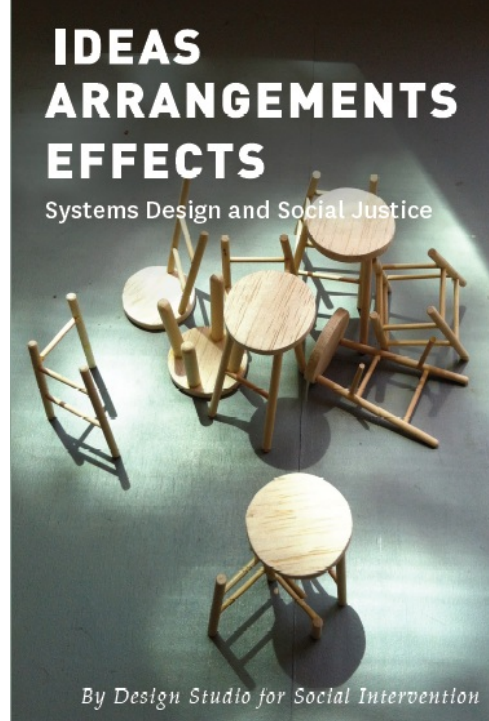
<https://www.boston.gov/economic-development/personal-protective-equipment-ppe-small-businesses>



2020 Census

We are reminding residents to take the 2020 Census during this time of physical distancing. To date, close to 50% of households have responded, which is lower than the statewide average response rate of 64.4%. We need to increase the rate of response.

- Much of the funding that comes from the Census count helps the most vulnerable among us. It provides, for instance, health care (Medicare and Medicaid), public education (grants for special education and Boston Public Schools), food and nutrition programs (SNAP and free school breakfast/lunch programs), affordable housing (Section 8 vouchers), and child care (Head Start) for low-income families.
 - The 2020 Census is a way to directly increase community power. It will impact our daily lives for the next 10 years. Many of Boston's communities are at risk of an undercount. We need a complete and accurate count because all of Boston deserves to be seen, heard, and invested in.
 - The Census has never been more accessible. You can respond to the [2020 Census online](#), over the phone, or by mail. You can respond to the 2020 Census online or over the phone in 13 different languages.
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DS4SI's [New Book](#) is Online!

Ideas are embedded in social arrangements, which in turn produce effects

With this simple premise, DS4SI makes the case for *arrangements* as a rich and overlooked terrain for social justice and world building. Unpacking how ideas like racism and sexism remain sturdy by embedding themselves in everything from physical and social infrastructure to everyday speech and thought habits, this book gives readers the tools to sense, intervene in and imagine new arrangements.

Using diverse examples from their work and others, DS4SI offers readers a roadmap for using social interventions to invite the larger public into imagining and creating a more just and vibrant world.

We are proud to partner with our publisher, **Minor Compositions**, for this early preview-release. The print edition - and book tour - have been delayed by the current situation, but we'll keep you posted! In the meantime, we wanted to get this into people's hands ASAP, since this "Covid Moment" is amplifying the negative effects of so many current arrangements.

Check it out [on our website HERE](#).

Reopening Massachusetts

The Baker-Polito Administration's comprehensive plan to safely reopen the Massachusetts economy, get people back to work, and ease social restrictions while minimizing the health impacts of COVID-19.



Help Sought for Grove Hall Businesses

Ed Gaskin, Executive Director of Greater Grove Hall Main Streets, talks about efforts to aid small businesses affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Interview for BNN News. Aired May 5, 2020. For more information about help for businesses: EquitablePPP@gmail.com

[Learn more about this story](#)



Greater Grove Hall Main Streets Executive Director on BNN.

A Few Resources to Help Your Businesses Get Up and Running:

- [Detailed Massachusetts industry reopening plan](#)
 - [General business guidance and industry-specific protocols](#)
 - [COVID Business Ready Certification Program](#)
 - [IXL Center and LISC Boston Beyond Six Feet Apart Accelerator](#)
 - [Lawyers for Civil Rights Small Business Support](#)
 - [Surfside Capital Advisors Reopening Guide](#)
 - [U.S. Chamber of Commerce Reopening Tools and Resources](#)
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Small Businesses Have Been Through the Wringer This Year.

Through Brewing the American Dream, Accion and Samuel Adams are proud to offer support to food and beverage business owners as they rebuild and recover from the pandemic.

Back to Business is a digital engagement series aimed at helping food and beverage business owners get back on their feet after the COVID crisis.

- Want to learn from industry experts?
- Ready to share your insights with fellow entrepreneurs?
- Eager to get back to business?

If so, then this summer series is for you!

[Learn More and
Signup!](#)

The Back to Business series will include 15 digital events from **June 1** to **July 1**.

From getting local resources to meeting fellow entrepreneurs to learning vital business management skills, you can sign up for as many events in the series as you'd like. Join us this summer and get back to business!

Important Covid-19 Survey for Business Owners

Greetings!

In an effort to support small businesses in District 7, my office has developed a short survey for small business owners. (Restaurant owners should respond to both surveys.) Please forward the links below to your members.

Please let me know if you have any questions. Thank you for all you do to support small businesses!

[COVID-19 Restaurant Response Survey \(English\)](#)

[COVID-19 Small Business Response Survey \(English\)](#)

[Encuesta para restaurantes sobre COVID-19 \(Spanish\)](#)

[Encuesta para empresas pequeñas sobre COVID-19 \(Spanish\)](#)

Sincerely,

Kim Janey

Boston City Council President, District 7

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Boston, MA 02201

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Whittier Street Health Center Is Providing Covid-19 Testing For All Who Meet The Current Department Of Public Health Guidelines:

- We will test you for COVID-19 if you have fever, cough, or trouble breathing. You should also tell us about chills, shakes, muscle aches, headaches, and sore throat, or if you can't smell or taste.
- If you have a health condition such as asthma, chronic lung disease, diabetes, extreme obesity, cirrhosis of the liver, heart condition, other health conditions or a physician's order, we will take care of you.

[View all of the COVID-19 testing guidelines](#)

Staying Healthy During Coronavirus

[View resources here](#)

BRIGHAM HEALTH



**BRIGHAM AND
WOMEN'S HOSPITAL**

STEPRox Recovery Support Center

We are now having a NAMI connections support group

Hosted by Louray Barton


Every Tuesday at 4:30PM on Zoom

Meeting ID 845-7120-2895

Any questions, call Louray Barton 1.617.849.1250

[View flyer](#)

[View the STEPRox calendar](#)



What is P-EBT?

The *Pandemic - Electronic Benefits Transfer* (P-EBT) Program is additional money for families to buy food while schools are closed due to COVID-19.

- Families will get **\$5.70** per child per day for every day school is closed
- Using P-EBT does **NOT impact you or your child's immigration status**. The public charge rule does NOT apply to P-EBT benefits
- Use P-EBT **with grab and go student meal sites**

Attention all families with school-aged children!

Be on the lookout for a Pandemic EBT benefit coming your way! P-EBT is a food benefit that supports families and students during school closure due to COVID-19. This includes any student in a school that provides free or reduced meals to all students. Boston Public Schools (BPS) and Charter schools serve free meals so **all BPS and Charter School students** will receive this benefit. Families do not need to do anything to receive this Pandemic EBT card and there are no applications required.

Families will get \$5.70 per student per day for every day school is closed to buy food.

Families receiving DTA benefits will get their benefits on their existing EBT card.

Families not currently receiving DTA benefits will be mailed a new P-EBT card.

NOTE: Using P-EBT benefits does not impact your or your child's immigration status. The Public Charge rule does not apply to P-EBT benefits.

NEXT STEPS:

Look for a notice in the mail from the Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA) in May. Families not receiving DTA benefits will get mailed their card separately from the notice. If you have not got your card by late May, call Project Bread's FoodSource hotline at 800-645-8333.

Received your card? Set it up now!

1. Call Massachusetts' EBT hotline (800) 997-2555
2. Create a PIN: use the last 4 digits of your child's case number that was provided on the notice you got in the mail and the child's date of birth (using the 2 digit month + 2 digit day. Example: 04/06)
3. Use like an EBT card for purchasing groceries from approved retailers!

Where can P-EBT be used?

P-EBT can be used anywhere that SNAP is accepted, such as grocery stores or smaller corner stores (look for signs that say "We accept EBT here")

What can be purchased with P-EBT?

P-EBT acts similarly to SNAP benefits

Can purchase:

- Most fresh, canned, frozen foods such as:
- Fresh fruits and vegetables
- Meat, dairy, and eggs
- Canned fruits and vegetables
- Rice, beans, and dry goods
- Seeds to grow your own plants

Cannot purchase:

- Diapers, cleaning products, paper goods (toilet paper, paper towels, etc.), supplements/medicine
- Prepared meals sold hot and ready to eat or restaurant food
- Pet food
- Alcohol or recreational marijuana

Questions? Call Project Bread's Hotline Number at: **1-800-645-8333**

[View flyer!](#)

[For flyers in additional languages, click here!](#)

[For more information about the Pandemic EBT Program, click here!](#)

EforAll COVID-19 Entrepreneur Resource List

EforAll is compiling national, regional, and local resources for entrepreneurs and small businesses in our communities. There are some great loan programs being announced but we know that loans are not always the solution and should be explored carefully. Don't hesitate to contact someone at [EforAll](#) for guidance.

[View resource list](#)



Greater Grove Hall Main Streets teamed up with Ron Fitz to help inform the community of free COVID-19 testing.

We were able to coordinate with **Stan McLaren** the President & Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Harvard Street Neighborhood Health Center to inform the community of the free testing at his facility.



Protect MA

We are proud to announce today the launch of our latest initiative, [Protect MA](#) - an online marketplace that will connect Black and Latinx designers, makers, and manufacturers of non-medical masks, cloth face covers, and other PPE with potential buyers in business and households in need of them.

This initiative was made possible by a partnership with BECMA members [IncluDe Innovation](#) and [Sofenomenal Agency Group](#).

ProtectMA.com will roll out in three phases:

Phase 1 | Collect information from both suppliers and buyers of PPE to determine the needs and availability of supply.

Phase 2 | Create a commerce system to establish an online marketplace to allow for the purchase and sale of said products.

Phase 3 | Coordinate the delivery of PPE products to their proper destination.

CITY *of* **BOSTON**

Neighborhood Development Policy

Greetings from the City of Boston,

You are receiving this email because the RFP for ESG CARES Act funding for homeless service provider agencies is now available through the City of Boston Supplier Portal under event number **#EV00008027**. You can also use this [link](#).

Only non-profit organizations and units of local government that support communities, families, and individuals in the City of Boston who are experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness are eligible to apply. We would appreciate it if you would share this information with your network of friends and colleagues who may be able to apply.

There is no response deadline; applications will be open until all funding is awarded.

Questions about the RFP should be directed to **Katie Cahill-Holloway**, katie.cahill-holloway@boston.gov.

[Visit Our Website](#)

