**Small Businesses**

The City of Barrie is doing everything possible, in cooperation with the provincial and federal governments, to minimize impact and see economic recovery take place as soon as possible. This document outlines support resources available to small businesses.

*Please visit barrie.ca/SupportForBusiness for information about resources available to various sectors, and for details about changes to City services that support business during this time.*

**Federal Support Programs**

**Access to Credit**

**Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy (CERS)**
The Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy (CERS) provides a direct and easy-to-access rent and mortgage subsidy of up to 65% of eligible expenses to qualifying businesses, charities and non-profits. This support is available directly to tenants.

**Lockdown Support**
Qualifying organizations that have been significantly restricted by a mandatory public health order issued by a qualifying public health authority can receive an additional 25% of rent support through the Lockdown Support. The combined effect of the rent subsidy and the Lockdown Support is that hard-hit businesses, non-profits and charities subject to a lockdown can receive rent support of up to 90%. The rent subsidy and the Lockdown Support are available until June 2021. [Apply here.](#)

**Support Expansions & Changes due to Omicron Variant**
The government has announced new proposed regulatory changes to temporarily expand eligibility for wage and commercial rent support for businesses and other organizations under the Local Lockdown Program. Depending on the period you are applying for, you may be eligible to claim your commercial rent or property expenses through one of the following

- Tourism and Hospitality Recovery Program (THRP)
- Hardest Hit Business Recovery Program (HHBRP)
- Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy (CERS)

**Access to Credit: Self-employed Individuals**

**Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit (CRSB)**
The CRSB provides $500 per week for up to a maximum of two weeks, for workers affected by COVID-19. [Get the details.](#)
Small Businesses

Canada Recovery Caregiving Benefit (CRCB)
The CRCB provides $500 per week for up to 26 weeks per household for workers affected by COVID-19. [Get the details.]

Access to Credit: Women Entrepreneurs
FedDev Ontario supports women-led businesses to rebuild, reopen and revive in southern Ontario. Government of Canada invests $4 million to support over 700 women-led businesses across southern Ontario. [Get the details.]

Access to Credit: Black Business Owners
Supporting Black business owners and entrepreneurs through the Black Entrepreneurship Loan Fund
The federal government is supporting Black business owners and entrepreneurs through the Black Entrepreneurship Loan Fund that will provide loans of between $25,000 and $250,000. More details to come.

Tender opportunities for Canadian Black owned or led small businesses
Public Services and Procurement Canada (PSPC) has posted several tender opportunities for Canadian Black owned or led small businesses. For details on these tender opportunities, please see the list of tender notices.

Rent Relief
Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy (CERS)
The Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy (CERS) provides a direct and easy-to-access rent and mortgage subsidy of up to 65% of eligible expenses to qualifying businesses, charities and non-profits. The subsidy rates are in effect until December 19, 2020. This support is available directly to tenants.

Lockdown Support
Qualifying organizations that have been significantly restricted by a mandatory public health order issued by a qualifying public health authority can receive an additional 25% of rent support through the Lockdown Support.
The combined effect of the rent subsidy and the Lockdown Support is that hard-hit businesses, non-profits and charities subject to a lockdown can receive rent support of up to 90%.
The rent subsidy and the Lockdown Support are available until June 2021. [Apply here.]

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**investbarrie**
The City of Barrie is working with our industry partners with updating this document regularly to be able to identify actions to support businesses in responding to the economic impact of COVID-19.
Small Businesses

Provincial Support Programs

Financial Support

$10,000 grant for eligible small businesses and additional electricity-rate relief
The government is introducing a $10,000 grant for eligible businesses that are subject to closures under the modified Step Two of the Roadmap to Reopen and is providing additional electricity-rate relief for businesses, as well as workers and families spending more time at home. Get the details.

Ontario Caps Food Delivery Fees to Protect Small Businesses
Food delivery companies will be required to limit the rates they charge to 20% for each transaction — with no more than 15% for commission for food delivery services. The cap applies in areas where indoor dining is prohibited, to help restaurants stay in business and continue contributing to their communities. Get the details.

Provincial Tools & Resources

Digital Main Street
Digital Main Street is a free platform that helps main street businesses identify and adopt the right digital tools and technologies that can help reach more customers and boost sales. More detail.

Pausing Commercial Evictions
The provincial government is temporarily stopping or reversing evictions of commercial tenants and protecting them from being locked out or having their assets seized during COVID-19. This applies to businesses that are eligible for federal/provincial rent assistance, for evictions from May 1, 2020. It does not apply to those participating in CECRA for small businesses. Get more details.

Stop the Spread Business Information Line
The province has launched a toll-free line 1-888-444-3659 to provide support to Ontario businesses who have questions about closures of at-risk workplaces or how emergency measures impact their business or employment. More detail.

Ontario Together
The Ontario Government has launched a website that will help businesses and their employees work with the province to meet the challenges of COVID-19. More detail.

COVID-19: Tackling the Barriers
The Ontario Government has launched a website that will help businesses by preparing to allow temporary changes to provincial rules and regulations in order to remove any barriers that are hindering business and negatively impacting Ontario’s supply chain. More detail.

The City of Barrie is working with our industry partners with updating this document regularly to be able to identify actions to support businesses in responding to the economic impact of COVID-19.
Small Businesses

Additional Support Programs

Financial Support

**Canada United Small Business Relief Fund**
The Canada United Small Business Relief Fund will be managed by the Ontario Chamber of Commerce on behalf of the national Chamber network in support of other chambers and partners to help small Canadian businesses with their recovery efforts as a result of COVID-19. Get the details.

**Digital Transformation Grant Program**
Will provide Digital Transformation training and guidance and provide the opportunity for main street businesses to apply for a grant of up to $2,500. Get the details.

**Technology Assessment Program**
The Technology Assessment Program connects SME’s manufacturers in southern Ontario manufacturers with qualified experts to get customized technology assessments (up to $25,000 in reimbursable funds). Closes December 31st 2021. Get the details.

**Choosing your electricity price plan**
If you’re a residential or small business customer that pays Time-of-Use (TOU) electricity prices, you now have a choice. You can contact your electricity utility and opt-out of TOU and pay Tiered prices instead, choosing the price plan that’s right for how you consume electricity. Get the details.

**Free 1 Hour Health & Safety Consultation**
CKX Training is offering free one-hour health and safety consultation. Contact consulting@ckxtraining.com for more details.