



SPECIAL DAILY UPDATE

April 22, 2020

Senate Passes \$483 Billion Supplement to CARES Act

A \$483 billion supplement to the coronavirus response legislation passed so far passed the Senate yesterday and is expected to clear the House of Representatives and become signed into law by President Trump. The measure is a stopgap to refresh funding of programs created by the CARES Act and create a bridge to the next piece of large rescue legislation expected to come out of Congress soon. The highlights of the bill are below, as reported by the Associated Press.

- Small business grants and loans: \$251 billion is designated to replenish the Paycheck Protection Program and deliver loans of up to \$10 million each for companies with 500 employees or fewer that absorb coronavirus-related losses; much of the loans can be forgiven if employers retain workers. An additional \$60 billion would be evenly split between smaller banks and community development financial institutions to help traditionally underbanked urban neighborhoods and rural areas. Another \$60 billion would be delivered through the Small Business Administration's disaster loan program, with \$10 billion of that in direct grants.

- Healthcare: the legislation includes \$75 billion for grants to hospitals and other healthcare providers to cover costs or lost revenues attributable to the pandemic.
- Coronavirus testing: the bill includes \$25 billion for coronavirus testing as a step to relaxing stay-at-home restrictions that are a prerequisite to safely reopening the economy, split between federal and state governments. \$11 billion of the total would be made available to states “to develop, purchase, administer, process, and analyze COVID-19 tests.” Of the federal funds, money will be sent to the CDC, National Institutes of Health and other agencies to accelerate the deployment of rapid testing and develop tests for antibodies.

Stay tuned for more developments as this measure moves through the House.

Source: Associated Press

States Feeling Pressure to “Reopen” After Social Distancing Orders



Various social distancing orders across the U.S. helped slow the spread of the coronavirus, but states are feeling increasing pressure from protesters and the White House to relax restrictions.

Several states have announced plans to coordinate their response with neighbors: California is moving forward in coordination with Washington and Oregon; governors from New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Delaware and Rhode Island announced plans to form a joint task force.

[Click here to read about which states have announced plans](#) to restart their economies and what plans they have laid out.

You can also click here to [read how other countries plan to exit lockdown.](#)

Source: USA Today and AXIOS

Savannah Tech to Offer Short-Term Training to Help Displaced Workers



Savannah Technical College is offering short-term career training beginning April 27; the new five-week flex term will allow students a faster option for earning certification.

The college is waiving its application fee for new students through April 30.

There are four technical certificates of credit (TCCs) available beginning April 27 that can be completed online by July 31:

- Criminal Justice Fundamentals
- Criminal Justice Specialists
- Marketing Specialists
- Microsoft Network Administration

The college also offers TCCs that can be taken online over the summer semester (which starts June 1), and can also be completed by July 31:

- Certified Customer Service Specialist
- Certified Manufacturing Specialist
- Certified Warehousing & Distribution Specialist
- Early Childhood Exceptionalities
- Early Childhood Program Administration
- Entrepreneurship
- Fire Officer 1
- Logistics Technician
- Restaurant Manager
- Small Business Marketing Manager
- Shampoo Technician
- Tax Preparation Specialist

For information on these and other summer semester online courses, [visit their website](#).

As SCCPSS Transition to Online Learning More Chromebooks Are Needed



Schools have transitioned to online learning and we as the business community need to make sure every student who needs a device has access to one. Student access to technology is a critical component in our work to provide educational continuity and tailored supports for students through the end of the school year.

As the COVID-19 pandemic has forced classrooms to transition to an at home digital learning model, students are asked to access learning websites, videoconference with teachers, complete assignments in Google classrooms and watch video lessons. SCCPSS is committed to the continuation of teaching and learning through the current academic school calendar that has the last day of school set for May 15, 2020.

Donations will be used to help fund the purchase of Chromebooks that will be provided to students for completing online classes! You can help!

[Click here](#) to donate or text to give. Text TECHNOLOGY to 80888

Questions? Call Clyde Newton of the SCCPSS Public Affairs Department for more details at 912-433-7610.

[Hussey Gay Bell Gifts Chromebooks to SCCPSS for Distance Learning Amid COVID-19](#)



Hussey Gay Bell will present nearly \$5,000 worth of Asus Chromebooks to Savannah-Chatham County Public School System to provide devices to children in need of electronic learning devices to continue their Independent Learning Days from home for the remainder of the school year and into summer due to COVID-19.

“This donation is just one part of Hussey Gay Bell’s emergency response to the pandemic in these stressful and challenging times. All of our educational clients are adapting to this fluid situation and working to find ways to provide learn at home devices to those most in need and this donation is something we felt compelled to do. Education impacts everyone in our community. This is our way of showing just one of the communities in which we do business that we support them,” said Hussey Gay Bell CEO, Holmes Bell.

“This type of donation embraces SCCPSS’ vision of preparing all students for productive futures of leading the effort to improve lives,” Dr. Levett said. “SCCPSS is so grateful for this donation from one of our corporate and community partners and will use these devices to continue to provide distance education to children that are the most in need of them in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.”

SCCPSS has plans to distribute the Chromebooks with priority placed on students at Bloomingdale Elementary School.

Interested in Donating to the Savannah-Chatham County Public School System?

Donations will be used to help fund the purchase of Chromebooks that will be provided to students for completing online classes! [Click here](#) to donate or text to give. Text TECHNOLOGY to 80888

Manufacturers Share: Navigating Today & Preparing for the Next Phase & the Rebound



When:

April 23, 2020

1:00 - 1:45 PM

Pre-registration required, registration open through 12:45 pm, 4/23/20.

What:

Manufacturing leaders share how they are navigating today's "new normal", preparing for manufacturing in the next phase and for the recovery! Speakers represent small, mid-size and large companies as well as diverse operations both domestic and global.

Join us to hear from:

Tom Gray, VP Operations & Technology, SKC

Bruce Hagenau, President, Metcam (NGM Advisory Board Member) *

Mike Price, VP HR, Micromeritics (NGM Advisory Board Member) *

Bill Strang, President of Operations & Ecommerce, TOTO (NGM Advisory Board Member)

*Partner Organization Georgia Association of Manufacturers Member

Where:

[Register Here](#)

Good News



There's a lot going on in the world right now, but there are plenty of reasons to be positive about the future. Check out these good news stories:

- The DeSoto announces The DeSoto Vibe, [a free open-air concert series May 1-7](#)
- Chick-fil-a announces [multi-million-dollar COVID-19 community relief effort](#)
- Parent University to [feature Gateway Savannah in virtual session](#)
- Savannah companies [provide tech donations to students](#)

Do you have any positive local stories to share? Send them to Info@SavannahChamber.com with the subject “Positive Stories” and we may choose yours to share with the community!

Guidance and Resources



We will update and add to the links below as new guidance and resources become available. Click here to visit the Chamber's resource page.

- [Coronavirus Digital Toolkit](#)
- [Coronavirus Guidance for Employers](#)
- [Coronavirus Workplace Tips for Employees](#)
- [Coronavirus Resource Hub for Small Businesses](#)
- [Coronavirus Local/State Policy Tracker](#)
- [Coronavirus Workplace Flyer](#)
- Dial 311 for City of Savannah information
- Dial 211 for help from the United Way of the Coastal Empire
- Dial 1-800-Georgia (436-7442) for State of Georgia information

For more info, please visit the [CDC's Guidance for Businesses page](#).

The Savannah Area Chamber is working hard to provide timely access to business resource information during the COVID-19 pandemic. The

interpretation and recommendations of the information provided by the Chamber should not replace the consult of professional advisors familiar with your unique business situation. While it is believed that the content of external links is accurate and reliable, accuracy and completeness of information contained herein is not guaranteed. Users of this information accept all risks associated with the use of such information and agree that the Savannah Area Chamber has no liability to the user.



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