



COVID-EIDL: Beware of Scams

Background

The SBA has become aware of a fraudulent form circulating that misleadingly suggests completing it may qualify borrowers for loan forgiveness under the COVID-19 Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) program. Be advised that there is no forgiveness process for the COVID-19 EIDL program as SBA does not offer forgiveness for COVID-19 EIDLs. Any documentation claiming otherwise is not legitimate. Borrowers should rely only on official SBA.gov resources or contact us directly with any questions.

If a borrower is contacted to provide information or complete a form for debt forgiveness of their COVID-19 EIDL the borrower should not provide them with any personal loan or business information. Instead, immediately contact the COVID EIDL Servicing Center at COVIDEIDLservicing@sba.gov or send a message through the [MySBA Loan Portal](#). Borrowers can also refer to the [SBA website](#) for further information on preventing fraud and identity theft.

We recognize this has been a challenging time for businesses. The SBA is committed to supporting you and offers resources to help your business succeed. For more information, please visit [Small Business Administration](#).

Talking Points

Overview of the Issue

- The SBA recently identified a fraudulent form circulating that falsely claims to qualify borrowers for loan forgiveness under the COVID-19 EIDL program.
- The COVID-19 EIDL program does not offer loan forgiveness.
- Any communication suggesting otherwise is a scam.

Protecting Borrowers

- Borrowers should rely exclusively on official SBA.gov resources or contact the SBA directly with questions.
- If contacted with requests for personal loan or business information related to EIDL forgiveness, borrowers should:
 - Avoid sharing information.
 - Report the incident immediately to the COVID EIDL Servicing Center via email at COVIDEIDLservicing@sba.gov or through the [MySBA Loan Portal](#).
- Refer to the [SBA website](#) for resources on fraud prevention and identity theft.



U.S. Small Business
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Recognizing Fraud

Borrowers should be cautious of:

- Individuals claiming to represent the SBA without using an @sba.gov email address.
- Promises of loan forgiveness.
- Email phishing scams using the SBA logo.
- Individuals charging for services.
- Text messages asking for personal information or links to click.

SBA Commitment and Support

- The SBA recognizes the challenges faced by businesses during this time and is committed to supporting them.
- Resources are available to help businesses succeed. For more information, visit the official SBA website at [SBA.gov](https://sba.gov).

Key Message

- Borrowers must stay vigilant, rely on official channels, and report any suspicious activity to protect yourself and your business from fraud.

Next Steps

Borrowers can email at COVIDEIDLservicing@sba.gov or through the [MySBA Loan Portal](#). Steps related to identity theft can be found: [Reporting identity theft | U.S. Small Business Administration](#)

Report fraud, waste, abuse, or mismanagement of federal funds involving SBA programs, operations, or personnel to the [SBA OIG Hotline](#). Information collected through the Hotline helps keep the SBA OIG aware of risks and trends that affect the SBA's programs.



FAQ

How can I ensure the communication I receive is from the SBA's Disaster Loan Program?

- All initial official communication from the SBA will come from an SBA.gov email account or a prompt from the MySBA Portal.
- The SBA will never ask for any personally identifiable information (PII) via text message.
- We encourage you to use the MySBA portal for secure messaging.

What are common signs of a scam?

- Be cautious if you receive communication requesting personal information from sources other than **SBA.gov**.
- Be cautious of anyone claiming they can guarantee approval of your disaster loan.
- Be cautious of anyone requesting fees to apply for a disaster loan.
- The SBA will never ask for your loan information or any personal details through text messages. SBA may send text messages about status updates regarding your application but go to the MySBA Portal to provide any information.

How can I protect my personal information?

- Verify who you are speaking with before giving personal information. You can call the SBA Disaster Assistance Customer Service Center at 800-659-2955, TTY 711 for this assistance.

What should I do if I suspect a scam?

- If you receive suspicious communication, do not respond or provide any personal information. Contact the SBA directly through official channels to verify the message.

What if I get a text message requesting information for my COVID-EIDL?

- The SBA does not use text messaging to request personal information. If you receive such a message, it is a scam.
- Report the message to the SBA and avoid sharing any personal information.

What steps can I take to protect my identity?

- Regularly monitor your credit report and bank statements for any unusual activity.
- Avoid clicking on suspicious links in emails or messages that claim to be from the SBA but don't come from an SBA.gov address.

What should I look for in legitimate SBA communications?

- Ensure emails are from the official SBA.gov domain.
- Look for the SBA logo and log into the MySBA portal for secure, official messages from the SBA.