



U.S. CARES Act Tips Just for Camps – as of April 2, 2020

Note: Government emergency offerings are expected to continue to change. The details below are based on what is known as of April 2, 2020. We will do our best to keep the information [on our website](#) up to date for you.

1. Payroll protection

Many camps (and their parent organizations) have already been forced to lay off or furlough staff, or reduce salaries, or they will be forced to do so in the coming weeks. Just in time, the most important part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) is the Payroll Protection Program (PPP), which is a forgivable loan of up to 2.5 times your average monthly payroll in the past twelve months—including your unusually high spending during the summer in that average and any consultant-based staff. However, we are hearing different things about camps applying as “seasonal” business (vs. year-round), which would change the period for calculating your monthly average payroll, so we will update this information when we have more clarity. Note: only the first \$100K including benefits for an individual employee are eligible.

What this means for your camp NOW: Review your payroll information (including benefits) for the past 12 months and collect that information to provide to your bank when you apply for this program.

Bonus: You can [download a sample application now](#) to better understand what information you’ll need.

2. When?

March 19	March 31	April 3	~May	June 30
Federal government announced a sweeping package of emergency financial assistance, including the PPP	Guidelines and application details provided to banks.	First date banks may process applications.	<u>Very rough</u> estimates suggest an expedited technical review process (borrowers not substantively evaluated) could lead to checks issued in 3-4 weeks.	Once funded, borrowers must spend funds (and re-hire staff if necessary) in order to convert loan into grant.

What this means for your camp NOW: Contact your bank now to find out if they are SBA approved and can get you an application when they are available on 4/3. If they are unable to quickly serve you, you can [find another bank](#).

3. Much of the loan may actually be a grant. In general, only federal money you are not able to spend by June 30 must be returned. Remember, the maximum amount requested (and requesting the maximum is strongly advised) is based on 2.5 months of your actual payroll, and you’re likely to have a little more than that amount of time to spend it. And beyond payroll, **you are also allowed to spend this money on utilities, rent, interest, mortgage, and other debt service.** And even if you aren’t able to convert it all into a grant, the remainder bears only 0.5% interest and payments can be deferred 6 months.

What this means for your camp NOW: Most experts are recommending you apply for the maximum allowable amount.

4. **First Come, First Serve.** This was already urgent for camps, but the federal government has made it clear that funds may run out. If you haven't already, contact your existing bank immediately to initiate the application process, begin preparing the necessary paperwork, and **obtain formal loan approval from your board**. If your bank doesn't seem prepared to process your application very quickly (disorganized, overwhelmed, prioritizing larger institutional customers, or not an SBA approved lender), pivot! Contact other local or national banks in your area, ask your local Federation for a good contact, or use the JFNA hotline created for this purpose: SBAloans@jewishfederations.org or call 212-284-6625.

What this means for your camp NOW: Act quickly! Get your payroll information together, check your by-laws and ensure your board formally approves requesting the loan, make sure you have a bank ready to help you apply, and then apply on 4/3.

5. **A fluid situation.** In subsequent legislation, amendments, and corrections, the amount of funding allocated is likely to increase, and rules are likely to be relaxed. [Bookmark this page on JCamp180.org](http://JCamp180.org), where we will continue to update the information as it evolves. And JFNA is among the most authoritative, real-time resources in the entire nonprofit sector: <https://www.jewishtgether.org/sba-loan-information>.

What this means for your camp NOW: Keep up to date on important changes. [Bookmark this page on JCamp180.org](http://JCamp180.org), where we will keep this information as up to date as possible. You may also want to [sign up for JFNA updates](#).

6. **Beyond PPP.** There are a few other elements of the emergency federal stimulus legislation that apply to camps (rather than individuals and local/state governments). There are Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL), but the terms are significantly worse than PPP, and the programs are mutually exclusive. There are also payroll tax deferrals, which are also incompatible with PPP.

But [there is an extension of sick, family, and medical leave benefits](#), which can be combined with PPP. Employers with under 500 employees will get reimbursed (via payroll tax credit) for employees who take two weeks if they or a family member has Coronavirus, and an additional twelve weeks if school or childcare are closed due to Coronavirus. We are working to clarify if camp is considered "childcare" in this context.

What this means for your camp NOW: Using the normal quarterly payroll tax reporting process, employers can fund these extended benefits with payroll taxes that would normally be submitted to the IRS. If those funds are insufficient, you can request an accelerated payment, which the IRS says will be processed in two weeks or less.

7. **Canada** passed a C\$52 billion relief package of its own March 25. In addition to benefits for individuals and local/provincial governments, direct benefits for nonprofits such as camps include: a three-month wage subsidy, credit support to small businesses, and deferred business income tax.

What this means for your camp NOW: We are working to understand more about the various Canadian governmental options. For now, check out [this list of opportunities from Imagine Canada](#).