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## COVID-19 Update: Upcoming Webinars, AVCOG Loans, and More

- Q&A Session with MMA - May 14, 2020 at 10:00 AM
- USDA Webinar - CFAP - May 14, 2020 at 1:00 PM
- Restarting Maine's Economy
- Upcoming SBDC Webinars in May
- AVCOG Quick Loans and SBA Microloans
- Environmental Depot Opening May 16, 2020
- SMPDC - Remote Meeting Resources
- Click [here](#) to access AVCOG's COVID-19 Resource Page

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### Q&A Session with Maine Municipal Association

Join MMA and AVCOG for a Zoom Q&A session on **Thursday, May 14, 2020 at 10:00 AM**.

Topics to be discussed include:

- Holding town meeting and elections
- Board meetings and municipal summer events
- Updates on reopening and funding concerns of municipalities

If you haven't signed up already, you can still join the meeting by emailing **Shelley Norton** for the Zoom login information.

We have taken questions in advance but there may be a chance to ask your question at the end of the meeting.

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### USDA Webinar - Coronavirus Food Assistance Program

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Marketing Service, and Farm Service Agency will host a webinar on **Thursday, May 14, 2020 at 1:00 PM**.

This webinar is for farmers, ranchers and other producers interested in applying for direct

payments through the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP).

Click [here](#) to register. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

Submit questions through the webinar's Q&A box or email questions to [CFAP.webinars@usda.gov](mailto:CFAP.webinars@usda.gov). While questions will not be answered live during the webinar, answers will be posted on [farmers.gov/CFAP](https://farmers.gov/CFAP).

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## Restarting Maine's Economy

Maine's plan for reopening establishes four gradual stages, the first of which began on May 1st.

Designed with input from public health and industry experts, this staged approach will allow Maine businesses to safely open when the time is right, and stay open by following reasonable, practical guidelines to ensure the safety of employees and customers.

Click [here](#) to view the plan.

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## Upcoming SBDC Webinars in May

Webinars will be held via Zoom throughout May:

- **Q&A Thursday with SBDC Business Advisors**  
Thursday, May 14, 2020  
12:00 PM  
Click [here](#) to register
  - **Relaunching Your Hospitality Business**  
Tuesday, May 19, 2020  
2:00 PM  
Click [here](#) to register
  - **Relaunching Your Retail Business**  
Wednesday, May 20, 2020  
11:00 AM  
Click [here](#) to register
  - **Understanding PPP Forgiveness**  
Thursday, May 21, 2020  
2:00 PM  
Click [here](#) to register
  - **Relaunching Your Service-Based Business**  
Tuesday, May 26, 2020  
2:00 PM  
Click [here](#) to register
  - **Q&A Thursday with SBDC Business Advisors**  
Thursday, May 28, 2020  
12:00 PM  
Click [here](#) to register
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## AVCOG Quick Loans and SBA Microloans

### AVCOG Quick Loan

Loans for \$10,000 or less are for existing and start up businesses and for borrowers with a credit score of 650 or higher. Additional analysis will be based on the factors provided in the application.

- No business plan or projections required
- Only one year tax return needed
- Quick approval process

Click [here](#) for the application.

### SBA Microloan

The Microloan program provides loans up to \$50,000 to help small businesses and certain not-for-profit childcare centers start up and expand. **Additional SBA economic relief options may be available through these loan programs.**

#### Loan uses:

- Building improvements
- Furniture and fixtures
- Equipment and inventory
- Supplies and working capital

Click [here](#) for the application. For assistance email [Jane Mickeriz](#), AVCOG's Loan Officer.

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## Environmental Depot Opening May 16, 2020

The Western Maine Environmental Depot is co-located with the Lewiston Solid Waste Facility on 424 River Road in Lewiston.

The Depot will be open on the **third Saturday of the month starting May 16th and closing October 17th**. The hours of operation are from **8:00-11:45 AM**.

Please check our [website](#) frequently for current information.

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## SMPDC - Remote Meeting Resources

Click [here](#) for resources shared by the Southern Maine Planning & Development Commission on hosting virtual municipal meetings:

- Training on how to plan and host virtual meetings
- Zoom meeting - Tips and Tricks
- Guidance from Maine Municipal Association
- And more



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