

**Updates and Discussions**

- **City and County Staff Updates**
  - City staff demonstrated the new [City COVID website](#), navigating through the various resources posted and updated on a daily basis. This site includes resources for small business owners, non-profit organizations, arts organizations and residents seeking unemployment and job training assistance. Staff also demonstrated the [SAEDF SA Real and Ready](#).
  - County staff are supporting with the Economic Transition Team and exploring cooperative purchasing to assist small businesses in need of PPE. Staff also indicated \$2.4 m in loans has been disbursed to 120 businesses through the partnership with LiftFund. A similar number of businesses are struggling with providing the necessary documentation and County staff may consider revising the policies associated with the loan program. Also considering additional resources for this program, with a potential focus on businesses that have not accessed the PPP. Webinars with the Department of Labor, OSHA, and IRS are being planned.
  
- **Micro Business Support Strategies (Matt Brown, Centro San Antonio)**
  - An ecosystem-building, systems approach will be more successful than individual interventions.
  - Key functions should include identifying and accelerating growth and recovery opportunities.
  - Anticipate how new conditions may exacerbate previous challenges (i.e. disengaged youth).
  - Understand different communities’ specific needs and consider both best practices and innovative solutions.
  - Focus support on this population of businesses, as they contribute to the character and vibrancy of our neighborhoods.
  - A gap analysis of entrepreneurial ecosystem, including quality and efficacy, will identify opportunities. Forward Cities in Santa Fe does this type of work.
  - Community navigators can provide one-on-one assistance to micro businesses. Meeting business owners at their locations, providing on-the-spot support and training. Navigators do not require substantial initial expertise but receive considerable training.
    - Metric for this type of program would be for collective job creation by micro businesses served.
  - Promoting entrepreneurship is critical. Flint, Michigan has developed a program to help innovators take product or service ideas through development phase in one year.
  - One strategy will not address all micro business needs. A combination of strategies should be deployed across the community.

**Action Items**

| Item  | Status  | Lead   |
|---|---|--|
| Coordinate with County staff, local school districts, large non-profit organizations and local media (with an emphasis on Spanish media) for additional distribution of | Completed - Electronic version of flyer was provided to County, ISDs and all delegate agencies, informing them hardcopies were also available by request. | City Economic Development Staff – Alex Lopez |

**COVID-19 Community Action Working Group**  
**Business and Employment – May 1, 2020**

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| unemployment and job training information.   |  |   |
| Identify small business development strategies   | Presentation from Centro CEO, Matt Brown.  | Lead Resource – Jenna Saucedo Herrera                 |
| Coordinate with Lead Resource Jorge Herrera to develop a seminar on potential liability issues in relation to employees and patrons. | In progress.   | Bexar County Staff – Renee Watson                     |
| Research how to facilitate increased local public sector purchasing to support local businesses.                                     | Initial strategy will focus on increasing awareness of local purchasing opportunities among public sector entities.  | Commissioner Chico Rodriguez and Mayor JR Trevino     |
| Research current and previously successful workforce transitions strategies and programs that incorporate wraparound support         | <p>Collaboration and coordination with Workforce Solutions Alamo and other organizations is critical to transition and retrain residents, as many jobs in the most impacted industries will be lost. Existing programs and training providers will need to scale to serve substantially more residents. Focus should be placed on demand occupations.</p> <p>Additional funding for local workforce development nonprofit organizations is needed, but local governments alone will not have the budget to do so. Leveraging state and federal resourcing to support job training is a priority. Scaling</p> | Council Member Shirley Gonzales and Michelle Tremillo |
| Coordinate with City staff to identify engagement strategies to gather additional input from the public.                             | A tele-townhall is the most suitable method to capture feedback from residents. Given the potential overlap in content, only two sessions will be hosted (one in Spanish; one in English). Additional marketing and coverage of the event through local media will be explored.  | Council Member Ana Sandoval                           |

**Referrals to Other Working Groups**

- No new referral to other working groups.