



Philippine American Chamber of Commerce of Metropolitan Washington, D.C.

2020 Spring Newsletter



A Message from PACC-DC

Friends and Business colleagues:

We hope you and your loved ones are healthy and well.

We would like to remind everyone that, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, PACC-DC will be cancelling all in-person events from April to June 2020. Although we may not be able to see you in person, we will be setting up some Zoom video conferences for us all to touch base, share ideas, and chat about current situations. We are planning on these to take place every third Thursday of the month, so stay tuned for more information.

I know this is a very challenging time for everyone in the D.C., Maryland, and Virginia (DMV) region, but I want to let you know that we're confident in the DMV's future. We know that before the effects of COVID-19, the market and business activity was stronger than ever. Let's stay strong and committed to each other so that when this is all over, we know that business activity will be strong again.

No matter how long this lasts, people will still need to buy their first home, move to the area after the presidential election, or relocate for Amazon HQ2 in Virginia. After this crisis, we can create new and better business opportunities that will be more aligned with priorities of the Filipino-American community.

Thank you for all you're doing to take care of yourselves, your families, and your clients during this time. I want each and everyone of you to know that you have a strong Filipino-American organization, PACC-DC, behind you ready to help you navigate this unprecedented moment in history.

After this crisis, we will be sure to celebrate the FIL-AM EXPO with renewed vigor and excitement in order for us to properly show that we have overcome this challenge. As of now, the rescheduled date is uncertain until we have a more definite timetable for the end of this pandemic.

Stay well, stay safe, and stay positive. We will get through this together thanks to our resilience, resourcefulness, and bayanihan sprirt, and we'll rebound together on the other side.









We look forward to seeing you all again in a few months!

All the Best,



Cristina Sison
PACC-DC President

Some tips to keep yourself safe from COVID-19:

 <p>WASH YOUR HANDS often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.</p>	 <p>If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% ALCOHOL. Always wash hands with soap and water if hands are visibly dirty.</p>	 <p>AVOID TOUCHING your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.</p>	 <p>AVOID CLOSE contact with people who are sick.</p>
 <p>STAY HOME when you are sick.</p>	 <p>Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then THROW THE TISSUE IN THE TRASH.</p>	 <p>CLEAN AND DISINFECT frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.</p>	 <p>Wear N95 face MASKS</p>

What the CARES ACT Means for You

Corona Virus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act

As we're all dealing with the effects of COVID-19 on our lives, I want to share encouraging news: the government has approved the \$2.2 trillion Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act, which will help millions of people in this critical time. Perhaps even you.

This sweeping legislation is unprecedented in the history of our nation and provides significant economic assistance to address the impact of COVID-19. The CARES Act is over 800 pages long, but here are some of the economic provisions most relevant for you.

What this means for you and loved ones:

If you're eligible for a cash payment

Most individuals earning less than \$75,000 can expect a one-time cash payment of \$1,200. Married couples would each receive a check and families would get \$500 per child. That means a family of four earning less than \$150,000 can expect \$3,400.

If you or someone you know has lost a job

States will still continue to pay unemployment to people who qualify. This bill adds \$600 per week from the federal government on top of whatever base amount a worker receives from the state. That boosted payment will last for four months.

If you're a small business owner

The bill provides \$10 billion for grants of up to \$10,000 to provide emergency funds for small businesses who qualify for the Economic Injury Disaster Loan to cover immediate operating costs,

There is \$350 billion allocated for the Small Business Administration to provide loans of up to \$10 million per business. Any portion of that loan used to maintain payroll, keep workers on the books, or pay for rent, mortgage and existing debt could be forgiven, provided workers stay employed through the end of June.

If you're a freelancer or independent contractor

Typically, self-employed people, freelancers and contractors can't apply for unemployment. This bill creates a new, temporary Pandemic Unemployment Assistance program that provides unemployment coverage through the end of the year to freelancers and independent contractors and also provides an additional \$600 per week for 4 months in addition to regular state benefits.

If you're a property/homeowner

Borrowers of federally-backed mortgage loans can request a loan forbearance on their payments (without penalties, fees, or interest) for at least 180 days. Multi-family borrowers may request a similar forbearance for up to 30 days.

In addition, foreclosures on similar mortgage loans are prohibited for at least 60 days and evictions from properties related to several federal programs are also prohibited for a 120 day period.

If you would like to learn more about all the contents in the CARES Act, please see this article.
<https://www.nytimes.com/article/coronavirus-stimulus-package-questions-answers.html>

Recovery Grants - Available Information



For DC

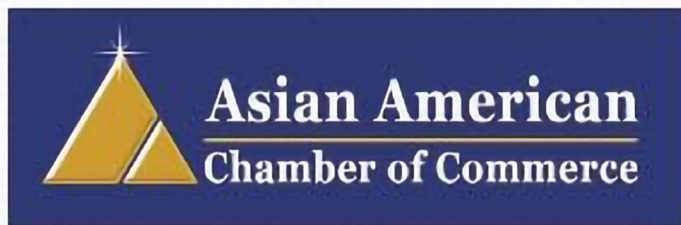
<https://www.bit.ly/DCrecgrant-info>

FOR VA

<https://www.bit.ly/VAregrant-info>

FOR MARYLAND

<https://www.bit.ly/MDrecgrant-info>



TOWN HALL

**APRIL 3
2020**

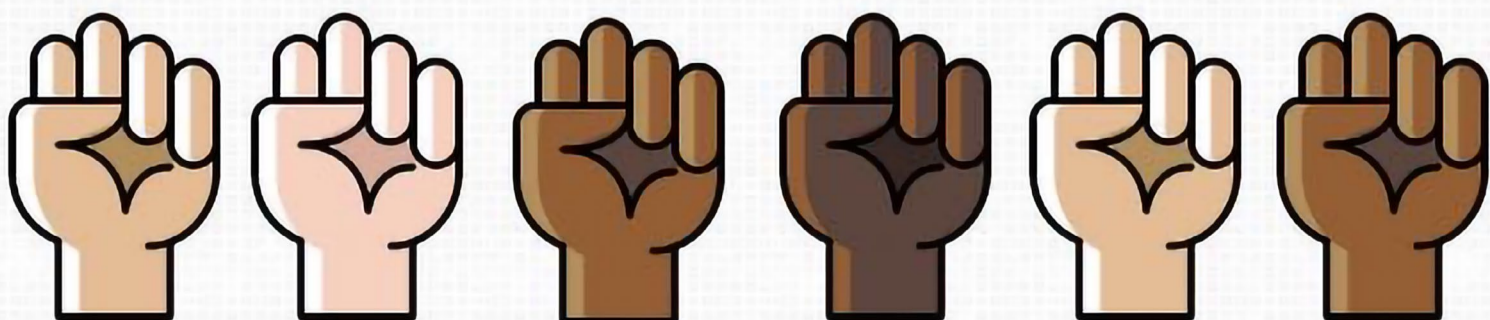
**2PM-3PM
(EASTERN)**

Your chamber recognizes the challenging times upon us amid the COVID-19 pandemic and we want to help. We invite all business owners and leaders around the DC metro to join us for a virtual town hall to hear directly from you on ways we can provide support to help get through what's ahead and share information on resources coming available for businesses.

Complimentary Admission

Registration: <http://asian-americanchamber.org>

Questions: please contact event@asian-americanchamber.org





2020 FIL-AM EXPO POSTPONED

In consultation with the Philippine Embassy and other key stakeholders, we have decided to postpone the 2020 FIL AM EXPO to a later date. This is in keeping with the widespread adoption of multiple preventive measures, including health advisories discouraging large group gatherings and the escalation of travel bans both here in the U.S. and in the Philippines.

We believe this is a prudent response given the rapidly evolving crisis surrounding COVID-19, domestically and world-wide. This has not been an easy decision to make but our top priority is the safety and wellness of everyone, and we remain committed to providing a safe environment for all our participants.

We are working with the Dulles Expo Center to secure new dates and exploring other options as well. Understandably, there will be questions arising from this postponement from our sponsors, exhibitors and vendors, performers and volunteers, and the general public.

Please be patient with us as we navigate our way through this. We will be making further announcements in the near future, so please periodically check back with us and we will also post announcements on our Expo website at www.filamexpo.com.

In the meantime, preparations for the Expo will continue but we recommend heightened adherence to social distancing. Let us employ technology to our advantage and we suggest to:

- Hold group meetings of more than 5 people via phone or video conferencing;
- Send out emails in lieu of face-to-face appointments; and
- Utilize available tools to collaborate online.

Lastly, a practical note. Each of us is our own first line of defense for protecting our health. Let's continue to wash hands and follow the other preventive recommendations the CDC has put forth regarding hygiene, staying home when sick, limiting social interactions and suspending non-essential travel. Let us all do our part in preventing the spread of this virus.

We are privileged to serve our community and we look forward to seeing you all at the Fil-Am Expo!



PACC-DC
FIL-AM EXPO 2020 TEAM
March 12, 2020