

# **SBA Announces Opening of Paycheck Protection Program Direct Forgiveness Portal**

## ***New portal will streamline applications for loans \$150K or less for over 6.5 million businesses***

**WASHINGTON** – The [U.S. Small Business Administration](#) (SBA) is launching a streamlined application portal to allow borrowers with [Paycheck Protection Program \(PPP\)](#) loans \$150,000 or less through participating lenders to apply for forgiveness directly through the SBA.

“The SBA’s new streamlined application portal will simplify forgiveness for millions of our smallest businesses -- including many sole proprietors -- who used funds from our Paycheck Protection Program loans to survive the pandemic,” **said Administrator Isabel Casillas Guzman**. “The vast majority of businesses waiting for forgiveness have loans under \$150,000. These entrepreneurs are busy running their businesses and are challenged by an overly complicated forgiveness process. We need to deliver forgiveness more efficiently so they can get back to enlivening our Main Streets, sustaining our neighborhoods and fueling our nation’s economy.”

This new change will help rush relief to over 6.5 million smallest of small businesses which has been the Administrator’s priority since day one. The new forgiveness platform will begin accepting applications from borrowers on August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Lenders are required to opt-in to this program through <https://directforgiveness.sba.gov>. In addition to the technology platform, the SBA is standing up a PPP customer service team to answer questions and directly assist borrowers with their forgiveness applications. Borrowers that need assistance or have questions should call (877) 552-2692, Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. EST.

“This initiative will allow PPP borrowers to put their concerns of achieving full forgiveness behind them and focus on operating and growing their businesses again,” **said Patrick Kelley, Associate Administrator for SBA’s Office of Capital Access**. “We are pleased to be able to assist financial institutions across the U.S. in processing forgiveness applications for small business owners.”

### Paycheck Protection Program Summary

- Overall, the SBA and lenders have worked to originate over 11.7 million loans totaling nearly \$800 billion in relief to over 8.5 million small businesses.

In 2021:

- SBA approved over 6.5M loans totaling over \$275B
- The average loan size was ~\$42 thousand (compared to \$101 thousand in 2020)
- 96% of loans went to businesses with fewer than 20 employees (compared to just 87% in 2020.)

- 32% of loans went to businesses in LMI communities (compared to just 24% in 2020)

#### Direct Forgiveness Summary

- Over 600 banks have opted in to direct forgiveness, enabling over 2.17mm borrowers to apply through the portal (This represents 30% of loans \$150,000 or less that have not yet submitted for forgiveness)

“As one of the leading PPP lenders in the nation, Customers Bank is proud to partner with SBA to deliver responsive digital loan forgiveness service to the small business borrowers,” said Sam Sidhu, President & CEO of the bank. “The streamlined and efficient SBA PPP loan forgiveness portal will help borrowers and lenders move forward with economic growth and job creation following the pandemic. We encourage other lenders to join Customers Bank and opt-in to the SBA portal.”

Established by the CARES Act in 2020, the PPP was among the first COVID-19 small business economic aid programs and provided more than \$798 billion in economic relief to small businesses and nonprofits across the nation, keeping employees working, and helping businesses come back stronger than ever. View the [Interim Final Rule](#) on PPP Forgiveness.

Other programs include Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL), EIDL Advance, Targeted EIDL Advance, Supplemental EIDL Advance, Restaurant Revitalization Fund, Shuttered Venue Operators Grant, and SBA Debt Relief program. To learn more about these programs, please visit [www.sba.gov/relief](http://www.sba.gov/relief).

###

#### **About the U.S. Small Business Administration**

The U.S. Small Business Administration helps power the American dream of business ownership. As the only go-to resource and voice for small businesses backed by the strength of the federal government, the SBA empowers entrepreneurs and small business owners with the resources and support they need to start, grow or expand their businesses, or recover from a declared disaster. It delivers services through an extensive network of SBA field offices and partnerships with public and private organizations. To learn more, visit [www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov).