



COVID-19 Update
To the Syracuse Builders Exchange Membership
Earl R. Hall, Executive Director
June 5, 2020

Payroll Protection Program Changes Pass in the Senate

The U.S. Senate passed the House version of Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) legislation Wednesday night, tripling the time allotted for small businesses and other PPP loan recipients to spend the loan funds and still qualify for forgiveness of the loans.

Among the key provisions is a change in the threshold for PPP funds required to be spent on payroll costs to qualify for forgiveness to 60% of the loan amount. The Senate approval sends the House bill, called the [Paycheck Protection Flexibility Act](#), to President Donald Trump, who is expected to sign it today.

The following is a summary of the legislation's main provisions:

Current PPP borrowers may choose to extend the eight-week period to 24 weeks, or they can keep the original eight-week period. New PPP borrowers will have a 24-week covered period, but the covered period can't extend beyond Dec. 31, 2020. This flexibility is designed to make it easier for more borrowers to reach full, or almost full, forgiveness.

Under the language in the House bill, the payroll expenditure requirement drops to 60% from 75%, however, borrowers must spend at least 60% on payroll or none of the loan will be forgiven. Currently, a borrower is required to reduce the amount eligible for forgiveness if less than 75% of eligible funds are used for payroll costs, but forgiveness isn't eliminated if the 75% threshold isn't met.

Borrowers can use the 24-week period to restore their workforce levels and wages to the pre-pandemic levels required for full forgiveness. This must be done by Dec. 31, 2020 which is a change from the previous deadline of June 30.

The legislation includes two new exceptions allowing borrowers to achieve full PPP loan forgiveness even if they don't fully restore their workforce. Previous guidance already

allowed borrowers to exclude from those calculations employees who turned down good faith offers to be rehired at the same hours and wages as before the pandemic. The new bill allows borrowers to adjust because they could not find qualified employees or were unable to restore business operations to Feb. 15, 2020, levels due to COVID-19 related operating restrictions.

New borrowers now have five years to repay the loan instead of two. Existing PPP loans can be extended up to 5 years if the lender and borrower agree. The interest rate remains at 1%.

The bill allows businesses that took a PPP loan to also delay payment of their payroll taxes, which was prohibited under the CARES Act.

Builders Exchange is Open

Our employees returned to the office this past Tuesday. We have enjoyed seeing a few of our members who visited for various reasons. A special “thank you” to Chris Dambach (United States Marine Corp veteran), President of Industry Standard, for bringing the staff donuts.

Annual Fall Event Update

The Events Committee has been working hard to plan on our annual fall event, historically known as “the clambake”. An event planner has been hired to work with the Committee, the NYS Fairgrounds staff and our vendors. An announcement will be made to our members on the future of our fall event later in June.

Golf Tournament Update

The Annual SBE Golf Tournament will be held on Monday, August 31, 2020 at Drumlins Golf & Country Club. As in the past, we will host 128 golfers on each of Drumlin’s two courses. A buffet style lunch will begin at 11:30 AM with the shotgun start at 12:30 PM. A cocktail reception, buffet-style dinner and awards will end the event, typically by 7:30 PM. The golf tournament historically sells-out with a waiting list, so please submit your reservations via the attached reservation form. Should the golf tournament be cancelled, full refunds will be issued. See Lisa for more details (315) 437-9936 or lisa@syrabex.com. [Click here to register](#).

Scholarship Award Winners

The Syracuse Builders Exchange is pleased to announce the Scholarship Committee has awarded thirteen \$1,000 scholarships to the following:

1. Alexis LaFever -S&W Services, Inc.
2. Alivia Napolis -Murnane Building Contractors
3. Benjamin Eassa-R.B. Woodcraft
4. Brigid Larkin-Gartner Equipment
5. Helen Larowe-Mohawk Valley Materials
6. Jenna Pastore-Potentia Management Group, LLC
7. Lily Larkin-Gartner Equipment

8. Nicholas Manfred-Manfred Construction, Inc.
9. Ryan Gebhardt- Sports Builders/Ice Builders Inc.
10. Samantha Haddad-Mastec Network Solutions
11. Victoria Zinserling-CRAL Contracting, Inc.
12. William Guisbond-Argus Engineering, PLLC
13. John Grabda-Stalwart Development Group LLC