



COVID-19 Update
To the Members of the Syracuse Builders Exchange
Earl R. Hall, Executive Director
May 19, 2020

The reopening of the regional construction industry remains a slow process, as employers continue to prepare their firms to resume the delivery of important construction-related services under a significant list of "new normal procedures" for construction sites. Last week's announcements and guidance from the Governor's office and the New York State Health Department were stark reminders about the new work environment the construction workforce and contractors alike will be subject to.

Our society and the construction industry have learned many valuable lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic. In the end, despite the significant adverse impact this virus has had on our economy, our employees and our family members, life can and will continue.

Recent college and high school graduates entering the workforce are doing so at a unique time in history. The Syracuse Builders Exchange ("SBE") continues to play an important role with our educational partners whose students are seeking a career in construction.

Syracuse City School District

For the past 2 years, SBE has supported the SCSD's Career and Technical Education Program ("CTE"), including the construction, welding and electrical career pathways. This year's senior class has over 50 students who will be graduating from the construction, welding and electrical career pathways. Those students, with the support of the SCSD, will be actively seeking employment in the local construction industry. SCSD administrators and teachers are now preparing these students for potential interviews. In addition, the CTE Program is creating an on-line resource for employers to post job openings and a company application. Those firms interested in participating and adding your firm to the CTE employer resource page may contact Nick Lisi or Robert Leslie of the SCSD:

Nick Lisi nlisi@scsd.us

(315) 748-4363 cell

Robert Leslie rleslie@scsd.us

(315) 435-6380 office

Nick or Bob will assist employers with posting the position and setting up the candidate application process, which could be the employer's on-line application or a simple email back to the employer's email address.

This group of diverse, self-motivated seniors has 4 years experience in their career pathway program, supplemented by the core math, English and sciences requirements. They have been working hard to develop their skills and industry knowledge in an effort to earn an entry-level position in their chosen career. While this may be a unique period of uncertainty, the opportunity to interview the next generation employee is now. I've met many of these young men and young women and know they are excited for the next chapter of their lives. They have chosen construction, welding or electrical career pathways – the pathways did not choose them. I believe in this group of students and know they will be successful, if given the opportunity.

Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) Loan Forgiveness Guidance

On May 15, 2020, Treasury and the Small Business Administration ("SBA") posted the attached PPP Loan Forgiveness Application form (SBA Form 3508). Form 3508 tracks the existing known rules regarding PPP loan forgiveness, and while it addresses some of the questions that borrowers have been confused about, it does not address any of the more fundamental issues raised with the PPP. This guidance would have been very helpful to potential borrowers weeks ago when the program was announced, and banks began to receive loan applications.

Please check with your tax accountant to be sure you are following the known PPP guidance. The attached will be not only helpful in knowing how to apply for the loan forgiveness provision, but to help better understand what expenses are eligible to be included in the application.