

REBNY Resources:

# Recommended Economic Relief Programs for Real Estate Professionals

## During the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Crisis

The Real Estate Board of New York (REBNY) understands the financial hardships our country may face as a result of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis. To support not only our members, but the real estate industry and New Yorkers alike, we have compiled a list of economic relief programs available to the real estate industry during these uncertain times.



### ECONOMIC RELIEF PROGRAMS FOR SMALL BUSINESSES AND INDIVIDUAL REAL ESTATE AGENTS

#### U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) Economic Injury Disaster Loan Program

As part of its disaster assistance program, the U.S. Small Business Administration is providing low-interest working capital loans of up to \$2 million to small businesses and nonprofits affected by the Coronavirus in declared disaster areas, including New York.

These loans may be used to pay rent, fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable and other bills that cannot be paid because of the disaster's impact. Along with incorporated businesses, sole-proprietors and LLCs are also eligible.

For more information visit [disasterloan.sba.gov/ela](https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela) or [click here to apply](#).



### TAX CREDITS TO SUPPORT PAID SICK LEAVE

The federal government announced a plan to implement Coronavirus-related paid leave for workers and tax credits for small and mid-size businesses to recover the cost of providing Coronavirus-related leave.

Independent contractors, including real estate agents, who have experienced a Coronavirus emergency are able to claim a tax credit against their 2020 federal income tax bill, including the self-employment tax portion of it.

#### How does this work?

For your 2020 income, the IRS will take your taxable profit and prorate it for two, 40-hour sick pay periods. This amount will then become exempt from both income and self-employment taxes, ensuring independent contractors receive the same benefits as those who are traditionally employed.

Additionally, if the credits exceed your tax bill, you will receive a payment for the excess amount. The credit will be applied to your 2020 tax return. If funds are needed immediately, you can apply the credit to this year's first quarter estimated tax bill (now due on July 15, 2020) so you can receive the credit sooner.

Midsized employers can also start taking advantage of two new refundable payroll tax credits. These are designed for immediate reimbursement, dollar-for-dollar, on costs accrued for providing paid leave to employees due to the Coronavirus.

For more information visit [irs.gov](https://irs.gov) or [click here](#).

*Important Note: Guidance regarding available economic relief programs should not be construed as offering or providing legal advice in any form. The information contained herein is for informational purposes only and is not intended to be exhaustive or complete. This document is not intended to replace the reader's need to speak with their own attorney regarding the issues presented. All readers should seek independent legal advice where they have specific legal questions pertaining to specific legal circumstances or where otherwise appropriate.*