



Updates From The National Women's Business Council In The Face Of The Pandemic

NWBC remains committed to advocating for the nation's 13 million women business owners and entrepreneurs

WASHINGTON, D.C. – (April 1, 2020) – In the midst of uncertainty, the [National Women's Business Council](#) (NWBC), a federal advisory committee comprised of small business owners and representatives of national women's business organizations, acknowledges the detrimental effects coronavirus has had on small businesses. Council Members have shared the challenges that the outbreak has presented for their own enterprises or those of their organization's members. From the disruption in the supply chain to the cancellation of annual industry trade shows, the impact can be felt across industries and state lines.

NWBC has also indefinitely postponed its signature [#LetsTalkBusiness](#) Roundtable Series, which connects the voices of women entrepreneurs and business owners from across the country to policymakers in the Nation's capital and helps serve as a springboard for the Council's annual policy recommendations to Congress, the President, and the Administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA)

Nonetheless, NWBC remains focused on carrying out its critical mission. As was reinforced at our first 2020 [#LetsTalkBusiness](#) Roundtable last month in San Juan, Puerto Rico, women business owners are key to helping local and national economies recover from disasters as well as grow and thrive.

Women-owned businesses [represent 42% of all businesses](#) – nearly 13 million – employing 9.4 million workers and generating revenue of \$1.9 trillion. Over the past five years, the annual growth rate in the number of women-owned firms has been more than double that of all businesses. Female founders have fought too hard for a true place in the economy to lose all gains now.

With COVID-19 abruptly and drastically changing the landscape of our economy and disrupting local ecosystems, small businesses are looking for resources and advice to help them navigate these uncertain times and persevere.

The [SBA](#) is offering small businesses impacted by the Coronavirus up to \$2 million in low-interest loans. These loans—available in all U.S. states, Washington D.C., and territories—can be used to “pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable, and other bills that cannot be paid because of the disaster’s impact.” The interest rate offered to qualifying small businesses is 3.75%, and 2.75% for non-profits. The SBA is also providing deferment relief to its existing borrowers on certain SBA-serviced loans through December 31, 2020. You can find additional information at www.SBA.gov/disaster.

The [U.S. Treasury Department and Internal Revenue Service](#) have also announced a tax filing extension for all taxpayers from April 15 to July 15, 2020.

As we adjust to the new realities this crisis brings, NWBC remains committed to advocating for the nation's 13 million women business owners and entrepreneurs. Please email NWBC at info@nwbc.gov and tell us how the Coronavirus is impacting your business. [Be sure to stay in touch](#) with us as we work to develop a webinar series on assistance available for small businesses.

Check out these NWBC Council Member & Partner Resources:

Women Business Enterprise Council (WBENC)
Association for Women in Science (AWIS)
The Vinetta Project
Association of Women's Business Centers (AWBC)
Women President's Organization (WPO)

[Babson College Center for Women's Entrepreneurial Leadership \(CWEL\)](#)

[Women Impacting Public Policy \(WIPP\)](#)

[National Association of Women Business Owners \(NAWBO\)](#)

Access to Capital



With COVID-19 abruptly and drastically changing the landscape of our economy and disrupting local ecosystems, small businesses are looking for resources and advice to help them navigate these uncertain times and persevere.

[READ MORE](#)

Women in STEM



Get to know Dr. Susan Duffy, the newest member of the NWBC's STEM Subcommittee.

Dr. Susan Duffy is the Executive Director of the Babson College Center for Women's Entrepreneurial Leadership (CWEL) and a co-founder of the Women Innovating Now (WIN) Lab venture accelerator.

[READ MORE](#)

Rural Women's Entrepreneurship



Please see the USDA's March 25th announcement on immediate measures to help rural residents, businesses and communities affected by COVID-19. USDA has also extended the deadline for ReConnect Pilot Program applications to April 15, 2020.

[READ MORE](#)

NWBC in the News

BOLD

[March 27, 2020 - Bold TV](#)

NWBC [Council Member Shelonda Stokes](#) discusses how the Coronavirus Stimulus will effect small businesses on Bold TV.

Forbes

[March 11, 2020 - State Of Women And Entrepreneurship 2020: Here's What You Need To Know](#)

Women founders need better tools to grow and manage their businesses.

WBOC 16
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Events & Engagement

[March 19, 2020 - NWBC Joins SBA for Webinar: How to Take Your Business Global](#)

In celebration of Women's History Month and International Women's Day NWBC and SBA's Office of International Trade hosts a webinar featuring women who have gone global with their businesses. NWBC Executive Director Nina Roque shares the unique challenges and opportunities faced by women exporters and highlighted two NWBC Council Members who export: Marygrace Sexton, Founder & CEO, Natalie's Orchid Island Juice Company and Rebecca Hamilton, Co-CEO, W.S. Badger Inc.

[March 5, 2020 — The National Women's Business Council \(NWBC\) welcomes it's newest Council Member, Dr. Susan Duffy.](#)

"I'm pleased to welcome Susan Duffy, Executive Director of the Babson College Center for Women's Entrepreneurial Leadership (CWEL), to the Council" said Liz Sara, NWBC Chair. "Susan's impressive background in women's entrepreneurial development will serve the Council well and Babson

March 11, 2020 - National Women's Business Council Celebrates Women's History Month And Issues Roundtable Report

In celebration of Women's History Month, the National Women's Business Council ([NWBC](#)) releases its new [2019 Women in Small Business Roundtable Series Report](#).

Public.

March 7, 2020 - Cardin, Duckworth, Scott And Collins Introduce Bipartisan Bill To Support Women Entrepreneurs

The [National Women's Business Council](#) appreciates the work of Senators Tammy Duckworth (D-IL) and Tim Scott (R-SC) in spearheading a legislative reauthorization of the Interagency Committee on Women's Business Enterprise. The Council recognizes this body as an important vehicle to coordinate, and not duplicate, federal efforts to empower women entrepreneurs.



March 4, 2020 - Government Small Business Grants For Women

Women-owned businesses are a fast-growing small-business category in the United States, and they make a significant contribution to the economy. These businesses created 8.4 million new jobs between 2007 and 2012, according to a 2019 report from the [National Women's Business Council](#).

College's research on women's entrepreneurship will further enrich our policy recommendations to the White House, Congress, and the Small Business Administration."

March 4, 2020 - NWBC Staff Joins Small Business Economic Research Forum

The SBA's Office of Advocacy hosts a Small Business Economic Research Forum (SBERF), discussing the "Census' Nascent Business Owner Program; Nonemployer Statistics by Demographics". The Census will present the status of the Nonemployer Statistics by Demographics (NES-D) program as illustrated in a recent publication, *Nonemployer Statistics by Demographics (NES-D): Exploring Longitudinal Consistency and Sub-national Estimates* ([CLICK HERE for NES-D](#)).

March 3, 2020 - NWBC Executive Director Nina Roque Joins the United States Patent and Trade Office Women's Entrepreneurship Symposium

"The important question to ask is why...why do women only account for 12% of Inventors granted patents in the US? Closing that gap will drive economic growth!" >> [Watch HERE!](#)

March 2, 2020 - NWBC Releases 2019 Women in Small Business Roundtable Report

In March of 2019, the Council launched its signature Women in Small Business Roundtable Series across the country to convene women business owners and entrepreneurs and connect their voices to policymakers in Washington, DC.

Stay connected with NWBC!

