Coronavirus – Support for Berlin's Businesses

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The spread of the Coronavirus currently poses not only a risk to our health, but also a great challenge to many of Berlin's businesses. In the short term, support such as bridge loans, credit guarantees, or liquidity assistance, as well as measures such as 'short-time work' (a short-term reduction in working hours and salary), may be of help.

In order for you to find quick and competent information about the current support measures available to you, we have put together an overview to help answer your general questions.

+++ Information about the grant programme for individual and small businesses (Emergency Aid Measures for Small Businesses) can be found here +++

Hotline and Newsletter: We are happy to help!

We are happy to answer your questions on 030 264748 - 886 (from Monday to Friday, 9:00 to 18:00, Saturday from 9:00 to 15:00).

Please note the following: we are happy to help you as much as we can via our hotline. This telephone service is meant as a 'guide', however, our consultations also have clear limits: we cannot give financial or legal advice. If you need such advice, we can provide you with the relevant regulations and forms. If your query is about the contextual interpretation and application of your specific situation, unfortunately we
must ask you to seek out individual legal advice elsewhere.

- **Berlin Partner: Conference call on business support**
  In a telephone conference on 6 April, Berlin Partner and experts provided information on financial support, short-time work and legal issues. The recorded version of the telephone conferences can be found [here](#).

- **Coronavirus: Important general information**
  
  + Senate Chancellery of Berlin: [Ordinance on Measures Necessary to Stem the Spread of the Novel Coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) in Berlin](#) and [FAQ](#)
  
  + Senate Department of Finance: [Entschädigungen nach dem Infektionsschutzgesetz bei Tätigkeitsverboten und Quarantäne](#) (Compensation in accordance with the Infection Protection Act in the event of bans on activity and quarantine, in German)

**What do I do now?**

As a guide for your respective questions we recommend the following course of action:

Please see the checklist for preparing your consultation with the bank:

- **Checklist for your credit application**
  
  When applying for financial support due to the current Corona pandemic, please prepare the following documents for your local bank, the Bürgschaftsbank Berlin-Brandenburg (Guarantee Bank Berlin-Brandenburg), or the Investitionsbank Berlin (Business Development Bank of Berlin). Every form of assistance involves an individual credit decision, which may require further documents and information. Make sure to prepare well for your consultation with the relevant institution, in order to ensure a speedy process of your application.

  **Minimum** required documents:
+ A short written description of the impact that the pandemic has had on your business

+ Annual financial statements / statements on excess of receipts over expenses for 2017 and 2018

+ A business assessment for 2019 (including totals reports and account balances)

+ A report on your credit requirements with explicit reference to an 'action' and 'liquidity' plan for the next twelve months

+ A self-declaration (the relevant form can be found on the website of your institute)

+ A proposal for the co-payments/personal contributions of any business partner(s)

1. Contact your bank

If you are in need of a bridge loan the first step should be to organise a consultation with your bank. You can also apply for federal aid from the KfW (Credit Institute for Reconstruction) through your bank.

2. Contact the Bürgschaftsbank Berlin (Guarantee Bank Berlin)

Credit for the bridging of liquidity shortages can be collateralised through the Bürgschaftsbank Berlin (Guarantee Bank Berlin-Brandenburg).

3. Apply for 'short-time work'

If your business imposes 'short-time work' (a short-term reduction in working hours and salary) due to the worldwide cases of sick leave caused by the Coronavirus, those affected can apply for 'short-time work' benefits. Information about 'short-time work' can be found on the website of the Federal Employment Agency (in German).
4. Negotiate a tax deferral

Talk to your finance office or tax advisor about the possibility of a tax deferral.

5. Emergency Liquidity Support due to the Coronavirus

+++ Please note: As the credit line for the Soforthilfe-Paket I (Emergency Aid Package I) has been used up, the application has been suspended until further notice. All applications received so far will be processed. This week, the Senate Departments for Economics and Finance, together with the IBB and other banks, will discuss the expansion of the Emergency Aid Package I. +++

With the Liquiditätshilfen BERLIN (Emergency Liquidity Support) the IBB (Business Development Bank of Berlin) is there to help economically healthy businesses who are experiencing liquidity shortages. **The IBB is extending its credit programme for other sectors affected by the Corona epidemic. The application must be made exclusively online, and the application form can be found here (in German).**

The IBB provides a checklist with the necessary application documents here (in German).

6. A grant programme for individual and small businesses (federal funding)

Find more information about the emergency aid measures from the German federal government here.

7. Kfw-Schnellkredit 2020 (Kfw Quick Loan 2020) for companies with more than 10 employees

For purchases (investments) and running costs (working funds), medium-sized enterprises with more than ten employees that have been on the market at least since January 2019 can apply for the new "KfW-Schnellkredit 2020" from their house bank. Further information on the KfW website
Further general information can be found here:

→ Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy
→ Senate Department for Economics, Energy and Public Enterprises
→ Investitionsbank Berlin (IBB)
→ Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Berlin
→ Hotel and Restaurant Association of Berlin e.V. (in German)
→ Berlin Partner

→ Creative City Berlin (Information regarding help and support for artists and free lancers in the culture and creative industry, in German)
Coronavirus: Emergency Aid Measures for Businesses

Emergency aid measures from both the German federal government as well as the state of Berlin support businesses.

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Berliner Unternehmen helfen Berliner Unternehmen

Angebote und Online-Initiativen, mit denen sich Berliner Unternehmen in Zeiten des Coronavirus gegenseitig unterstützen.

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