

Adults' Health and Care

Update for care providers



6 May 2020

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Support available for businesses

Listed below is a summary of the national and local support that is currently available to small and medium businesses in Hampshire.

Government Support

The Government has launched a wide range of support programmes for businesses in response to COVID-19 including tax relief, grants, and loans.

You can identify which support you can access by using the government's ['support finder' tool](#). You will be asked to complete a very simple questionnaire which only takes a couple of minutes; it will then identify and sign post you to the relevant government financial support available to your business.

On 4 May Government announced the launch of new [Bounce Bank Loans](#), which allow small businesses to apply for quick and easy-to access loans of up to £50,000.

Government has also shared transparency data for the amount of [funding local authorities have received and distributed to support small and medium businesses](#) in England during COVID-19.

Business Hampshire

[Business Hampshire](#) is Hampshire County Council's economic development function. The Business Hampshire website provides information on all the government support schemes currently available. You can also call the Business Hampshire team, using the contact number on the website, for information about how to access the support available.

Local Economic Partnership Growth Hubs

In Hampshire there are two growth hubs; the [Solent Growth Hub](#) which covers Southampton, Portsmouth, Fareham, Gosport, New Forest, Havant, and Eastleigh and the [EM3 Growth Hub](#) which covers Winchester, Basingstoke, Rushmoor, East Hants and Test Valley. Both the growth hubs have a range of support available to businesses in their region.

Both **offer free one-to-one support** that will help identify critical issues and suggest actions for building up resilience and a **free online diagnostic tool** which can be used to review your current business position and identify tactics for building greater resilience. They also offer and promote a wide range of free **self-help webinars** and online masterclasses to help businesses through the pandemic and how to navigate the support available.

The Solent LEP has also launched two funding streams:

- **Crowdfunding Programme** - grants are available up to £2,000 for micro businesses and up to £5,000 from small businesses.
- **A Rural Business Resilience Fund for Isle of Wight businesses.** Grants are available for rural, small, and medium-sized businesses which are looking to develop alternative ways of working during the coronavirus pandemic.

The support to businesses is constantly being updated, so regularly checking the websites of the organisations mentioned above is a good idea as they will be updated should new funds and support become available.