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ISSUE 32



Monroe, Washington Economic Development Newsletter for December, 2022

Monroe Business

LOW INTEREST ECONOMIC INJURY DISASTER LOANS (EIDL) FOR BUSINESSES IMPACTED BY THE BOLT CREEK FIRE.



The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) is now offering low-interest Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL) to help small businesses, farms and nonprofit organizations affected by the Bolt Creek Wildfire. Businesses in Chelan, Island, King, Kitsap, Kittitas, Pierce, Skagit, Snohomish and Yakima counties may apply by Aug. 30, 2023. Eligibility is based on the financial impact of the disaster only, and not on any actual property damage. The maximum loan amount is \$2 million.

The loans can help businesses that were impacted by repetitive closures of Highway 2, which cut them off from supplies and customers. This was particularly acute for many of Monroe service industry businesses that cater to customers travelling this major highway. If you have questions about whether you are eligible for an Economic Injury Disaster Loan, contact Monroe Economic Development Specialist JPalmer@MonroeWA.gov or the SBA Disaster Relief Customer Service at diastercustomerservice@sba.gov.

WE NEED YOUR INPUT

This year, the annual business survey is being combined with another survey seeking to understand the vision the residents of Monroe, including business owners, have for the community. It's part of a re-branding effort that will develop the City's unique strengths, assets, and vision into an effective, professional brand. Coupled with your business survey responses, the City will be able to deploy the new brand in Business Recruitment, Retention and Expansion (BRRE) initiatives that meet the business community's needs. Please take a moment to provide your input by going to => [2022 Monroe Branding and Business Survey](#) or scan the QR Code below.



[Tomar la encuesta en español](#)



Notice of Funding Availability to Increase Child Care Facilities and Behavioral Health and Substance Use Disorder Treatment Capacity

Two funding opportunities are available for those in Snohomish County seeking to provide childcare and mental health services.

1. Snohomish County is accepting proposals to increase available childcare slots through capital facilities. The Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) will distribute funds from the County's federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) allocation. "A major barrier to people joining or returning to the workforce is the lack of available childcare. The effects of childcare deserts across our county impact all of us, but they have an even more acute impact on women, who are pushed out of the job market at higher rates due to the extremely high cost of child care," said Executive Somers. Councilmember Sam Low (District 5) further added, "That's why we want to expand access for communities across our county, particularly in places where child care is already extremely scarce. The need for childcare is even greater in our rural areas where these resources can be limited. My hope is that this funding will help parents and caregivers find the childcare services they need,"

For Child Care facilities, interested organizations can learn more and access the NOFA [here](#). The County will accept applications through **January 13, 2023.**

2. Snohomish County is accepting proposals to expand capacity of behavioral health facilities. The Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) will distribute funds from the County's federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) allocation, and it will focus on projects that increase available treatment capacity through capital facilities expansion or creation. "The isolation and disruption caused by the pandemic have undoubtedly worsened challenges related to behavioral health across Snohomish County," said Snohomish County Executive Somers. "As we talked to communities about ways to recover and move forward from COVID-19, there was consistent agreement around the need to expand affordable, high-quality behavioral health capacity serving all parts of the county. Our goal is to invest in projects that expand services, improve community health, and help ensure everyone in Snohomish County can access care when they need it." Councilmember Sam Low ([District 5](#)) added, "Our rural communities currently suffer due to the lack of critical behavior health services available and convenient to the area, My hope is these funds will expand our service locations to help close the gap so the residents of East County have equal access to behavioral health resources."

For Behavioral Health facilities, Interested organizations can learn more and access the NOFA [here](#). The County will accept applications through **January 27, 2023.**

FCC Broadband Mapping: Review and Verify/Challenge Internet Availability Where You Live

What is being mapped?

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has published a new National Broadband Map. This map attempts to show where internet service is and is not available for every location in the country. The accuracy of this information is critical to the future of internet access in the state.

Why does it matter to me?

Future internet construction and service upgrades

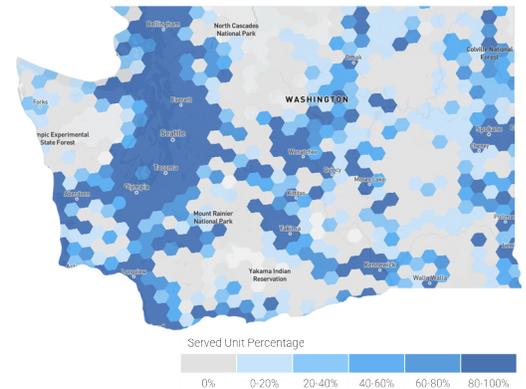
If this map is inaccurate, your location may be mistakenly listed as served. If that happens, state or federal sources are less likely to fund new service or upgrades. By reviewing and verifying or challenging the map, you will help create a realistic picture of internet service availability in our state. The more accurate the map, the more Washington State will be able to access funding to cover more areas in the future.

Verification of services

Does the map say you have internet service when you do not? If internet service is available at your location, are the reported services accurate? Individuals taking a few minutes to review their location's reported information and challenging inaccurate information is one way to increase the accuracy of this map.

How do I review the map?

The Department of Commerce is hosting a step-by-step guide to assist you to review and verify or challenge the FCC National Broadband Map. Visit <https://www.commerce.wa.gov/fcc-broadband-mapping/>.



What can I do?

Follow the step-by-step guide to review and verify or challenge the FCC National Broadband Map:

<https://www.commerce.wa.gov/fcc-broadband-mapping/>

Participate in Washington State Broadband Office speed test mapping:

<https://expressoptimizer.net/projects/Washington/survey.php>

Review your eligibility for affordability programs like the Affordable Connectivity Program and Lifeline:

<https://www.commerce.wa.gov/building-infrastructure/washington-statewide-broadband-act/affordable-connectivity-program-acp-and-lifeline/>



You can also access the FCC National Broadband Map by taking a picture of the QR Code (the image to the left) with your smartphone.



Washington State
Department of
Commerce



WASHINGTON STATE
PUBLIC WORKS BOARD
INFRASTRUCTURE IS FUNDAMENTAL

We strengthen communities

CALENDAR & EVENTS

Dec 17 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

Joyous Noel Concert

Classic carols, as well as some contemporary interpretations of the holiday spirit.

Saturday, December 17, at the

Wagner Auditorium

639 Main Street

Monroe WA 98272

January 05, 2023 • 10AM - 12PM

2023 LEGISLATIVE KICK-OFF

*Hosted by the Economic Alliance
Snohomish County.*

Hotel Indigo Seattle Everett

Waterfront, an IHG Hotel

1028 13th Street

Everett, WA 98201

Cost \$25-\$35

[Register Here](#)

February 06 - February 09, 2023

ADVANCE 2023

Aerospace conference. Top industry analysts provide the knowledge and insight that allow you to prepare for the year ahead and what the future may hold.

Lynnwood Convention Center

16625 Redmond Way, Ste M #187

Lynnwood, Washington 98052

[Visit the Website](#) for costs and registration.

NEW GATEWAY SIGNS

The fabricators are wrapping up the city's new downtown gateway signs and information kiosks. The signs are intended to increase and improve the visitor's experience by connecting them to points of interest and commercial districts. Stay tuned for more wayfinding signs coming to Monroe in 2023. The new signs are part of a larger project to install gateway and wayfinding signs throughout Monroe. For more information, please visit the City's [website](#).



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