



Legislative Priorities 2

Updated May 26, 2020

The exhibition, meetings, and events industry recognizes the need to protect public health, build confidence in the American people that when the time is right we will be ready with safety and sanitation measures and to establish a reopening of our industries economy.

- 1) **Extend and enhance CARES Act relief:** Enable destination marketing organizations (DMOs) to receive Small Business Administration (SBA) Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans, increase maximum loan amounts and flexibility, extend the covered period through 2020, and build on other critical provisions in the CARES Act.
 - a) **Include Destination Marketing Organizations (DMOs) in the PPP:** DMOs, which are generally 501(c) nonprofits or quasi-governmental entities funded by local hotel taxes, provide critical economic development services for nearly every community across the U.S. DMOs are the engines of the travel economy and their collapse will slow the economic recovery of the entire travel industry.
 - b) **Increase borrowing limits so businesses can withstand an extended period of lost revenues and operational disruption.** At minimum, borrowers should be able to qualify for a loan that is equivalent to 8 times the average monthly sum of all covered expenses – including operating costs, up to \$25 million. Borrowers are currently limited to loans that are only 2.5 times average monthly payroll costs alone, or \$10 million, whichever is less. Businesses that have already been approved for a PPP loan should be able to apply for additional loans as needed up to the maximum amount.
 - c) **Extend covered period for loan forgiveness.** PPP currently allows for only eight weeks of covered expenses to be forgiven, with a non-statutory hard cap of 25 percent on nonpayroll expenses imposed by SBA, making PPP of very limited use to businesses facing an extended period of cashflow problems. Loan forgiveness should instead be calculated as the sum of amounts paid for covered expenses during the 20 weeks after the loan commences, and Congress should prevent the imposition of any non-statutory restriction on the forgiveness formula.
 - d) **Modify eligibility of the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF).** State and local governments should be permitted to use CRF funds to support the activities of political subdivisions and instrumentalities that are critical to coronavirus response and economic recovery, particularly those that have been hard hit by a decline in travel-related tax revenue.
 - e) **Provide additional support for airports and aviation businesses.** As passenger levels remain at historic lows, airport, air traffic control, and aviation-dependent businesses will require additional supplemental appropriations to support essential employees, operations, and services.



Why this matters to you:

- Every measure listed as our priorities serves a building block to a faster and safer recovery of the exhibitions, meetings, and events industry which will ensure a solid foundation to rebuilding the economy.
- All of these events are mission critical to the organizations that use these vehicles to; buy and sell goods and services, educate and engage in collaborative efforts, and allow people to get to the business of business.
- Without proper and timely implementation of our priorities will result in an expanded and prolonged economic recovery, resulting in millions of dollars and job losses.

Our Call to Action: We urge all Members of Congress, to use all procedural levers at their legislative disposal, to move on these priorities swiftly and efficiently to get the economy moving.

Our message: In these extraordinary financial times, it is critical for the federal government to use whatever fiscal means they have at their disposal to prop up the economy. The lack of investment will cost the U.S. economy millions in revenue and jobs and prolong the recovery. Please consider all measures to keep the country from sliding into a depression.