

**From:** [Mackenzie Chase](#)  
**To:** [KCC - Committee Assistants \(Email Group\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Markham McIntyre](#)  
**Subject:** Support for Technical Assistance and Translation Services Funding  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 5, 2020 9:39:27 AM

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Dear King County Council,

We understand that at today's Committee of the Whole meeting you are considering Proposed Ordinance No. 2020-0177, which appropriates supplemental funding for COVID-19 response. We would like to voice our support for the proposed \$2 million appropriation for technical support for small businesses including translation services. Attached please find a letter the Seattle Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce sent to Governor Inslee and Washington state's legislative leadership last month requesting additional technical assistance for small businesses including translation services.

Thank you,  
Mackenzie

**Mackenzie Chase**

*Senior Policy Manager*

[Seattle Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce](#)

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*In keeping with Governor Jay Inslee's "Stay Home, Stay Healthy" order, the Seattle Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce is working remotely and we are hosting our events as [webinars](#). [Click here](#) for coronavirus resources for your business.*



April 9, 2020

Dear Governor Jay Inslee, Speaker Laurie Jinkins, Senate Majority Leader Andy Billig, House Minority Leader J.T. Wilcox, and Senate Minority Leader Mark Schoesler,

We are writing to request that you re-appropriate or find innovative ways to dedicate existing funds to expand technical assistance for businesses trying to access financial assistance in the wake of the novel coronavirus. We also ask you to appropriate additional funds for this purpose if you reconvene in a special session.

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) passed by Congress at the end of March will provide critical assistance that in many instances will save businesses and preserve jobs. But it will only help the businesses that are able to access the available funding.

The CARES Act includes myriad assistance programs, including low-interest and forgivable loans. Most significantly, Congress appropriated \$349 billion for the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) and \$10 billion for emergency Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL). While both programs are designed to give much-needed, direct relief to businesses, the programs have different eligibility requirements, different providers, and different application processes.

The CARES Act includes some funding for technical assistance for Small Business Development Centers and Resource Partner Associations, but spread out over 50 states, the funding is essentially a drop in the bucket. The Seattle Metro Chamber, many of our partners, and local governments have been inundated with questions about how to access CARES Act assistance.

Washington could provide technical assistance that would be invaluable to businesses trying to navigate the unprecedented coronavirus epidemic. Business consultants could review individual business' finances, advise them about which programs they are eligible for, what they need to do to access funds, and how to apply. Application liaisons could track applications to coordinate between the U.S. Small Business Administration and individual

lenders providing funds under the Paycheck Protection Program. Washington could also ensure that technical assistance was available in different languages to assist business owners whose first language is not English.

The Small Business Administration is currently receiving loan applications for about \$30 billion in a single day—an amount they would normally fund over the course of a year. Washington’s best chance at accessing the greatest amount of federal funding is to quickly fund technical assistance to help Washington businesses. Please appropriate funds for this important need.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Markham McIntyre". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Markham" and last name "McIntyre" clearly distinguishable.

Markham McIntyre  
Acting President and CEO

CC: Washington Congressional Delegation