



A LETTER FROM EDC'S PRESIDENT/CEO

Dear Ventura and Santa Barbara County Partners, Clients and Friends,

Our hearts are with you in this moment. At times such as these, I am reminded of the moments we have lived through together and the resilient spirit and generosity of our community. During the Thomas/Hill/Woolsey Fires we saw business owners provide food to first-responders and others who provided shelter to those that needed it. We saw large donations of money, food and clothing to those that were left homeless and displaced. We are confident that this same spirit and enduring strength will provide us clarity in the days to come and hope for a future beyond what we can see today.

With Governor Newsom's "[Stay at Home Order](#)" and the "[Stay Well at Home](#)" order by the Ventura County Office of Public Health, we are encouraging businesses to observe these new directives.

With that in mind, although our physical office is not open to the public, we want to ensure the community at large that we are and will remain open for business and will continue to provide no-cost advising, financial consulting and access to capital to businesses in need of assistance.

To strengthen our capacity to serve we have:

- Added additional staff to support our client intake process.
- In support of our EDC Disaster Loan Fund we are currently securing additional funding to support the volume of requests we have had to date.
- We have transitioned all EDC SBDC consultants to work remotely to work and care for clients via telephone or video conference.
- We have trained a core team of EDC SBDC Advisors on the SBA Disaster Loan product to help clients navigate their SBA loan application.

EDC provides business technical assistance and access to capital services to some 900 firms annually. We anticipate that number to double in 2020, as we have already received more than 100 requests for assistance in accessing disaster loans and many more seeking emergency guidance on strategies for resilience through and after the current crisis.

For business assistance, we encourage you to set up an appointment with one of our advisors by following this [link](#) and visit our [business resources](#) page for specific information on local, state and federal resources now available.

Lastly, take care of yourself and take care of the other. You. Me. Them. Us. We are all in this together.

Bruce

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