

## Keeping Main Street Working

Immediate action is necessary to keep people in COVID-19 impacted industries working, receiving full pay and benefits to stabilize our economy and maintain our vibrant small businesses. To do that, small businesses need immediate cash flow assistance and longer term payroll and health insurance subsidies. This will minimize the potentially catastrophic economic impact of the COVID-19 crisis, stabilize individuals and families in their homes, and prevent a tidal wave of demand for unemployment insurance and emergency medical insurance that states may not be able to manage administratively. We need to **Keep Main Street Working**, including direct small business payroll and benefits subsidies as part of the stimulus package:

- Direct subsidies to businesses impacted by COVID-19 to cover immediate business expenses to keep their door open and employees paid (payroll, health insurance premiums, paid sick time, rent)
- Progressive level of support based on company size and impact to industry ([Denmark](#) instituted 75% wage reimbursement for employers who maintain full employment)
- Governance structure to ensure close scrutiny
- After initial cash payment, businesses must provide payroll documentation to ensure funding getting to employees.

This is a first priority in a broader stimulus package needed for small businesses and our employees that includes unemployment insurance, health care, and paid leave. Direct cash assistance to individuals is necessary but not sufficient.

Main Street small businesses employ 50 million Americans, [nearly half](#) of the private sector workforce. Small businesses quickly began reporting [10 - 80% decreases](#) in revenue, and many have already been forced to lay off staff and close their businesses. The crisis is taking a toll around the country.

Our livelihoods in this country are tied to employment. When jobs are on the lines, so are the essential benefits we need to survive: health care, sick days, income. The most efficient way to handle the crisis we're facing is to keep small businesses solvent and workers in jobs. Our state based infrastructures are not built for a pandemic. People will be left waiting for a life line.

Small businesses have [traditionally led economic recovery](#), and they [accounted for 67 percent of net new jobs](#) following the Great Recession. We need to give small businesses the support they need to drive recovery again.

It's time for a massive stimulus for Main Street. For too long, big businesses have been the only beneficiaries of government bailouts, and we know that these bailouts have largely been spent on stock [buy-backs](#) to benefit executives and shareholders and not workers on the front lines.

**We need small business stimulus investment now.** It would prevent the carnage to our local economies, our families, and health care facilities and workers.