

## Emergency designation requested from Small Business Administration

Governor Greg Abbott recently requested designation from the Small Business Administration (SBA) Economic Injury Disaster Declaration in order to access the Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) program for the entire state of Texas. If granted, the SBA would provide long-term, low-interest loans to qualifying businesses across the state.

“At a time when small businesses are hurting from the economic impact of COVID-19, the State of Texas is committed to helping these businesses receive the financial relief they need to continue operating,” said Governor Abbott. “That is why today I requested that the U.S. Small Business Administration implement a declaration to provide SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loans for the entire state of Texas.”

All small businesses who believe they may be eligible for an SBA EIDL should visit the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) website: <https://tdem.texas.gov/covid-19/>. They will be directed to the SBA website where they can apply for assistance.

## HHS encourages Texans to apply online for benefits

Texas Health and Human Services is encouraging Texans to submit benefit applications and other paperwork online at [YourTexasBenefits.com](http://YourTexasBenefits.com) or via the Your Texas Benefits mobile app to reduce foot traffic in the state’s more than 250 eligibility offices.

“As Texans, we must all do what we can to get through this pandemic together,” said Wayne Salter, HHS Deputy Executive Commissioner for Access & Eligibility Services. “We hope to reduce the number of Texans using office services and ask that if you can conduct your business online to please do so at this time.”

HHS administers assistance programs such as Medicaid, SNAP food benefits, TANF cash assistance and WIC. Applying online will minimize the potential for staff and public exposure to COVID-19, while allowing staff to maximize the number of applications they can screen and approve during the COVID-19 outbreak.

Although office locations will remain open at this time, Texans are encouraged to apply for or renew their benefits through [YourTexasBenefits.com](http://YourTexasBenefits.com). Through the website or the mobile app, Texans can:

- Create a new account;
- Find their username on existing account;
- Upload files;
- Update phone number;
- Report changes.

All visitors are highly encouraged to use the hand sanitizer stations placed in state offices. Individuals with symptoms indicating COVID-19 should not visit an HHS



**All-District!** The All-District girls basketball team for District 11-1A was named recently and these three young ladies from Bronte High School received honors. Senior Karissa Cervenka (top left photo), and juniors Katelyn Powell (bottom photo) and Katelyn Bohensky (top right photo) received Honorable Mentions.

eligibility office. These symptoms have been identified as fever, cough, and shortness of breath.

HHS offices are not COVID-19 testing sites. If you are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, please contact your local medical provider.

The Your Texas Benefits mobile app can be downloaded at your mobile carrier’s app store. People with questions about using the website or mobile app, including those who have special needs, should dial 2-1-1 and select option 2.

For questions about SNAP, TANF, Medicaid or CHIP, dial 2-1-1 and select option 2. To check benefit amounts, recipients can visit [YourTexasBenefits.com](http://YourTexasBenefits.com) or call the Lone Star Help Desk at 1-800-777-7EBT (1-800-777-7328).

For health-related information and general precautions on COVID-19, visit the DSHS website and the CDC page.

## ...Vehicle Registration

*(Continued from previous page)*

Some of the suspended regulations include:

Renewing vehicle registration ahead of its expiration.

Filing a certificate of title with the the county assessor-collector within 30 days after purchasing a used car, and late fees associated with it.

Registering a vehicle within 30 days after purchasing it or becoming a Texas resident.

Certain delinquent registration provisions.

Various offenses for driving with an expired license plate, or for not properly displaying registration.

Expiration dates for disabled parking placards, and provisions related to enforcement of handicapped parking spaces.

As part of the waived regulations, Abbott also granted a temporary extension to individuals with an expired 30-day temporary permit to obtain another permit or Texas registration.

The regulations will be waived until 60 days after TxDMV notifies the public that normal vehicle registration, vehicle titling and related services have resumed, according to a news release.

The TxDMV informed offices of county tax assessor-collectors and law enforcement of the waived regulations, according to the news release. And Texans can also renew their registration and more online at [renew.txdmv.gov](http://renew.txdmv.gov).

The Texas Department of Public Safety is also temporarily waiving expiration dates for Texas driver’s licenses.

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