



State COVID-19 Resources

Project Resources

Construction Impacts

On March 23 Gov. Inslee issued a “shelter in place” order, called “[Stay Home Stay Healthy](#)”, for Washington effective 5:30 pm on March 25 through midnight on April 6. The order will be reassessed at that time. The order outlines the requirements for all people to remain in their homes “except to conduct or participate in essential activities and/or employment in providing essential business services.” The order includes a [list of sectors and business functions](#) the governor has designated as “essential,” allowing them to remain open.

On March 25, Governor Inslee released a [memo](#) specifically addressing the construction industry, clarifying what parts of the industry are considered “essential” per the order. In the memo he states that, “**in general, commercial and residential construction is not authorized under the Proclamation because construction is not considered to be an essential activity.**”

The memo goes on to state that only construction related to essential activities, as described in the order, will be considered essential. According to the [Seattle Times](#), projects considered essential are construction related to essential activities like health care, transportation, energy, defense and critical manufacturing; construction “to further a public purpose related to a public entity,” including publicly financed low-income housing; and emergency repairs. Inslee further clarified in a press conference that construction related to grocery stores is considered essential. There is no clarification regarding schools; our interpretation is that construction work on schools is not considered essential, although we are aware of some districts and universities that are moving ahead with construction activity.

Although the state guidance does not specifically reference architecture work, AIA’s interpretation is that such work in support of construction activity is allowed as long as the construction activity is on the state’s essential list. If your work is considered essential, you do not need to carry a license or paperwork proving that it is.

Because architects are critical members of the team to construct these projects, **AIA|WA has reached out to the governor’s office to request that architects be included as essential in his list of workers associated with allowed projects.** We also continue to request clarity around the construction of schools, which is not included currently. Until we receive a response please remember that if your work is not listed as essential, you must work from home.

2018 Codes

To date we know the state has discussed delaying the 2018 code implementation beyond the current July 2020 effective date, but no decisions have been made. The State Building Code Council has indicated that it will discuss a potential delay of the 2018 state codes at its April 10 meeting. We will let you know as soon as we hear more.

Local Issues

If you are experiencing difficulties with local governments refusing to process new permit applications online, or any other issues related to moving projects forward, please let us know so we can track these issues. If it would be helpful, AIAWA may be able to issue a letter to the local jurisdiction.

What do you need to know?

What other information do you need to do your work as we all try to find our way through this unprecedented crisis? Let [us](#) know and we'll do our best to help.

Other Resources

FEDERAL

CARES Act & the Paycheck Protection Program

[Summary of the CARES Act](#) – National Law Review

[What's Inside the Senate's \\$2 Trillion Coronavirus Aid Package](#) – NPR

****Info on Small Business Loans Available Under the Paycheck Protection Program****

[Coronavirus Emergency Loans Small Business Guide and Checklist](#) (U.S. Chamber of Commerce)

Note: applications for these loans are not yet being accepted, but this document describes the information you will need to have to apply.

Disaster Loan Assistance

Federal Disaster Loans for Businesses, Private Non-profits, Homeowners and Renters

[COVID-19 Economic Injury Disaster Loan Application](#)

WASHINGTON

[Washington State Coronavirus Response Homepage](#)

State Businesses & Worker Support

Washington State COVID-19 [resource list](#) for impacted Washington businesses and workers.

Unemployment

For individuals out of work due to COVID-19, [click here for more information](#).

Small Business Support

Up to \$5 million of the Governor's Strategic Reserve Funds will be made available as small grants to small businesses across the state to help prevent closure due to COVID-19. The state

Department of Commerce will coordinate an application process. This program is not currently live yet; details will be available on [this page](#) under the Small Business Emergency Grant Program heading.

Tax Collections

The Washington State [Department of Revenue](#) has been given the authority to waive or suspend penalties and interest on certain late tax payments. The state will create payment plans on the core amount businesses owe without filing tax liens in federal courts. This also means the suspension of enforcement actions such as forced collections by seizing bank accounts. These measures will be in force for at least 30 days.

These measures waive late filing fees for property tax exemption renewals; business license renewal late fees; and excise tax interest on B&O, real estate sales, and other taxes administered by the Department of Revenue. All of these tax-related measures are retroactive to Feb. 29.

Other Help for Individuals & Families

COVID-19 Testing

Washington State Department of Health [information on getting tested](#) for COVID-19.

Health Insurance

For Washingtonians without health insurance: the Washington Health Benefits Exchange opened a limited-time [special enrollment](#) period through April 8, 2020.

Mental health support

If you or a family member needs emotional or mental health support, or treatment resources for substance use, please consider calling the [Washington Recovery Help Line](#) at 1-866-789-1511.

Do you have info that should be on this list? Send it our way!

Be well,

Tammie Sueirro
Executive Director
206-683-4484 cell
tsueirro@aiawa.org

Kirsten Smith
Manager of Policy and Advocacy
206-708-3199 cell
kirstens@aiaseattle.org