

1 Sponsored by: Councilmembers Douglas G. Richardson, Marty Campbell, Connie Ladenburg,  
2 Jim McCune, Dave Morell, and Pam Roach  
3 Requested by: Executive/Economic Development Department  
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## 7 **ORDINANCE NO. 2020-43**

### 8 9 10 **An Emergency Ordinance of the Pierce County Council Establishing a Loan** 11 **Program for Small Businesses Impacted by the COVID-19** 12 **Pandemic; and Declaring an Emergency.** 13

14 **Whereas**, COVID-19 is a contagious and potentially deadly virus that has been  
15 declared a pandemic event by the World Health Organization; and  
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17 **Whereas**, President Trump, Governor Inslee, and Executive Dammeier have  
18 each declared states of emergency within their respective jurisdictions; and  
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20 **Whereas**, actions taken to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 has resulted in  
21 widespread social and economic disruption throughout Pierce County; and  
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23 **Whereas**, a functioning local economy is critical to protect the health and  
24 wellbeing of Pierce County residents; and  
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26 **Whereas**, small businesses in Pierce County have been impacted by COVID-19  
27 to such an extent that an unprecedented number may not be able to continue providing  
28 goods and services to the community, or provide jobs to the individuals who rely on  
29 them for their livelihood; and  
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31 **Whereas**, the failure of small businesses due to the pandemic will create serious  
32 hardship on individuals employed by those businesses and create additional financial  
33 burdens on governments in Pierce County by increasing demand for government  
34 support to individuals who become unemployed or underemployed; and  
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36 **Whereas**, small businesses in Pierce County generate tax revenue that Pierce  
37 County governments rely on to finance the provision of essential government services  
38 and promote the public welfare; **Now Therefore**,

### 39 40 **BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of Pierce County:** 41

42 Section 1. There is hereby created the Pierce County COVID-19 Emergency  
43 Small Business Relief Loan Program administered by the Economic Development  
44 Department. The purpose of this loan program is to protect jobs threatened by the  
45 COVID-19 pandemic by providing interest-free loans to small businesses located in  
46 unincorporated Pierce County.  
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1           Section 2. Businesses receiving loans under this program must: (1) have ten or  
2 fewer employees; (2) demonstrate at least a twenty-five percent reduction in revenues  
3 attributable to the COVID-19 pandemic; and (3) be located in unincorporated Pierce  
4 County. The Economic Development Director shall institute an application review and  
5 documentation process as necessary to ensure these program requirements are met.  
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7           Section 3. Eligible businesses may apply through the process established by the  
8 Economic Development Department. Subject to available funds, loans will be offered at  
9 zero-interest for a twelve-month term at \$2,000 per employee, with a total amount per  
10 employer not to exceed \$10,000. The loan is due and payable in full to Pierce County at  
11 the end of the twelve-month term. The Economic Development Director may  
12 supplement these terms with other terms and conditions the Director deems appropriate  
13 to further the purposes of this Ordinance. No loans shall be issued without a written  
14 agreement between the applicant and Pierce County.  
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16           Section 4. This Emergency Ordinance is necessary for the immediate  
17 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the County government  
18 and its existing institutions because small businesses in Pierce County are at risk of  
19 imminent failure, which threatens the public's ability to meet its basic health and safety  
20 needs and threatens tax revenue streams that County government relies upon to  
21 provide essential government services.  
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1 Section 5. This Ordinance shall sunset on December 31, 2021.

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4 PASSED this 27<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2020.

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6 ATTEST:

PIERCE COUNTY COUNCIL  
Pierce County, Washington

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10 Kate Kennedy  
11 **Denise D. Johnson**  
12 Clerk of the Council

Douglas G. Richardson  
**Douglas G. Richardson**  
Council Chair

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16 Bruce F. Dammeier  
17 **Bruce F. Dammeier**  
18 Pierce County Executive  
19 Approved X Vetoed \_\_\_\_\_, this  
20 27<sup>th</sup> day of March,  
21 2020.  
22 Time: 1713

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26 Date of Publication of  
27 Notice of Public Hearing: Not applicable - Emergency  
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29 Effective Date of Ordinance: March 24, 2020 at 5:13 p.m.