



NCCAOM Covid-19 Emergency-Response Efforts: What Acupuncturists Need to Know

March 18, 2020

Dear NCCAOM Diplomates,

As Covid-19 continues to disrupt elective healthcare delivery and small businesses, the NCCAOM is working to keep Diplomates updated on the actions the United States is taking to provide relief to its healthcare practitioners and to help stabilize and stimulate the economy.

Covid-19 Emergency Financial-Relief Legislation

Congress is fast-tracking several packages to provide relief and to stimulate the economy. One such effort is the [*Families First Coronavirus Response Act*](#), which would enable eligible individuals affected by Covid-19 to receive paid leave and food assistance, expand unemployment insurance, and increase funding to state Medicaid programs. This package also ensures that individuals affected by Covid-19 receive coverage for Covid-19 testing. *Congress sent this legislation for the President's signature on March 18, 2020.*

Covid-19 Stimulus Legislation

The Senate is developing legislation that would provide more flexibility and support to small business, financial assistance to individuals, and assistance to airlines. This package could also provide more flexible options for small business loans (see below).

Small Business Loan Opportunities

[*The U.S. Small Business Administration's \(SBA\) Economic Injury Disaster Loan Program*](#) provides small businesses with working capital loans of up to \$2 million to help provide economic support during these temporary times of lost revenue. Recipients can use these loans to pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable and other bills that they cannot pay because of Covid-19's impact. The loan interest rate is 3.75% for small businesses without credit available elsewhere; businesses with credit available elsewhere are not eligible. The interest rate for non-profits is 2.75%.

Acupuncture-practice owners in states that have [*declared emergencies due to Covid-19*](#) may be eligible for these loans. The SBA also offers long-term repayment plans of up to 30 years. The SBA determines terms for these loans on a case-by-case basis.

Congress is considering legislation that would expedite the application process for these loans.



Learn more about current offerings and criteria from the [SBA Disaster Loan Assistance webpage](#). The SBA Disaster Assistance Customer Service Center (1-800-659-2955 or disastercustomerservice@sba.gov) can offer additional guidance and answer specific questions.

The NCCAOM will continue to monitor these initiatives and convey opportunities and resources to Diplomates as quickly as possible. Send your questions to advocacy@thenaccaom.org.

Stay tuned for our further announcements as the COVID-19 situation is constantly changing. If you have any questions, call (888) 381-1140 or email covid19alerts@thenaccaom.org. Please visit the [NCCAOM COVID-19 Hub](#) for the latest updates.

Sincerely,

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Chief Executive Officer

*National Certification Commission
for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine*