

## NAVIGATING YOUR FINANCES THROUGH THIS UNPRECEDENTED TIME OF ECONOMIC UNCERTAINTY



Regardless if you are an individual or business (unless you manufacture toilet paper), you are dealing with uncertain financial times that might include reduction of hours, job loss, or customer loss. What are some steps you can take to reduce the financial stress, and how should you deal with your financial institution?

### **Individual:**

- First take a deep breath, you're not alone, and your financial institution both understands the current economic environment and wants you to succeed and thrive.
- Gather information:
  1. Current fixed bills i.e. mortgage or rent payment, car payment etc.
  2. Current household income status; job loss or reduction in hours and the financial impact.
  3. Other possible sources of income; part time job, family or unemployment.
- Call your financial institution and explain your current circumstances. Some items they may consider to reduce your financial stress include:
  1. Re-amortize loans to lower payments
  2. Consolidate bills and loans
  3. For a short period of time only collect interest on loans

### **Business:**

- As with the individual, take a deep breath; your financial institution understands the current economic environment and wants you to be successful.
- Gather information;
  1. Fixed bills i.e. loan payments.
  2. Be prepared to discuss variable expenses and those that can be reduced.
  3. Current cash flow versus normal cash flow.
  4. Steps that can be taken to increase cash flow or reduce expenses.
- Call your financial institution and explain your current circumstances. Some items they may consider to increase your cash flow:
  1. Re-amortize loans to lower payments.
  2. Extend new credit to allow you to manage through this time.
  3. Consolidate bills/loans.
  4. For a limited time, collect interest only.
- For Business customers there may also be SBA or Government assistance. The SBA is offering various loan programs to businesses affected by the current economic crisis. Some of these programs are currently available to Businesses in Missouri with others expected to be offered in the coming days. Contact your Bank for more information.

The biggest piece of advice we can give is contact your Bank sooner rather than later. Banks understand the current environment and typically can offer more options before a loan goes past due or into collection.

