



DOWNTOWN LONG BEACH ALLIANCE

STAY INFORMED: TIPS TO IDENTIFY SCAMMERS

During any time of uncertainty, scammers may seek to take advantage of those who are most vulnerable and in need of financial assistance. Here are some tips to recognize scams and protect your business during the ongoing public health crisis.

- **Scammers may call offering assistance under the condition that you pay a one-time processing fee.** Legitimate business assistance organizations will not offer to help you on the condition of payment.
- **Beware of government grant scams.** Various government agencies, including the SBA, are offering emergency grants to small businesses. The SBA and other agencies will NOT call you asking you to apply for loans under the condition that you pay a fee.
- **Be on the lookout for callers offering to assist you with grant or loan applications for a fee.** It is best to decline calls from third party vendors, and instead directly call your bank or financial institution for assistance.

Additional tips from the [U.S. Government](#):

- Hang up on robocalls.
- Do not respond to calls, texts or emails purporting to offer a stimulus check from the government. The federal government has not yet finalized its stimulus payment strategy.
- Fact-check. If you receive an offer from a business organization, bank or government entity, visit their official website for accurate contact information to get in touch with them and verify what you've heard.

The U.S. government offers various methods to report scams:

- Contact the [National Center for Disaster Fraud](#) hotline at 866-720-5721 or email disaster@leo.gov.
- Report a scam to the FBI at tips.fbi.gov.
- Submit complaints about online scams through the [Internet Crime Complaint Center \(IC3\)](#).

If you would like to report a local scam, please reach out to the Long Beach Area Chamber of Commerce's Membership Coordinator, Marilyn Singer, at 562-436-1251.