SCORE Cape Cod & the Islands: Our plans for helping businesses during the coronavirus threat

The success of small businesses and nonprofits here on Cape Cod & the Islands is vitally important to us. With all the recent news and concerns over the novel coronavirus (COVID-19), SCORE Cape Cod & the Islands, like so many other local organizations, is putting in place measures to ensure the health of our small business members, our volunteers and importantly, your businesses.

As of March 14, 2020, we are suspending all in-person events, including mentoring, workshops and special events. We are moving to remote mentoring and we will reschedule all workshops and special events as soon as it is feasible.

While we will not be mentoring in person, we feel strongly that we need to be available to the Cape and Islands business community during this period to advise them on business issues, provide necessary resources and assist in any way we can to minimize potential downturns to businesses. As such, we will do the following:

MENTORING: SCORE mentors are available to do mentoring online, by phone or by video conferencing. If you are currently scheduled for a mentoring session, a SCORE mentor will reach out to you regarding your preferred way to receive mentoring. If a remote session is not feasible, we will postpone the session to a later date. If you are not yet scheduled for a mentoring session and would like to do a remote session, please contact our office at 508-775-4884. Or sign up online at www.capecod.score.org.

WORKSHOPS: If you have registered for a workshop, please note that all workshops have been postponed and will be rescheduled as soon as we have a clearer idea of appropriate timing. If the workshop you registered for deals with an issue that is immediately important to your business, please contact the SCORE office and we will set you up with a mentor for a remote mentoring session (see above).

SPECIAL EVENTS: Any events being run by SCORE Cape Cod & the Islands in the next month are postponed. That said, we do have events planned for later in the Spring (e.g. our Small Business Awards Breakfast or our Women4Women women's business forum are both in May) which we are not postponing at this time. As we get closer to the date of those events and others, we will inform you as to the status.

CONTACT INFORMATION: you can reach the SCORE office and SCORE mentors by calling 508-775-4884 and leave a message OR email us at capecodscore@verizon.net. Whereas our volunteers are no longer in the office, we will return the call in a timely manner. You can also schedule appointments at https://capecod.score.org/content/find-mentor-67

Additionally, we want to make you aware of guidance that is being provided by the Small Business Administration, the CDC and SCORE’s national headquarters. Below there are also important guidelines for non-profits.

1. SBA Guidance & Assistance for Small Businesses

The Small Business Administration (SBA) has posted information regarding loan programs and guidance for businesses:

Guidance for Businesses and Employers to Plan and Respond to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)
2. **CDC Guidance & Prevention Protocols for Businesses**

The Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) has issued COVID-19 guidance for businesses and is updating them as new developments occur.

Please refer to the following links for the most up-to-date information about COVID-19:

- [Resources for Business & Employers](#)
- [General Info & FAQs](#)
- [Steps to Preventing Illness](#)
- [Preventing COVID-19 Spread in Communities](#)

3. **SCORE Preparedness Resources**

For additional business guidance, read [How Businesses Can Prepare for Coronavirus](#) and view other SCORE [small business disaster preparedness resources](#).

4. **Guidance for Non-profits**

- [CDC Foundation Has COVID-19 Guidelines For Nonprofits ...](#)
- [COVID-19: What nonprofits need to know](#)

**Our Commitment To You:**

SCORE Cape Cod & the Islands is committed to providing you the very best service we can during these circumstances. We will update you when in-person events return and as new resources and guidance become available.

Please contact us should you have any questions or concerns and stay well.

Sincerely,

Bill Simpson
SCORE Cape Cod & the Islands Chair