

**COUNCIL
MEMBER**



**FARAH N.
LOUIS**

COVID-19 UPDATES

Dear Neighbor,

With our city and state at a standstill to stop the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19), we have reached a pivotal point where individuals and business owners are grappling with an uncertain financial future.

From unemployment claims to business loans, millions of New Yorkers are searching for ways to close the gap caused by the loss of income or revenue. As we work collaboratively to recover and rebuild over the next several weeks, it is important that you are aware of the opportunities, yet remain vigilant and wary of scams.

April is Financial Literacy Month and as a member of the Council Committee on Economic Development, I wanted to take this time to share critical resources that I hope will be of great assistance to you.

Please feel free to share this email with others. Be safe and well.

Sincerely,

Farah N. Louis

Council Member, District 45

COVID-19 Financial Resources and Tips

- [Financial Support for Individuals](#)
- [COVID-19 Financial Survival Toolkit for New Yorkers](#)
- [Protecting CARES Act Stimulus Payments from Debt Collectors](#)
- [Boqus Medical Treatments and Phishing Attempts](#)
- [5 Steps You Can Take to Protect Yourself and Your Business from Fraud When Applying for a PPP Loan](#)
- [Credit/Debit](#)
- [Price Gouging](#)
- [Scams](#)
- [File a Complaint](#)

Federal Trade Commission

KEEP CALM **and Avoid** Coronavirus Scams

Here are **5 things** you can do to avoid a Coronavirus scam:



Ignore offers for vaccinations and home test kits.

Scammers are selling products to treat or prevent COVID-19 without proof that they work.



Hang up on robocalls.

Scammers use illegal sales call to get your money and your personal information.



Watch out for phishing emails and text messages.

Don't click on links in emails or texts you didn't expect.



Research before you donate.

Don't let anyone rush you into making a donation. Get tips on donating wisely at [ftc.gov/charity](https://www.ftc.gov/charity).



Stay in the know.

Go to [ftc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.ftc.gov/coronavirus) for the latest information on scams. Sign up to get FTC's alerts at [ftc.gov/subscribe](https://www.ftc.gov/subscribe).



Federal Trade Commission

If you see a scam, report it to

[ftc.gov/complaint](https://www.ftc.gov/complaint)

NYC Financial Empowerment Centers

NYC Financial Empowerment Centers provide FREE one-on-one professional, financial counseling and coaching to help you:

- Manage your money and set up a spending plan
- Contact creditors about existing loans, including student loans
- Draft letters to creditors to lower payments or temporarily suspend payments due to hardship
- Develop a strategy to minimize debt
- Access local, state, and federal emergency resources
- Open a bank account
- Separate personal and business finances

Counselors also work with [Taxi & Limousine Commission \(TLC\) drivers](#) as well as [small business owners](#). Download the [Financial Empowerment Center brochure](#) in 11 languages.

[Book Appointment](#)



NEW YORK CITY COMPTROLLER SCOTT M. STRINGER

COMPTROLLER'S
MWBE UNIVERSITY
MINORITY AND WOMEN OWNED BUSINESS ENTERPRISES



Comptroller's M/WBE University is a series of workshops designed to increase access to the Comptroller's Office and citywide opportunities for M/WBEs.

WEBINARS: RESOURCES FOR SMALL BUSINESSES AND M/WBES IMPACTED BY COVID-19

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM Via Zoom

The Comptroller's Office will be providing presentations via Zoom on resources from the federal, state, and City government and the private sector available to small businesses and M/WBEs impacted by COVID-19.

Webinar Sessions:

Tuesdays

- April 21, 2020
- April 28, 2020
- May 05, 2020
- May 12, 2020

Thursdays

- April 16, 2020
- April 23, 2020
- April 30, 2020
- May 07, 2020
- May 14, 2020

To RSVP, visit <http://Comptrollerdiversity.eventbrite.com> or email diversity@comptroller.nyc.gov. Interpretation will be available in American Sign Language, Arabic, Bengali, Cantonese, French, Haitian Creole, Korean, Mandarin, Polish, Russian, Spanish, and Urdu. Please request interpretation services upon RSVP at least two days before each session.

Information provided during these sessions might change as emergency laws, resources and other factors evolve during the COVID-19 pandemic. We cannot advise you on such developments. Please consult US, NYS, and NYC COVID-19 websites for the latest information.

GET HELP NAVIGATING THE CITY

If you are a business owner and need help navigating City procurement opportunities and resources, make an appointment with the Comptroller's Office by emailing diversity@comptroller.nyc.gov.

If you are a constituent and need assistance with complaints or inquiries about government services, please email the Comptroller's Community Action Center at action@comptroller.nyc.gov.

RSVP

Council Member Farah N. Louis | [Website](#)

