



April 14, 2020

Georgia Receives More than \$522 Million in Federal Funds to Address the Impact of Coronavirus

Governor Brian P. Kemp, announced the availability of \$522,237,467 in Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funds for Georgia's transit operators which is made available by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA).

Of the total CARES Act funds made available to Georgia, the FTA has allocated \$370.94 million to the Atlanta urbanized area transit operators, \$26.58 million for other "Large Urban Areas" such as Augusta, Columbus, Savannah, \$75 million for Georgia's rural operators and \$49.68 million to the small urban transit operators. The FTA's priority for CARES Act funding is to support operational expenses associated with impacts of COVID-19, which includes covering operating costs to maintain service, making up for lost revenue due to the pandemic, purchase of personal protective equipment, and payment of administrative leave of operations personnel. The funds are 100% federal and require no matching local funds.

[Click here to read more from Savannah CEO.](#)

HAPPENINGS

Mobile Food Pantry Event for Hospitality and Tourism Workers to be Held April 16



The Chamber, TLC, City of Savannah and others are partnering with America's Second Harvest for a mobile food pantry event next Thursday, April 16 from 9 a.m. until all food is distributed. The mobile food pantry event on River Street will benefit current and recently unemployed hospitality and tourism workers. The entry point will be at Bay and Warner Streets. Please have your trunk clear for food distribution.

Date: Thursday, April 16

Time: 9 a.m. until all food is distributed

Location: Bay and Warner Streets in downtown Savannah

Georgia Chamber to Host Virtual Conference with President & CEO of the Fed Bank in Atlanta and the Regional Administrator for SBA



This Thursday, April 16 at 3 p.m., the Georgia Chamber will host Raphael Bostic, president & CEO of the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta and Ashley D. Bell, regional administrator for the SBA.

Moderated by the Georgia Chamber's president & CEO Chris Clark, this forum will highlight the programs and resources available to small and medium-sized businesses while providing key insight for working with local banks to access and leverage these funding sources.

Please remember that these calls and conferences are available to Savannah Chamber members because of the Savannah Chamber's membership in the Georgia Chamber. Access is a benefit of your membership and access information should not be shared with the general public as bandwidth is limited. The less widely-shared the access info is, the more members will be able to participate. Thank you for your cooperation.

Join from a PC, Mac, iPad, iPhone or Android device:

<https://zoom.us/j/94428713555>

Or join by phone:

Dial in (for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):

US: +1 646 558 8656

or +1 312 626 6799

or +1 301 715 8592

or +1 346 248 7799

or +1 669 900 9128

or +1 253 215 8782

Webinar ID: 944 2871 3555

International numbers available:

<https://zoom.us/u/acVyZM7Way>

[Visit Savannah Recognized for Uplifting Video Message](#)

It's no secret that Visit Savannah and other destination marketing organizations have had to shift their marketing strategies and campaign messaging in the past few weeks. DMOs are encouraging visitors to stay home, finding new ways to support local businesses, and working hard to keep their communities informed. Simpleview Inc., one of the travel and tourism industry's leading providers of website design, digital marketing, content management and database services, reports that they have been particularly inspired by uplifting videos that DMOs have created, including one by Visit Savannah.

[Click here to see the Visit Savannah video.](#) A version of the video was also created for Visit Tybee; [click here to see the Visit Tybee video.](#)

Visit Savannah's Team Finds Creative Ways to Stay in Touch with Clients & Visitors



Visit Savannah's meetings and conventions team are coming up with creative ways to stay in touch with their clients while everyone is isolated in their homes. Members of the team ordered puzzles and playing cards featuring an illustration of Savannah's historic downtown and sent the items to clients to use, keeping Savannah on their minds while they shelter in place. [Click here to see some clients enjoying their gifts.](#)

Visit Savannah is also keeping in touch with its leisure visitors as well: among other resources, Visit Savannah has created a bank of [Savannah-inspired activities to keep kids entertained at home.](#)

Follow the [meetings and conventions team on Facebook](#) to see what else they're up to, and keep an eye on [Visit Savannah's main Facebook page](#) to see how the communications team is keeping leisure travelers engaged.

Some Good Reads from USA Today.



- A [new coronavirus saliva test](#) developed at Rutgers University could dramatically accelerate the rate of collections and limit exposure to healthcare workers. It may be rolled out as soon as Wednesday.
- The governors of states in the Northeast and West Coast hit early by the coronavirus announced they're [creating their own working groups](#) to develop a coordinated response to gradually lifting stay-at-home orders.
- U.S. stocks rose more than 2% in early trading today, erasing Monday's losses and showing more signs of recovery after last week's historic gains.
- The number of new U.S. coronavirus deaths and confirmed cases are down slightly for a third consecutive day, according to Johns Hopkins University data.

[Click here to sign up for USA Today's Daily Coronavirus Watch newsletter.](#)

Good News



There's a lot going on in the world right now, but there are plenty of reasons to be positive about the future. Check out these good news stories:

- America's Second Harvest offering [grab-and-go meals for kids](#)
- New Orleans Culinary School [hosting "Cooking in Quarantine" lessons](#) on Zoom
- Ford to [start producing respirator masks and other equipment](#) for healthcare workers
- Savannah Music Festival [announces fall concert series](#) featuring rescheduled 2020 artists
- Spartina 449 [donating 20% of your purchase to another local retailer of your choice](#) April 13-30

Do you have any positive local stories to share? Send them to Info@SavannahChamber.com with the subject "Positive Stories" and we may choose yours to share with the community!

Guidance and Resources



We will update and add to the links below as new guidance and resources become available. Click here to visit the Chamber's resource page.

- [Coronavirus Digital Toolkit](#)
- [Coronavirus Guidance for Employers](#)
- [Coronavirus Workplace Tips for Employees](#)
- [Coronavirus Resource Hub for Small Businesses](#)
- [Coronavirus Local/State Policy Tracker](#)
- [Coronavirus Workplace Flyer](#)
- Dial 311 for City of Savannah information
- Dial 211 for help from the United Way of the Coastal Empire
- Dial 1-800-Georgia (436-7442) for State of Georgia information

For more info, please visit the [CDC's Guidance for Businesses page](#).

The Savannah Area Chamber is working hard to provide timely access to business resource information during the COVID-19 pandemic. The interpretation and recommendations of the information provided by the Chamber should not replace the consult of professional advisors familiar with your unique business situation. While it is believed that the content of external links is accurate and reliable, accuracy and completeness of information contained herein is not guaranteed. Users of this information accept all risks associated with the use of such information and agree that the Savannah Area Chamber has no liability to the user.

