

Monday, December 14, 2020

To: New York Community banks

## FROM ICBA

### **ICBA, state groups continue push for EIDL fix**

ICBA and 44 state community banking associations (including IBANYS) called on Congress to fully forgive Economic Injury Disaster Loan Advances for recipients who also have a Paycheck Protection Program loan. In a [joint letter](#), the organizations said EIDL advances are converting to unexpected debt during the PPP forgiveness process. ICBA has continuously pushed for an EIDL fix, as detailed in an [op-ed on Medium](#). With Congress running out of time to pass a stimulus package by year-end, ICBA is calling on community bankers to reach out to their lawmakers and enlist small-business customers on this and other remaining priorities:

- [Tell Congress](#) to pass top stimulus priorities, including PPP reforms.
- [Urge lawmakers](#) to address the EIDL advance debt trap.
- Immediately enlist affected small-business customers to [push for an EIDL fix](#).

Community bankers can enlist small-business customers on the EIDL push by passing along [this link](#) and letting them know the time to act is now.

[ACT NOW ON RELIEF BILL](#)

[CONTACT CONGRESS ON EIDL](#)

[EIDL ALERT FOR SMALL BIZ](#)

### **ICBA end-of-year advocacy briefing this week**

ICBA's next Community Bank Briefing with an end-of-the-year update from Washington is slated for 12:30 p.m. (Eastern time) this Thursday, Dec. 17. During the 60-minute webinar, the ICBA team will address the measures it continues to push for in Congress and other advocacy highlights. [Learn more and register](#).

### **Community bank grassroots in full force this year: IB**

Community bank grassroots advocacy was in overdrive in 2020, ICBA's Aaron Stetter writes in the latest [Independent Banker](#) magazine. Stetter notes that more than 9,000 community bankers sent nearly 60,000 emails to Congress between March and October on key issues, reaching 98 percent of Senate offices and more than 88 percent of House offices. [Read more in IB](#).

### **Consumer sentiment improves in early December**

Consumer sentiment [increased](#) in early December, according to the University of Michigan's preliminary index. The sentiment index rose to 81.4 from 76.9 the month before but remained down from 99.3 the same time last year.

## FROM OTHER SOURCES

A bipartisan group of senators is expected to release a two-part coronavirus relief bill in that chamber as soon as today.

- One part is a \$748 billion measure with less contentious items, including relief for schools and health care.
- The other \$160 billion part would include funds for local governments that Democrats have pushed for, and a temporary liability shield that might appease Senate Majority Leader McConnell.

Senator Manchin (D-W.Va.) said yesterday the emergency measure would help the country in the first quarter of 2021, which he said could be the "toughest" first quarter the country has ever faced. ([Politico](#))

- 16.2 million Americans have tested positive for the coronavirus. 299,177 Americans have died. The first COVID-19 vaccine vials made their way to distribution sites across the United States Sunday, as the nation's pandemic deaths approached the new milestone of 300,000. The

rollout of the Pfizer vaccine, the first to be approved by the FDA, ushers in the biggest vaccination effort in U.S. history - one that health officials hope the American public will embrace, even as some have voiced initial skepticism or worry. [https://apnews.com/article/coronavirus-pandemic-united-states-d4525c56fd2606f1c0dae46ac3c96405?utm\\_source=Sailthru&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=AP%20Morning%20Wire&utm\\_term=Morning%20Wire%20Subscribers](https://apnews.com/article/coronavirus-pandemic-united-states-d4525c56fd2606f1c0dae46ac3c96405?utm_source=Sailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=AP%20Morning%20Wire&utm_term=Morning%20Wire%20Subscribers)

- [“As coronavirus vaccine begins to roll out, FDA seeks to reassure the public on safety.”](#)
- State leaders say they are short billions of dollars in funding needed to successfully provide Covid-19 vaccinations to all Americans who want to be inoculated by health officials' June goal. The federal government is providing the vaccine, along with syringes, needles, face masks and shields. [https://www.wsj.com/articles/getting-covid-vaccines-to-people-will-cost-states-billions-they-dont-have-11607855400?mkt\\_tok=eyJpIjoiWWpsaVltUmtPR1ZtWm1RMCIiInQiOiJJNXJVeTRLmzFkczFFS3FPbG9uczI5ZVBGbg9IMnRmOEylaHp1c3B0V1dmd3EwUm1NQWZzRElwaGNkN05aSnRNRjBzKzZHVWZEcEphdHc4VFR3bWpsVUtlDnFjSlwvRIMxVzJ4aUZUaElcLzBrN1ZSM2d5MzJOeENET11VZzBESVRBIn0%3D](https://www.wsj.com/articles/getting-covid-vaccines-to-people-will-cost-states-billions-they-dont-have-11607855400?mkt_tok=eyJpIjoiWWpsaVltUmtPR1ZtWm1RMCIiInQiOiJJNXJVeTRLmzFkczFFS3FPbG9uczI5ZVBGbg9IMnRmOEylaHp1c3B0V1dmd3EwUm1NQWZzRElwaGNkN05aSnRNRjBzKzZHVWZEcEphdHc4VFR3bWpsVUtlDnFjSlwvRIMxVzJ4aUZUaElcLzBrN1ZSM2d5MzJOeENET11VZzBESVRBIn0%3D)
- Members of Congress considering a fresh round of financial aid for small businesses are focusing on firms with fewer employees that could show they have been hurt by the pandemic-triggered downturn, addressing criticisms that dogged the Paycheck Protection Program. "Let us target the program to the smaller of the small businesses. [https://www.wsj.com/articles/congress-eyes-targeted-coronavirus-aid-for-small-businesses-11607882400?mkt\\_tok=eyJpIjoiWWpsaVltUmtPR1ZtWm1RMCIiInQiOiJJNXJVeTRLmzFkczFFS3FPbG9uczI5ZVBGbg9IMnRmOEylaHp1c3B0V1dmd3EwUm1NQWZzRElwaGNkN05aSnRNRjBzKzZHVWZEcEphdHc4VFR3bWpsVUtlDnFjSlwvRIMxVzJ4aUZUaElcLzBrN1ZSM2d5MzJOeENET11VZzBESVRBIn0%3D](https://www.wsj.com/articles/congress-eyes-targeted-coronavirus-aid-for-small-businesses-11607882400?mkt_tok=eyJpIjoiWWpsaVltUmtPR1ZtWm1RMCIiInQiOiJJNXJVeTRLmzFkczFFS3FPbG9uczI5ZVBGbg9IMnRmOEylaHp1c3B0V1dmd3EwUm1NQWZzRElwaGNkN05aSnRNRjBzKzZHVWZEcEphdHc4VFR3bWpsVUtlDnFjSlwvRIMxVzJ4aUZUaElcLzBrN1ZSM2d5MzJOeENET11VZzBESVRBIn0%3D)
- The impact of the housing market on the 2008 financial crisis couldn't have been more different than what we've seen during this year's recession. While housing acted as a strong headwind slowing the economic recovery 12 years ago, it's looking like a tailwind that will help lift the economy as we move past the pandemic in 2021. [https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-12-12/pandemic-housing-shifts-will-speed-2021-economic-recovery?mkt\\_tok=eyJpIjoiWWpsaVltUmtPR1ZtWm1RMCIiInQiOiJJNXJVeTRLmzFkczFFS3FPbG9uczI5ZVBGbg9IMnRmOEylaHp1c3B0V1dmd3EwUm1NQWZzRElwaGNkN05aSnRNRjBzKzZHVWZEcEphdHc4VFR3bWpsVUtlDnFjSlwvRIMxVzJ4aUZUaElcLzBrN1ZSM2d5MzJOeENET11VZzBESVRBIn0%3D](https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-12-12/pandemic-housing-shifts-will-speed-2021-economic-recovery?mkt_tok=eyJpIjoiWWpsaVltUmtPR1ZtWm1RMCIiInQiOiJJNXJVeTRLmzFkczFFS3FPbG9uczI5ZVBGbg9IMnRmOEylaHp1c3B0V1dmd3EwUm1NQWZzRElwaGNkN05aSnRNRjBzKzZHVWZEcEphdHc4VFR3bWpsVUtlDnFjSlwvRIMxVzJ4aUZUaElcLzBrN1ZSM2d5MzJOeENET11VZzBESVRBIn0%3D)
- Mortgage giant Fannie Mae extended its relaxed lending and appraisal standards put in place due to COVID-19 into the new year. The flexibilities surrounding verbal verification of employment and appraisals were originally set to expire on Dec. 31, 2020, however Fannie Mae is now pushing that back to at least Jan. 31, 2021. [https://www.housingwire.com/articles/fannie-mae-extends-relaxed-appraisal-lending-standards/?mkt\\_tok=eyJpIjoiWWpsaVltUmtPR1ZtWm1RMCIiInQiOiJJNXJVeTRLmzFkczFFS3FPbG9uczI5ZVBGbg9IMnRmOEylaHp1c3B0V1dmd3EwUm1NQWZzRElwaGNkN05aSnRNRjBzKzZHVWZEcEphdHc4VFR3bWpsVUtlDnFjSlwvRIMxVzJ4aUZUaElcLzBrN1ZSM2d5MzJOeENET11VZzBESVRBIn0%3D#](https://www.housingwire.com/articles/fannie-mae-extends-relaxed-appraisal-lending-standards/?mkt_tok=eyJpIjoiWWpsaVltUmtPR1ZtWm1RMCIiInQiOiJJNXJVeTRLmzFkczFFS3FPbG9uczI5ZVBGbg9IMnRmOEylaHp1c3B0V1dmd3EwUm1NQWZzRElwaGNkN05aSnRNRjBzKzZHVWZEcEphdHc4VFR3bWpsVUtlDnFjSlwvRIMxVzJ4aUZUaElcLzBrN1ZSM2d5MzJOeENET11VZzBESVRBIn0%3D#)

## FROM NEW YORK

Governor Cuomo updated New Yorkers on the state's progress during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

- 5,410 Patient Hospitalizations Statewide
- 1,009 Patients in the ICU; 567 Intubated
- Statewide Positivity Rate is 4.96%
- 106 COVID-19 Deaths in New York State Yesterday

For full details, including regional and local breakouts of the data, click here: <https://empirereportnewyork.com/governor-cuomo-updates-new-yorkers-on-states-progress-during-covid-19-pandemic-25/>

- The first shipment of Pfizer’s coronavirus vaccine – 170,000 doses – will reach New York today, and health care workers could be getting their shots within hours of arrival, [the New York Post reports](#).
- A little over half of New York City microbusinesses – those with fewer than 10 employees – received loans under the Paycheck Protection Program, with some neighborhoods faring better than others, like Corona, where loan rates lagged, [The City reports](#).
- Starting today, [indoor dining will again be closed](#) across New York City, less than two and a half months after restaurants were allowed to open their dining rooms at reduced capacity. Surging hospitalizations for Covid-19 prompted Gov. Cuomo to order the new shutdown. The [major reversal](#) in the city’s reopening comes as the second wave of the pandemic in New York — and yes, we’re now [officially in one](#) — continues to worsen. All three of the city’s [public health metrics blew past their targets on Friday](#) for the first time since tracking began, with hospitalizations passing the 200-mark.
- The Governor said he was acting in part due to new [CDC guidance highlighting the risks of indoor restaurants](#), where masks cannot be worn and infections have been known to [spread](#) beyond six feet, though he will allow them to remain open in other parts of the state. Outdoor dining and takeout will still be allowed.

#####

**IBANYS will continue to provide updates as additional information becomes available. Thank you all for your continued participation and support.**

- **John J. Witkowski, President & CEO ([Johnw@ibanys.net](mailto:Johnw@ibanys.net); 716.880.0518)**
- **Stephen W. Rice, Director, Communications & Government Relations ([Stever@ibanys.net](mailto:Stever@ibanys.net))**