



BEWARE OF SMALL BUSINESS SCAMS

With the various opportunities being made available during the COVID 19 pandemic, many small businesses are applying for financial support with government loans and grants. Imposters are out to target vulnerable individuals and businesses that are looking to survive. Identity thieves are not just targeting the average person but they are also looking to steal the identity of local small businesses and business owners. These imposters can be disguised as representatives from government agencies such as SBA (Small Business Administration) loan lenders.

HERE ARE A FEW TIPS THAT WILL PREVENT YOUR BUSINESS FROM BEING SCAMMED:

1. **Do Not** sign up for a COVID-19 small business loan through an unsolicited call, email, or text message.
 - Government agencies will not directly reach out to you to sign up for their loan services.
2. **Do Not** apply or give personal information for a small business grant through social media.
 - Government agencies will never personally contact you through social media outlets.
3. **Do Not** click on a link from a sender that you do not know.
 - Those links can provide viruses that will connect you to the scammer.
4. **Verify** with an SBA lender before applying for a Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan.
 - Only authorized lenders can provide SBA loans. To see a full list of SBA lenders, visit <https://www.sba.gov/paycheckprotection/find>

TO REPORT A SCAM, VISIT: <https://www.ftccomplaintassistant.gov>

TO LEARN ABOUT MORE RESOURCES FOR SMALL BUSINESSES IN THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, VISIT: <https://coronavirus.illinois.gov/s/resources-for-business>

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