

# Financial Support during the COVID-19 Crisis

Factsheet for startups and SMEs

Updated 25 May 2020



# What financial support is available for startups and small and medium-sized enterprises in a crisis situation due to Covid-19?

The majority of companies are currently facing enormous uncertainty due to Covid-19. They have many questions about possible financial support when, for example, orders fall through or supply bottlenecks arise due to the current situation. Startups and small and medium-sized enterprises are particularly affected.

Although there is still uncertainty over how this will develop in the coming weeks and months there are already a number of different measures that CEOs can take advantage of. Introducing measures quickly is essential to minimise damage to the economy as far as possible and allow financial assistance to be accessed in time to make a difference.

The measures decided so far mainly comprise liquidity aid in the form of loans, which appear to be unsuitable for most startups. We have compiled a summary of the aid measures currently on offer and marked startup-friendly aspects with an 🍃 or 🍏 (partially startup-friendly).

If you have any questions, or information on updates/further support measures, please contact us at [de\\_pwcnextlevel@pwc.com](mailto:de_pwcnextlevel@pwc.com).

The Federal and Land governments are constantly working on additional measures and this factsheet will therefore be continuously updated. In future, version updates will be shown in pink.



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# 01 Corona Protective Shield and COVID-19 Mitigation Act 1/2 Federal Government

## Emergency aid for self-employed, freelancers and small businesses

-  Grant towards operating costs for 3 months in addition to *Land* programmes (not to be repaid)
  - Max. 5 employees (whole-time equivalent): lumpsum payment up to €9,000
  - Max. 10 employees (whole-time equivalent): lumpsum payment up to €15,000
  - **Applications are dealt with by the *Länder*. Applications may be submitted to them for both Land and Federal government emergency aid** ([Sample application form](#) summary of authorities responsible [here](#))
- Protection fund (Economic Stabilisation Fund) for large companies with 250 employees or more and smaller companies in the critical infrastructure sectors as well as startups with post-money valuations over €50m.
  - Includes €400bn for state guarantees, €100bn to cover potential direct state investment and €100bn for refinancing KfW special programmes.
  - For more information, click [here](#). You will **soon** be able to submit applications [online](#)

## Further measures:

- Emergency loans are dealt with by the KfW and applications can be submitted via local banks. For more information, see [Section 6](#).
- Tax relief measures for companies directly affected by the Corona virus apply to the end of 2020. For more information, see [Section 3](#).
- Companies can apply for short-time workers' allowances if at least 10% of their employees are affected by the loss of revenue. For more information, see [Section 4](#).
-  Easier access to basic income payments. For more information, see [Section 4](#).

→ The Federal Government is also planning additional relief measures allowing middle-sized companies to receive monthly grants of up to €50,000 from July to December. For more information, click [here](#)



## Further information:

[Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy \(BMWi\) Emergency Aid Programme](#)

Last updated: 25 May 2020

# 01 Corona Protective Shield and COVID-19 Mitigation Act 2/2 Federal Government

## COVID-19 Mitigation Act

The Act to Mitigate the Consequences of the Covid-19 Pandemic has now largely entered into force. It covers the following measures and regulations:

### Insolvency law

- Waiver of requirement to file for insolvency until 30 September 2020
- Restriction of freezing of payments and rescission rights
- Limitation of liability for (new) finance
- Privileged ranking of (new) shareholder loans

### Civil law

- Moratorium on contracts and loans – consumers and micro-enterprises
- Tenancy law – waiver of termination rights for tenants of residential and commercial real estate properties
- Consumers and micro-enterprises may defer payment of certain ongoing liabilities such as energy or telecommunications bills to ensure uninterrupted supply of basic services.



### Further information:

[COVID-19 Mitigation Act](#)

*Last updated: 30 March 2020*

## 02 Deferral of social insurance contributions Health insurance funds

### Contents:



Social insurance contributions can be deferred where a company is in serious financial difficulties as a result of the current crisis

### Eligibility requirements:

The company is in severe hardship:

- Serious payment difficulties due to unfavourable economic conditions, or if such conditions would apply after social insurance contributions were paid
- Important: Only possible where over-indebtedness is a result of the situation

### How to apply:

The company should apply to the competent health insurance fund with documentary evidence that the eligibility conditions are met.

[Further information](#)

Last updated: 11 May 2020

PwC

## 03 Tax support measures Tax offices

### Contents:



The Federal Ministry of Finance has instructed the *Länder* to take the following measures:

- Facilitating tax offices to allow deferral of payment of tax owed
- Where companies are directly affected by the economic consequences of the Coronavirus, no enforcement measures or fines for non-payment will be applied until the end of 2020.
- Easing of eligibility requirements for taxpayers for adjusting pre-payments
- Interest or interest-type instruments that apply due to the crisis (fines for non-payment, interest on deferred payments etc.) should be dispensed with as far as possible if they are caused by the virus.
- **Special payments (bonuses) are tax-free in 2020 up to a total of €1,500.**
- **VAT (sales tax) rate temporarily reduced to 7%**

### Eligibility requirements:

- Adjustments to pre-payments are permitted without the need for special verification measures such as management analyses.
- Significant concessions should be made on the requirements for deferral (eligibility and need) by the competent offices (“deferral e-offices”).

### How to apply:

Apply to the competent tax office. See notes under the summaries for each *Land*.

[Further information](#) from the Federal Ministry of Finance



## Short-time workers' allowance

The AG pays a pro-rata salary based on hours actually worked. The salary is topped up by the Federal Employment Agency at 60% (67% for employees with children) of the missing flat-rate net remuneration. The short-time workers' allowance is topped up to 70% (77% for employees with children) from month 4. The short-time workers' allowance is topped up to 80% (87% for employees with children) from month 7.

Social insurance contributions for lost working hours are 100% reimbursed.

→ [Calculation of short-time workers' allowance](#)

### Duration:

Normal max. period of payment is 12 months (may be interrupted for a **minimum of 1 months if business is resumed**), **must re-apply for KUG if interruption lasts 3 months or more**; period of payment of 21 months possible under certain circumstances (where KUG introduced up to 31 December 2019, up to 31 December 2020 at the latest).

### Eligibility requirements:

- Significant temporary downtime and loss of remuneration of min. 10% for min. 10% of employees
- Force majeure and unavoidable downtime
- Short-time working clause in employment contracts – if not present, side letter to contract or supplemental agreement are possible
- Declaration of consent by Works Council/all employees affected by short-time workers' allowance

### How to apply:

- Apply via Federal Employment Agency portal.
- Apply to competent Employment Agency .
- Review of data and decision: See [here](#) for details.
- Applications for short-time workers' allowance can be submitted retrospectively from 1 March 2020 onwards.

### Further information:

Social insurance contributions that employers are obliged to pay during short-time working shall be reimbursed in full. Important: Short-time workers' allowance is not granted until AG has paid.

### Further information:

[Federal Employment Agency](#)  
[Federal Ministry of Finance](#)

Last updated: 25 May 2020

### Basic income payments

Small-scale entrepreneurs and self-employed individuals should not have to draw on reserves or face a threat to their livelihood. They will be given rapid, unbureaucratic access to basic income payments (Book II of the Social Code) with no means testing or having to give up self-employment.

In practice this means easier access to basic income payments from 1 March to 30 June 2020.

- For all new applications: no means testing (asset checks) for 6 months
- Recognition of actual expenditures on accommodation and heating with no assessment of appropriateness for six months
- Easing of income assessments to ensure rapid payment (preliminary approval for six months)
- The federal government may pass enabling legislation to extend these rules to 31 December 2020 if necessary. (wm.baden-wuerttemberg.de)

Applications for the easy-access basic income payments can be submitted using this [form](#), which is transmitted to the relevant job centre. For more information, click [here](#).



#### Further information:

[Federal Employment Agency](#)

*Last updated: 25 May 2020*

### Guarantees for SMEs and professionals from *Länder* guarantor banks

#### Emergency measures

- Maximum guarantee level raised to €2.5m (previously €1.25m)
- Working capital cap increased to 80% (previously 35% or 50% for retail)
- Federal government assumes higher risk by increasing back-to-back guarantees to 49%
- Accelerated decision-making process

Specific conditions vary by region. You can find these on your regional guarantor bank's website which you can find [here](#).  
Decisions on applications for guarantees <€250,000 will normally take 3 days.

#### How to apply:

Apply via your local bank. If you need a loan as a result of the Corona pandemic you can find financing in conjunction with the relevant guarantor bank acting as guarantor online [here](#).



#### Further information:

[VDB](#)  
[Overview of special programmes](#)

*Last updated: 6 April 2020*

Provided that you were not in difficulties on 31 December 2019 you can apply to your local bank for loans **for investment and working capital** immediately. KfW will underwrite 80% of the risk for large companies and 90% of the risk for SMEs, increasing the chances of the loan being approved. Applications for up to €1bn are permitted per group of companies. Loans are limited to 25% of 2019 annual turnover, twice 2019 salary costs or current Financing requirement for the next 18 months for SMEs/12 months for large companies, 50% of aggregate corporate debt for loans over €25m (not applicable to consortium financing and instant loans).

### **KfW loans for companies that have been on the market for more than 5 years: KfW business owner loan**

- For current interest rates and further conditions, please see the [product page](#)

### **KfW loans for companies that have been on the market for less than 5 years: ERP business founder loan – Universal**

- For companies that have been on the market for at least 3 years or can provide 2 annual financial statements
- Companies that have been on the market for less than 3 years can also apply for an ERP business founder loan, however the local bank will bear the full risk. Another option could be the ERP business founder loans – startup funding. You can take a loan of up to €30,000 for working capital, with up to 80% of the risk underwritten by the KfW.
- For current interest rates and further conditions, please see the [product page](#).

### **KfW special programme – consortium finance from €25m: Direct investment for consortium financing**

- For medium-sized and large companies
- KfW underwrites up to 80% of risk subject to a maximum of 50% of aggregate debt risk.
- KfW's share of risk min. €25m limited to 25% of 2019 annual turnover or twice 2019 salary costs or current financing requirement for the next 12 months
- For current interest rates and further conditions, please see the [product page](#)

### **KfW instant loans for companies with more than 10 employees: KfW instant loans for SMEs** 👍

- **100% underwritten** by KfW through a federal guarantee.
- For businesses that have been on the market since at least January 2019 and were in profit in 2017–2019 (on average) or 2019
- Max. loan is up to three months' turnover from 2019 (max. €500,000 for businesses with up to 50 employees or €800,000 for businesses with over 50 employees)
- For current interest rates and further conditions, please see the [product page](#).

There are also additional conventional support options such as growth loans, particularly for young businesses. 👍



### **Contacts for companies:**

*Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau*  
+49 800 539 9000  
Service number free of charge

### **Further information:**

**At-a-glance guide to eligible loans:** [KfW Funding Assistant](#)

*Last updated: 25 May 2020*

# 07 Additional national (federal-level) measures and programmes 1/2

## Shield for startups – call by the Bundesverband Deutsche Startups (German Startups Association)👍

The Bundesverband Deutsche Startups e.V. is calling for a comprehensive “shield” for startups, since startups will not normally meet the requirements for most of the measures decided so far via traditional financing routes:

- 4 levels are proposed
  - Level 1: Measures for early-stage startups or startups without venture capital backing -> Pillar 2
  - Level 2: Measures for startups with venture capital backing -> Pillar 1
  - Level 3: Measures for scale-ups -> including opening up the “Economic Stabilisation Fund” (WSF: Wirtschaftsstabilisierungsfonds) to startups with post-money valuations over €50m
  - Level 4: Measures for a secondary market in the absence of investors
- [Latest statement](#) and the original draft concept are available as a [PDF](#)

## Startup Shield 👍

“The €2 billion package of measures is targeted on startups and young startups with a future-proof business model. To achieve this, the package of measures is based on 2 pillars.” (BMWi (Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy, 4 May 2020))  
According to the Bundesverband Deutsche Startups e.V. (German Startups Association) the first monies should be disbursed in May.

### Pillar 1: “Corona Matching Facility” -> for VC-funded startups

Financing rounds can receive up to 70% support from KfW Capital and EIF provided that 30% is contributed by private investors. Terms for the state are identical to those for private investors.

See [here](#) for information on applying via KfW Capital.

### Pillar 2 for startups and young start-ups (with no access to Pillar 1) -> for non-VC-funded start-ups

Existing instruments issued by the local *Land* Institute for Business Promotion (LFI) are bolstered by funds from the KfW.

Pillar 2 startups should contact the relevant *Land* funding bank such as NRW Bank, IBB etc. for information about the application

process.  
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## Further information:

[BV Deutsche Startups \(press\)](#)

[BMWi](#)

[KfW Capital](#)

Last updated: 25 May 2020

# 07 Additional national (federal-level) measures and programmes 2/2

## The EIF's ESCALAR Programme (aimed at scale-ups) 👍

The EIF is helping scale-ups to address funding gaps by increasing the investment capacity of venture capital and private equity funds. Applications can be submitted by [financial intermediaries](#). See [here](#) for further information.

## EXIST projects 👍

Start-up teams currently in receipt of an EXIST Business Start-up Grant or an EXIST Transfer of Research (Phase I) and are coming to the end of the funding period are to be given non-bureaucratic help to deal with emergency situations caused by the Corona pandemic. Universities can apply informally for an expenditure-neutral extension to the funding period by three months. Grants can also be extended by three months on a case-by-case basis to increase the overall project. Applications can currently be made for all projects that would otherwise end on 30 April and 31 May 2020. ([exist.de](#))

## INVEST – grants for venture capital 👍

Grants under the INVEST programme are designed to encourage young, innovative companies to look for investors and to encourage business angels to provide venture capital. Funding is provided in two components:

1. Non-repayable, tax-free grant to purchase business shares
2. Lump sum repayment of taxes paid on profits on sale of shares purchased (exit grant for natural persons only)

For further information see the [BAFA](#) website.

## Funding for business experts 👍

Programme run by the Federal Office for Economic Affairs and Export Control (BAFA)

- Support for SMEs (based on EU definition of small and medium-sized companies) and freelancers in economic difficulties (due to the Corona pandemic)
- 100% of consultants' remuneration covered, with fee cap of €4,000 (previously 90% with a cap of €3,000)
- Applications can be submitted online [here](#) with no need for a preliminary face-to-face meeting with regional partners
- PwC is already registered with BAFA as a consulting company; for further information see the [BAFA](#) website and the [Information Note](#).



### Further information:

[BmWi \(Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy\)](#)  
[Exist](#)

Last updated: 14 April 2020

# 08 Land-specific aid measures



The *Länder* provide their own support measures in addition to the federal measures.

Companies/self-employed etc. with a permanent establishment or workplace in the relevant *Land* may submit applications.

Click here to go directly to your *Land*:

- [Baden-Württemberg](#)
- [Bavaria](#)
- [Berlin](#)
- [Brandenburg](#)
- [Bremen](#)
- [Hamburg](#)
- [Hessen](#)
- [Mecklenburg-Vorpommern](#)
- [Lower Saxony](#)
- [North Rhine-Westphalia](#)
- [Rhineland-Palatinate](#)
- [Saarland](#)
- [Saxony](#)
- [Saxony Anhalt](#)
- [Schleswig-Holstein](#)
- [Thuringia](#)



**Further summaries:**

[Overview from fuer-gruender.de](https://www.fuer-gruender.de)

# 08 Land-specific aid measures: Baden-Württemberg

## Contents, target group and eligibility requirements:

### Emergency aid for small and medium-sized enterprises 👍

- Emergency aid programme in the form of repayable subsidies provided in bands based on the number of employees:
  - Up to 5 employees: €9,000 (federal funding)
  - Up to 10 employees: €15,000 (federal funding)
  - Up to 50 employees: €30,000
- Support for covering their urgent short-term financing requirements
- Grants do not have to be repaid

### Liquidity support from L-Bank:

- 👍 Liquidity loans for working capital finance, consolidation and acquisitions
  - For companies with up to 500 employees (favourable interest rates, flexible terms from 4 to 10 years, loans up to €5m)
  - Repayment-free 0 to 2 or 4 years, bullet loan, repayment permitted at any time with no early repayment charge
  - Applications for development loans can be submitted via local banks
- Investment funds for systemically important small and medium-sized enterprises
- Startup financing
  - for entrepreneurs or companies that are no more than 5 years old
  - Development loans up to max. €5m
  - Usual bank requirements on collateral, in consultation with the respective local bank
- 👍 Further training financing 4.0 providing development loans to support training activities. For more information, click [here](#).
- 👍 Innovation financing 4.0 for innovative projects, digitalisation projects, innovative business models and innovative companies. For more information, click [here](#).
- 👍 Start-up BW Pro-Tect to support start-ups during the Corona crisis (expansion of the “Start-up BW Pre-Seed” funding programme). For more information, click [here](#)

## How to apply:

- You can apply for emergency aid [here](#) ([Notes on completing the form](#))
- Applications for liquidity support can be submitted via local banks.



For companies based in **Baden-Württemberg** only. The factsheet is continuously updated to include regional initiatives by other *Länder*.

## Contacts for companies:

*L-Bank Business Development:*  
+49 711 122-2345  
[wirtschaftsfoerderung@l-bank.de](mailto:wirtschaftsfoerderung@l-bank.de)

*L-Bank Guarantee:*  
+49 711 122-2999  
[buergschaften@l-bank.de](mailto:buergschaften@l-bank.de)

*Corona advice offered for freelancers, self-employed and businesses:*  
+49 800 40200 88  
[finanzierungen@wm.bwl.de](mailto:finanzierungen@wm.bwl.de)

**Further information:**  
[Corona assistance from L-Bank](#)

# 08 Land-specific aid measures: Bavaria 1/2

## Emergency aid programme for self-employed and commercial enterprises with up to 250 employees: 👍

- Up to 5 employees: €9,000 (federal funding)
- Up to 10 employees: €15,000 (federal funding)
- Up to 50 employees: €30,000
- Up to 250 employees: €50,000

## Eligibility requirements:

- Liquidity bottleneck due to Corona crisis, i.e. no liquidity (or insufficient liquidity) to pay, for example, current obligations
- Companies need not have been in financial difficulties on 31 December 2019 (does not apply to start-ups that have been on the market for more than three but less than five years).

## How to apply:

- How to apply: the application form for emergency aid programme should be completed and sent to the competent local granting body ([see here](#)) by post or e-mail.
- The application form for tax concessions should be completed and sent to the competent local tax office ([see here](#)) by post or e-mail.



For companies based in **Bavaria** only. The factsheet is continuously updated to include regional initiatives by other *Länder*.

## Contacts for companies:

*Bavarian State Tax Office,  
Munich*  
+49 89 9991-0  
[poststelle@fst.bayern.de](mailto:poststelle@fst.bayern.de)

## Further information:

[Bavarian Ministry of Economic Affairs, Regional Development and Energy \(StmWi\)](#)

*Last updated: 14 April 2020*

# 08 Land-specific aid measures: Bavaria 2/2

## Liquidity support through loans and underwriting measures by LfA Förderbank:

- Corona shield loans for SMEs and freelancers to finance investment and working capital. See [here](#) for current conditions
- Options for repayment holidays and deferrals on existing loans. See [here](#) for further information
- Universal loan:
  - Maximum loan per project: €10m
  - Indemnity: where a bank cannot provide adequate security for loans up to €4m, an 80% indemnity is available – there is a simplified application and processing procedure for indemnities up to €500,000
- Guarantees:
  - Max. guarantee rate for working capital/bailout/restructuring guarantees is raised to 80% of the amount of the loan
  - Simplified application procedure for LfA guarantees up to €500,000
  - Guarantees limited to €5m - state guarantees available above this
- Urgent loan:
  - Maximum loan: €2m
  - **New: LfA instant loan (maximum loan of €50,000 for companies with up to 5 employees or freelancers/€100,000 for companies with up to 10 employees or freelancers, 100% underwritten by the Free State of Bavaria; Corona Shield Loan (maximum loan €30m, 90% indemnity)**

## Target group and eligibility requirements:

- Universal loan: Companies with an annual turnover (corporate turnover) up to €500m inclusive and professionals to support investments, cover general working capital requirements and reschedule short-term liability debts
- Guarantees: Commercial medium-sized companies and professionals
- Urgent loan: Commercial medium-sized companies (submission of a “consolidation concept” no longer required provided the local bank confirms to the LfA that grounds for consolidation exist as part of the application)

## How to apply:

Application and payment via the local banks of the companies wishing to receive the liquidity support



For companies based in **Bavaria** only. The factsheet is continuously updated to include regional initiatives by other *Länder*.

## Contacts for companies:

LfA Förderbank  
Königinstr. 17  
80539 Munich  
[info@lfa.de](mailto:info@lfa.de)

## Further information:

[LfA Förderbank](#)

Last updated: 25 May 2020

# 08 Land-specific aid measures: Berlin

## Contents:

Emergency aid package 1: Interest-free interim loans up to €0.5m at 6 month maturity 👍

- Also for startups founded less than 3 years previously
- Not for companies subject to specific Rules for financial institutions (such as FinTechs, BaFin-registered companies)
- Liquidity bottleneck must be due to the Corona crisis
- Absolute guarantee for loan from beneficial owner/company representative

Emergency aid package 2: Non-repayable subsidies

Has been merged with the Federal emergency aid programme. You can find out more on submitting an application [here](#). 👍

Emergency aid package 4 for culture and media: up to €500,000 (€500,000 in certain justified cases). You can find out more and submit an application [here](#)

← Applications no longer accepted from 15 May

Further measures:

- Rescue aid from €0.5m to €2.5m at 4.0% pa interest rate

## Target group:

Sectors previously ineligible and now severely affected such as retail, catering, accommodation and consumption-oriented services (e.g. clubs)

## Eligibility requirements:

- Small and medium-sized enterprises (that meet EU definition of SMEs)
- Business was founded more than 3 years previously (startup phase over)
- [Checklist for preparing for meetings](#)

## How to apply:

Application procedure via [customer portal](#) of Investitionsbank Berlin (IBB) – [Information on how to apply](#)



For companies based in **Berlin** only. The factsheet is continuously updated to include regional initiatives by other *Länder*.

## Contacts for companies:

*IBB Business Development*  
Hotline  
+49 30 2125-4747  
[wirtschaft@ibb.de](mailto:wirtschaft@ibb.de)

## [Contacts by district](#)

[Berlin partner hotline](#)  
+49 30 46302-440

**Further information:**  
[Investitionsbank Berlin](#)

*Last updated: 18 May 2020*

# 08 Land-specific aid measures: Brandenburg

## Contents and target groups:

Emergency aid programme in the form of repayable subsidies provided in bands based on the number of employees: 👍

- Up to 5 employees: up to €9,000 (federal funding)
- Up to 15 employees: up to €15,000 (federal funding)
- Up to 50 employees: up to €30,000
- Up to 100 employees: up to €60,000

Aid for companies with over 100 employees is provided by Brandenburg Business Development. For more information, click [here](#).

## Eligibility requirements:

- Companies must not already have been in difficulties prior to 11 March 2020
- Difficulties must be due to the Corona crisis

## How to apply:

- You can apply for the emergency aid programme via the ILB – for further information on how to apply, see [here](#).



For companies based in **Brandenburg** only. The factsheet is continuously updated to include regional initiatives by other *Länder*.

## Contacts for companies:

*Investitionsbank Brandenburg (ILB) – Information point:*  
+49 331 660-2211  
[beratung@ilb.de](mailto:beratung@ilb.de)

*Bürgerschaftsbank Brandenburg*  
CEO Dr Milos Stefanovic  
+49 331 649-6311  
[info@bb-br.de](mailto:info@bb-br.de)

## Further information:

[Investitionsbank Brandenburg](#)

*Last updated: 30 March 2020*

# 08 Land-specific aid measures: Bremen

## Contents:

Emergency aid programme in the form of repayable subsidies provided in bands based on the number of employees:

- Up to 5 employees: max. €9,000; up to 10 employees: max. €15,000 from federal funds See [here](#) for more information.
- 11–49 employees (max. annual turnover/annual budget €10m): up to €20,000 from *Land* funds

Liquidity support for SMEs:

- Working capital loan (Corona crisis) for financing requirements < €50,000

## Eligibility requirements:

- Economic difficulties as a result of the Corona pandemic
- Well-established business model and adequate prospects
- No negative characteristics (e.g. enforcement measures, court orders, insolvency proceedings)
- Sustainable debt service capacity

## How to apply:

- Apply for emergency aid to the BAB Task Force (see left) and [BIS](#) in Bremerhaven (Tel. +49 471 94646-640).
- Apply for working capital loan (Corona crisis) via the BAB. See [here](#) for more information and conditions.



For companies based in the **Free Hanseatic City of Bremen** only. The factsheet is continuously updated to include regional initiatives by other *Länder*.

## Contacts for companies:

*BAB Task Force*  
+49 421 9600-333  
[task-force@bab-bremen.de](mailto:task-force@bab-bremen.de)

*Bremen Tax Office*  
Tax hotline  
+49 421 361 90909  
+49 421 361 95096  
[corona@fa-hb.bremen.de](mailto:corona@fa-hb.bremen.de)

## Further information:

[BAB Task Force](#)  
[Corona Info Ticker](#)

Last updated: 6 April 2020<sub>18</sub>

# 08 Land-specific aid measures: Hamburg

## Contents:

- Interest-free tax deferrals and simplified reduction of pre-payments
  - Interest-free deferral of rent for municipality's commercial tenants - private tenants to follow
  - 👍 [Hamburg Corona Emergency Aid](#) (HCS) is provided in bands based on the number of employees, in addition to federal funds:
    - Self-employed individuals: €2,500
    - 2–5 employees: €5,000
    - 6–10 employees: €5,000
    - 11–50 employees: €25,000
    - 51–250 employees: €30,000
- Applications only accepted up to 31 May
- 🍷 [IFB Culture Development Loan](#) and [IFB Sport Development Loan](#) with loan volumes up to €150,000 (adjustments in CW 13)
  - [IFB Hamburg Startup and Succession Loans](#)
    - For entrepreneurs and small and medium-sized companies that have been active on the market for no more than 5 years
    - Projects up to €1.5m
    - Equity capital required (7.5 –15%)
  - Planned: HamburgKredit Liquidity (HKL) with loan volumes up to €250,000
  - [HCS InnoStartup](#) provides conditionally repayable grants to support innovative, growth-oriented start-ups with max. 50 employees that have already received emergency aid, in bands based on the number of employees:
    - 1–2 employees: €12,500
    - 3–5 employees: €25,000
    - 6–10 employees: €50,000
    - 11–50 employees: €100,000

## Target group:

- Aimed particularly at small and medium-sized enterprises

## How to apply:

- You can apply to the emergency aid programme [online](#). For further information on how to apply, see [here](#).



For companies based in **Hamburg** only. The factsheet is continuously updated to include regional initiatives by other *Länder*.

## Contacts for companies:

*IFBHH funding guides*  
+49 40 24846-533  
[foerderlotsen@ifbhh.de](mailto:foerderlotsen@ifbhh.de)

*HH Corona Shield*  
[schutzschirmcorona@fb.hamburg.de](mailto:schutzschirmcorona@fb.hamburg.de)

## Further information:

[IFBHH](#)  
[Hamburg City Portal](#)

*Last updated: 25 May 2020*

**Contents:**

- [Emergency Corona aid](#) for SMEs and freelancers, banded by number of employees:
  - Up to 5 employees: €10,000 (*Land* and federal funds)
  - Up to 10 employees: €20,000 (*Land* and federal funds)
  - Up to 50 employees: €30,000
- [Liquidity aid](#) for SMEs (as defined by EU):
  - Loans from €5,000 to €200,000
  - Maturity: 2 years (repayment on maturity) or 5 years (and 2 repayment-free years)
  - Interest rate applicable to full maturity is set by WIBank on day of approval
- Funding for opinions on restructuring (grant of 50% of costs of opinion up to max. €10,000)
- [Hessen-MikroCrowd](#) from €3,000 to €35,000
- [Hessen Innovation Loans](#) from €100,000 to €7.5m
- [Foundation and growth financing](#) up to max. €1 m
- *Land* guarantees from the *Land* of Hessen, maximum guarantee level raised to €2.5m (previously €1.25m) and guarantee rate of 90%; applications accepted up to 31 December 2020. For more information, click [here](#)

→ Applications only accepted up to 31 May

**Target group:**

- Small to large companies, self-employed and freelancers

**Eligibility requirements:**

- Micro-enterprises to corporates
- Some funding measures are subject to a minimum turnover requirement .
- Further details in agreements

**How to apply:**

- Emergency Corona aid: Applications can be submitted [online](#). See [here](#) for help with applying online.
- Liquidity support: Informal application via local banks



For companies based in **Hessen** only. The factsheet is continuously updated to include regional initiatives by other *Länder*.

**Contacts for companies:**

*WIBank funding advice*  
 +49 611 774-7333  
[foerderberatunghessen@wibank.de](mailto:foerderberatunghessen@wibank.de)

**Further information:**

[WIBank](#)  
[BB-H](#)

*Last updated: 25 May 2020*

# 08 Land-specific aid measures: Mecklenburg-Vorpommern

## Contents:

- [Land guarantees](#) increased by €0.4bn, security up to 90% and accelerated application procedure via PwC as *Land* appointee: Up to €25m per *Land* guarantee (max. processing time 2 weeks)
- Volume of guarantee from M-V Garantör Bank doubled for loans from local banks to up to €2.5m per case
- Guarantees for loan volumes up to €250,000 under a shortened and simplified procedure
- 👍 [Emergency aid](#) in the form of grants
  - Up to 5 employees: up to €9,000 (federal funds)
  - Up to 10 employees: up to €15,000 (federal funds)
  - Up to 24 employees: up to €25,000
  - Up to 49 employees: up to €40,000
  - Up to 100 employees: up to €60,000
- Expedited payment of [investment grants](#) that have already been approved

## Eligibility requirements:

- Self-employed, freelancers and entities as well as small and medium-sized enterprises affected by the Coronavirus

## How to apply:

- Emergency aid: Applications ([PDF](#)) must be sent by post to the [MV Land Institute for Business Promotion](#) (Landesförderinstitut MV, LFI)
- For guarantees, see the following [application forms](#).



For companies based in **Mecklenburg-Vorpommern** only. The factsheet is continuously updated to include regional initiatives by other *Länder*.

## Contacts for companies:

*Company hotline*  
+49 385 588 5588

## Further information:

[MV Land government](#)  
[MV Land Institute for Business Promotion \(LFI\)](#)

*Last updated: 6 April 2020*

# 08 Land-specific aid measures: Lower Saxony

## Contents:

-  Preparation of two new [lending programmes](#) by NBank (Investitions- und Förderbank Niedersachsen)
  - Loans of up to €50,000 for liquidity support for SMEs, **no collateral required**. For more information, click [here](#)
-  Emergency financial aid measures, banded by number of employees:
  - Up to 5 employees: €3,000 (max. €9,000 inc. federal funds)
  - Up to 10 employees: €5,000 (max. €15,000 inc. federal funds)
  - Up to 30 employees: €20,000
  - Up to 49 employees: €25,000
-  Digitalbonus.Niedersachsen for SMEs and small freelance consultancies
  - For investments in, for example, IT security, introduction or enhancement of ICT hardware and software, video conferencing technology and equipment, video conferencing systems, home office technology
  - Grants of up to 50% for small enterprises, up to 30% for medium-sized enterprises
  - Min. grant €2,500 and max. €10,000
  - Click [here](#) for more information

## Eligibility requirements:

- Loan programme:
  - Small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) and startups
  - Robust business model with adequate prospects
  - Startups must have been in existence for less than 5 years and have a robust business model.
  - There is no requirement for startups to have been in the black in previous years.
- Emergency aid: economic difficulties as a result of the Corona pandemic

## How to apply:

- Applications for emergency aid should be submitted via the NBank customer portal. For more information, click [here](#).
- Applications for liquidity loans can also be submitted via the NBank customer portal. For more information, click [here](#).



For companies based in **Lower Saxony** only. The factsheet is continuously updated to include regional initiatives by other *Länder*.

## Contacts for companies:

NBank advice line  
+49 511 30031-333  
[beratung@nbank.de](mailto:beratung@nbank.de)

## Further information:

[NBank](#)  
[NBank Information Note](#)  
[Lower Saxony](#)

Last updated: 25 May 2020

**Contents, target groups and eligibility requirements:**

- 👍 Emergency aid, banded by number of employees:
  - Up to 5 employees: €9,000 (federal funds)
  - Up to 10 employees: €15,000 (federal funds)
  - Up to 30 employees: €25,000
- Liquidity support from NRW.Bank:
  - 👍 For companies with an annual turnover of up to €500m, founders and freelancers; financing of working capital and investments; indemnity for the duration of the Corona crisis: 80% alongside existing 50% cover; additional maturity options include bullet loans with 2 and 4 year maturities as well as instalment loans with 3, 4 and 5 year maturities with the option of 1 or 2 repayment-free years; usual bank requirements on collateral
  - 👍 “Mikromezzaninfonds Deutschland share capital for small enterprises” for small enterprises, incorporations and special target groups: silent partnerships (max. €75,000) without involvement of local bank and without collateral
- 👍 Additional liquidity support in the form of equity:
  - NRW.Start-up akut, convertible loans for startups at the seed or startup phase. For more information, click [here](#).
  - NRW.SeedCap, minority investment in SMEs at the startup phase. For more information, click [here](#).
  - NRW.BANK.Venture Fonds, minority investment or convertible loans for startups in funding rounds A–D. For more information, click [here](#).
- In addition to the Federal government’s package of measures to increase the upper limits on guarantees, the NRW *Land* is offering guarantees on €2.5m; [supported by PwC](#) as *Land* appointee
- If employees are quarantined because of the Corona virus, employers can apply for compensation of employees’ or self-employed individuals’ lost earnings. For more information, click [here](#).

**How to apply:**

- Emergency aid: Applications can be submitted [online](#). See [here](#) for further information.
- Liquidity support: Application is via the respective local banks ([NRW-Bank video explaining this](#))
- Since 14 May it has been possible for companies founded after 31 December 2019 to apply via a tax consulting professional ([here](#))



For companies based in **North Rhine-Westphalia** only. The factsheet is continuously updated to include regional initiatives by other *Länder*.

**Contacts for companies:**

*NRW.Bank Service Center:*  
+49 211 91741-4800

**Further information:**

[Wirtschaft.NRW](#)  
[NRW Bank](#)

*Last updated: 25 May 2020*

# 08 Land-specific aid measures: of the Rhineland-Palatinate

## Contents, target groups and eligibility requirements:

-  **Emergency loans** as Corona aid with maturity of 6 years, **repayment-free until 31 March 2022**, banded by number of employees:
  - Up to 10 employees: €10,000
  - Up to 30 employees: €30,000 loan and a grant up to €9,000
- Liquidity support from Investitions- und Strukturbank Rheinland-Pfalz (ISB):
  - RLP business loans: for SMEs and freelancers who have been active in the market for at least 5 years; low-interest investment finance up to €2m and working capital finance up to €500,000 with flexible maturities up to 20 years and optional repayment-free years; optional 50% indemnity for investment finance of up to €250,000 for companies with at least 2 complete annual financial statements
  - RLP ERP founder loans: for entrepreneurs, SMEs in first 5 years of business, freelancers and private individuals taking over a company; low-interest investment finance up to €2m and working capital finance up to €500,000 with flexible maturities up to 20 years and optional repayment-free years; optional 50% indemnity for investment finance of up to €250,000 for companies with at least 2 complete annual financial statements
  - RLP training/further training loan: for SMEs, mid-cap businesses and freelancers providing training/further training; low-interest investment finance up to €2m and working capital finance up to €500,000; wide range of repayment options and 0.125% commission from 7th month
  - RLP working capital loan: for SMEs, mid-cap businesses and freelancers with additional working capital requirement; working capital finance at favourable interest rates up to €5m; wide range of repayment options and 0.125% commission from 7th month; maturities up to 10 years with up to one repayment-free year

## How to apply:

- Emergency loans: Apply via local bank. Further information to follow
- Liquidity support: Apply to the ISB via the respective local banks.
- Emergency aid from federal funds: Send your completed application ([PDF](#)) by email to: [CSH@ISB.RLP.DE](mailto:CSH@ISB.RLP.DE)



For companies based in **Rhineland-Palatinate** only. The factsheet is continuously updated to include regional initiatives by other *Länder*.

## Contacts for companies:

Central ISB advice hotline:  
+49 6131 6172-1333  
[beratung@isb.rlp.de](mailto:beratung@isb.rlp.de)

Further information:  
[ISB](#)

Last updated: 25 May 2020

# 08 Land-specific aid measures: Saarland

## Contents, target groups and eligibility requirements:

-  [Emergency aid measures](#) with a volume of €30m for small businesses and self-employed. These measures comprise non-repayable grants of up to €10,000 per applicant (repayment is only required if it is later established that the funding eligibility criteria are not met) (the application)
- The “Saarland Emergency Loan” aid programme is administered by the *Land* of Saarland and the Saarländische Investitionskreditbank (SIK) (from €10m)
- Saarland Emergency Loan: Up to €500,000

→ Applications are no longer accepted, refer to Federal government's emergency aid measures

## How to apply:

- Emergency measures: Applications should be submitted using the [form](#)
- Applications for the “Saarland Emergency Loan” aid programme should be submitted to the SIKB with the involvement of the respective local banks ([Information Note](#), [application documentation](#))



For companies based in the **Saarland** only. The factsheet is continuously updated to include regional initiatives by other *Länder*.

## Contacts for companies:

*IHK Saarland*  
corona@saarland.ihk.de

*SIKB*  
+49 681 3033-0  
[unternehmen@sikb.de](mailto:unternehmen@sikb.de)

## Further information:

[SIBK](#)  
[Land of Saarland](#)

Last updated: 25 May 2020

# 08 Land-specific aid measures: Saxony

## Contents:

“Saxony provides emergency assistance” (“Sachsen hilft sofort”) liquidity support 👍

- Interest-free, subordinate loan based on liquidity requirement for an initial period of 4 months from €5,000 to €50,000 (for applicants with annual turnover of up to €1m in 2019) or up to €100,000 (for applicants with annual turnover over €1m in 2019)
- For total maturity of 10 years, up to 36 months repayment-free
- On expiry of the repayment-free period an individual repayment agreement may be concluded with the Sächsische Aufbaubank at the company's request.

## Eligibility requirements:

- Liquidity support loans are provided as special programme for sole traders (self-employed individuals), micro-enterprises, **companies with up to 100 employees** and freelancers with permanent establishments in the Free State of Saxony
- Applicants must have been in good economic health on 31 December 2019 and have a predicted downturn in turnover of at least 20% for the current fiscal year due to the effects of the Corona crisis.
- Loans cannot be granted for rescheduling existing working capital finance .

## How to apply:

- Applications for support should be submitted to the competent granting body, Sächsische Aufbaubank Förderbank. The forms required have been available electronically since 23 March 2020 for access using this [application](#) on this [website](#).
- See [here](#) for all funding opportunities for companies in Saxony.
- You can find out more about emergency aid from federal funds [here](#).



For companies based in the **Free State of Saxony** only. The factsheet is continuously updated to include regional initiatives by other *Länder*.

## Contacts for companies:

*Sächsische Aufbaubank*  
Pirnaische Straße 9  
01069 Dresden

Advice hotline  
+49 351 4910-1100

**Further information:**  
[Sächsische Aufbaubank](#)

*Last updated: 25 May 2020*

# 08 Land-specific aid measures: Saxony Anhalt

## Contents:

-  [Emergency aid](#) for SMEs, banded by number of employees, in the form of a non-repayable grant:
  - Up to 5 employees inclusive: up to €9,000 (federal funds)
  - Up to 10 employees inclusive: up to €15,000 (federal funds)
  - Up to 25 employees inclusive: up to €20,000
  - Up to 50 employees inclusive: up to €25,000
- Extension of loan maturities and repayment waivers to reduce the outflow of liquidity in the company
- Reductions/waivers of ongoing income tax and corporate tax pre-payments by tax offices
- [IB "Mittelstand" loans](#)
-  [IB Foundation loans](#)
-  [Sachsen-Anhalt ZUKUNFT](#), IB liquidity safeguarding loans for small and micro-enterprises

→ Applications accepted up to  
31 May 2020

## Target group:

- Small and medium-sized enterprises with a well-established business model and adequate prospects which have, for example, an increased liquidity requirement due to temporary drop in sales due to Corona.

## Eligibility requirements:

- Small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) that were in good economic health up to 31 December 2019
- Well-established business model and adequate prospects
- No negative characteristics (e.g. enforcement measures, court orders, insolvency proceedings)
- Sustainable debt service capacity

## How to apply:

- Emergency aid: Application ([PDF](#)) can be sent to Investitionsbank Sachsen-Anhalt by email as PDF. More information is available in the [Information Note](#)
- Informal application via local banks – funded by [IB Sachsen-Anhalt](#) or [BB Sachsen-Anhalt](#)



For companies based in **Saxony-Anhalt** only. The factsheet is continuously updated to include regional initiatives by other *Länder*.

## Contacts for companies:

*IB Sachsen-Anhalt*  
+49 800 56 007 57  
[Contact form](#)

**Further information:**  
[IB Sachsen-Anhalt](#)

*Last updated: 25 May 2020*

# 08 Land-specific aid measures: Schleswig-Holstein

## Contents:

- SH financing initiative via Investitionsbank Schleswig-Holstein ([IB.SH](#)) with [MBG](#) and [BB-SH](#)
  - Up to €2m funding volume (total volume)
  - Up to €750,000 funding volume under express procedure
-  [Grants programme](#) announced - no claims submitted so far to the Federal programme
  - €2,500 for sole traders and self-employed individuals
  - €9,000 for traders and self-employed with 1 to 5 full-time employees (federal funding)
  - €15,000 for traders and self-employed with up to 10 full-time employees (federal funding)
- [“Mittelstand” Protection Fund](#) with €300m volume announced
  - 1st tranche: Individual loans of €15,000 to €50,000, max. 12 years, 2 years repayment-free, 5 years interest-free
  - 2nd Tranche: Individual loans of €50,000 to €750,000, max. 12 years, 5 years interest-free

## Target groups and eligibility requirements:

- Small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs), self-employed and traders
- Well-established business model and adequate prospects and sustainable debt service capacity
- No negative characteristics (e.g. enforcement measures, court orders, insolvency proceedings)

## How to apply:

- Financing initiative: Informal application via local banks to financing coordinators ([here](#))  
Supporting documents for express procedure:
  - Description of the financing requirement and the company's business model
  - Commercial information (year-end accounts etc.)
  - Supporting documents on company structure (e.g. organigram)
- Grants programme:
  - Up to 10 employees: [Applications](#) for federal funds can be uploaded [here](#)
  - 10-15 employees: [Applications](#) for *Land* funds can be uploaded [here](#)



For companies based in **Schleswig-Holstein** only. The factsheet is continuously updated to include regional initiatives by other *Länder*.

## Contacts for companies:

*IB.SH* funding guides  
+49 431 9905-3365  
[foerderlotse@ib-sh.de](mailto:foerderlotse@ib-sh.de)

Jürgen Wilkniß - *BB-SH*  
Financing Coordinator  
Head of Guarantees Department  
+49 431 5938-133  
[juergen.wilkniß@bb-sh.de](mailto:juergen.wilkniß@bb-sh.de)

**Further information:**  
[IB Schleswig-Holstein](#)  
[Land of Schleswig-Holstein](#)

Last updated: 27 April 2020

# 08 Land-specific aid measures: Thuringia

## Contents:

-  [Corona Emergency Aid Programme](#) is provided by Thüringer Aufbaubank in bands based on the number of employees (full-time)
  - up to 5 employees: up to €5,000 (offset against federal funds to max. €9,000)
  - 6 to 10 employees: up to €10,000 (offset against federal funds to max. €15,000)
  - 11 to 25 employees: up to €20,000
  - 26 to 50 employees: up to €30,000
- [Thüringia Consolidation Fund](#):
  - Maximum amount of loan increased to €2m (previously €1m)
  - Corona special: loans up to €50,000 can be financed by the Consolidation Fund at 0%
  - Simplified application procedure for loans up to €500,000
- Guarantees by [TAB](#): of max. 80% of loan/credit guarantee of up to €3m
- Guarantees without bank up to €250,000 with approval within 24 hours
- *Land* guarantee for loans up to €20m

## Target group:

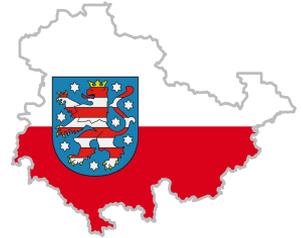
- All commercial businesses including individual companies and business-oriented professions and the creative economy which have, for example, an increased liquidity requirement due to temporary drops in turnover due to Corona.

## Eligibility requirements:

- Independent micro-enterprises to medium-sized enterprises (up to 50 employees), further measures for corporates

## How to apply:

- Applications can be submitted via the [Thüringer Aufbaubank](#) (supporting documents should be sent by post) or via the local Chamber of Commerce (IHK) or Chamber of Skilled Trades (HWK) (by post or email) from 23 March 2020.  
[Supporting documents here](#)



For companies based in **Thuringia** only. The factsheet is continuously updated to include regional initiatives by other *Länder*.

## Contacts for companies:

*Thüringer Aufbaubank*  
Gorkistraße 9  
99084 Erfurt

Hotline  
+49 800 534 5676

**Further information:**  
[Thüringer Aufbaubank](#)

*Last updated: 6 April 2020*

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We would be  
delighted to help  
you with  
implementation!



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# COVID-19 – Responding to the economic impact

Our PwC crisis teams across the global network can help you set up a robust crisis management system

SARS-CoV-2/COVID-19 is now the overriding public concern in Germany and the world. Many decision-makers and executives want to take the right action in this challenging situation and have many questions about the SARS-CoV-2 virus:

Our PwC Crisis teams across the global network are experienced in working with companies, governments, regulators, NGOs and international organisations around the world and have already helped many organisations to prepare for and respond to some of the most high profile pandemics, including Ebola, MERS, SARS, H1N1 (swine flu) and H5N1 (bird flu).

## Our core areas in crisis management include:

- Setting up interdisciplinary and international response teams
- Developing and assessing crisis and response plans
- Designing and implementing timely and targeted communications
- Identifying, collecting and managing critical data
- Get in touch if you would like to discuss the implications for your organisation.

## COVID-19 Crisis Response Team:

Claudia Nestler  
Partner – Global Crisis Center PwC Europe  
Tel: +49 175 2980 952  
[claudia.nestler@pwc.com](mailto:claudia.nestler@pwc.com)

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[benedict.gross@pwc.com](mailto:benedict.gross@pwc.com)

For detailed information on how to set up a robust crisis management system, see [pwc.de/covid19](https://pwc.de/covid19)

# Many thanks. Stay healthy! #flattenthecurve

[pwc.de/startups](https://www.pwc.de/startups)  
[pwc.de/covid19](https://www.pwc.de/covid19)

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