

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0520

March 20, 2020

Ms. Jovita Carranza
Administrator
U.S. Small Business Administration
409 3rd St SW
Washington, D.C. 20416

Dear Administrator Carranza:

I write to you urging the Small Business Administration (SBA) to immediately provide Spanish-language online resources for small business owners seeking coronavirus-related assistance through the SBA's Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) program.

Congress passed and the President signed into law *H.R. 6074, the Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act*, which provides the SBA additional funding and authority to make low-interest loans available to businesses facing economic harm from COVID-19, the novel coronavirus, through the EIDL program.

SBA acted quickly to set up a process for states to apply for COVID-19 disaster loan eligibility, and I am grateful that SBA further streamlined the process for statewide declarations.

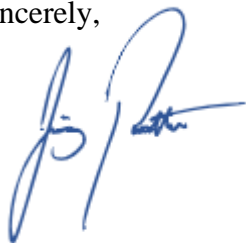
Unfortunately, SBA web pages related to COVID-19 guidance and resources, and pages to apply for COVID-19 EIDL loans, specifically, are only presented in English.

For many hardworking businessowners across a range of industries on the central coast of California who have limited English proficiency, this lack of Spanish-language resources could prevent them from receiving critical emergency assistance, forcing them to lay off workers or close permanently.

Thankfully, SBA has previously taken steps to create a Spanish-language version of most of the pages on its website. It can and should do the same now for new COVID-19 materials and the EIDL loan application process, in addition to providing Spanish-speaking SBA loan officers.

Your attention to this matter is greatly appreciated by Spanish-speaking businessowners across the Central Coast.

Sincerely,



Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress