



Beyond Energy

Support for Your Small Business

Small businesses are the backbone of Michigan's economy, and we are committed to helping you prosper – now more than ever.

Consumers Energy can provide meaningful and immediate help by:

- Working with you on your utility bill.
- Connecting you to potential sources of state and federal relief.
- Providing new business opportunities through the Pure Michigan Business Connect Program.
- Finding incentives and instant rebates on a range of clean energy programs that can help you save energy, money and the planet.

Call us at **800-805-0490** to arrange a customized payment plan for your energy bill and to learn how to find additional short-term help.

Learn more on back.

Consumers Energy

Count on Us®

Your First Step: Call Consumers Energy

Please contact us if the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has made it challenging to meet basic businesses expenses such as rent, payroll or utility bills.

Small business customers can call **800-805-0490** to arrange a customized payment plan for your energy bill and to learn how to find additional short-term resources.

Don't wait to talk with us. Helping you bridge this gap successfully is one of our top priorities because we understand small businesses are the backbone of Michigan's economy.

Here are just a few additional sources that may be available to your small businesses during the coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis.



Small Business Toolkit

We're partnering with federal, state and local organizations to help you navigate COVID-19. Resources include checklists, how to find and apply for grants and loans and more.

+ Get Help

Here are links to regional chambers of commerce, county government, economic development organizations and more that can help.

+ Local Resources



Virtual Energy Coaching

Our complimentary, personalized coaching for small businesses can help you save energy and money. Rebates, customized programs and energy assessments make a real difference to your bottom line. Coaching is offered safely and conveniently by phone.

+ Learn More



"We know it's been a struggle for many small and large businesses and we feel honored to be blessed with your assistance."

Christine and David Nelson
Crystal Lake Alpaca Farm, Frankfort

We're Better Together

Raising award-winning alpacas that bring joy to thousands is a labor of love for Chris and David Nelson. But fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic has made running their Crystal Lake Alpaca Farm in Frankfort more challenging.

With tourism down and people spending less, the demand for alpaca products has declined, leading to a 50 percent drop in sales in recent months at the farm's two boutiques. In addition, most breeder shows were canceled. Meanwhile, expenses to maintain the animals and pay employees remain constant.

The Nelsons received a much-needed grant from the Regional Resiliency Fund, administered by Venture North and supported by the Consumers Energy Foundation. A total of 70 small businesses with nine employees or less in Benzie, Grand Traverse and Leelanau counties received grant awards ranging from \$1,500 to \$5,000.

"We truly appreciate the kindness and generosity," said Chris Nelson. "It means so much to our small farm and business. You give us hope and even more determination to be successful with your grant. We know it's been a struggle for many small and large businesses, and we feel honored to be blessed with your assistance."



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+ Find Resources