

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 21, 2021

The Honorable Isabella Casillas Guzman
Administrator
U.S. Small Business Administration
409 3rd St, SW
Washington, DC 20416

Dear Administrator Guzman:

We are writing to request your attention to the difficulties we are experiencing in receiving a response from the Small Business Administration (SBA) after we submit a Congressional inquiry. Specifically, we are referring to casework inquiries related to the SBA's COVID relief programs.

Small businesses across Wisconsin depend on the SBA to access much-needed capital during these challenging economic times. The financial relief programs offered by the SBA are a lifeline to recovery. Unfortunately, we have heard from many small businesses in our districts that have not received accurate or timely information about their pending applications. After failed attempts to determine the status of their application for benefits, the businesses have turned to their Congressional representatives. As their representatives, we welcome the opportunity to provide support and help them obtain the benefits vital to the survival of their business. However, we, too, are experiencing extensive delays and little to no communication from the SBA.

In the last several months, our offices have inquired with the Madison and Milwaukee SBA District Offices and the Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs (OCLA) on behalf of our constituents. However, we have received limited information in response to these inquiries. For example, for questions on the Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) program, we are informed by the OCLA that they are checking with the "disaster folks." However, no further information or follow-up response is provided. Subsequent inquiries are sent requesting the status and most cases now remain unanswered. In addition, when inquiring with the Madison and Milwaukee SBA offices, we are informed that inquiries are forwarded to headquarters for investigation; however, no further information is provided using this method of inquiry. Even constituents who are not business owners have been harmed by SBA's lack of response: several individuals have had PPP loans fraudulently taken in their names and are unable to receive an update on their fraud claims, potentially damaging their credit.

With the above in mind, we are requesting your review of the SBA's Congressional inquiries process and request detailed guidance on the following questions:

- 1) What is the preferred method of contact for all Congressional inquiries? Please explain if contacts vary by program.

2) Should we expect to receive an acknowledgment of the inquiry? If so, what is the time frame in which we can expect to receive an acknowledgment?

3) What is the time frame we can expect to receive a final response?

We also request that the SBA OCLA host a Congressional briefing to provide further guidance and answer any questions our staff may have as it relates to casework.

Thank you for your attention to this matter as we work together to ensure that struggling businesses in Wisconsin obtain the financial means necessary to begin thriving once again.

Sincerely,



Glenn Grothman
Member of Congress



Scott Fitzgerald
Member of Congress



Bryan Steil
Member of Congress



Tom Tiffany
Member of Congress



Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



Ron Kind
Member of Congress



Mike Gallagher
Member of Congress