

CONTINUING TO ADDRESS THE IMPACT OF COVID-19

Throughout 2021, the FDIC continued to respond to economic disruptions and global financial market volatility as a result of the COVID-19 global pandemic. Following the declaration of a global pandemic by the World Health Organization in March 2020, the FDIC quickly implemented strategies to address challenges related to COVID-19 and focused on providing necessary flexibility to both banks and their customers — particularly the most heavily affected individuals and businesses — while maintaining the overall safety and soundness of the banking system. The FDIC also undertook a robust policy response to ensure that financial institutions could continue to serve the needs of households and small businesses. These efforts continued throughout 2021.

In January 2021, the FDIC, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System (FRB), Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC), National Credit Union Administration (NCUA) and the Conference of State Bank Supervisors (CSBS) hosted a webinar for bankers to discuss recent changes to the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP). As part of the webinar, officials from the Small Business Administration (SBA) and the U.S. Department of Treasury (Treasury) provided an overview of the new features of the PPP associated with the recently passed Economic Aid to Hard-Hit Small Business, Non-Profits and Venues Act.



During 2021, the FDIC developed a Return to the Office Plan (RTO) in conjunction with guidelines released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The RTO is a three-phased approach to ensure employees remain safe and healthy when returning to physical offices and facilities. FDIC employees remained in a mandatory telework status throughout 2021, with only designated, essential personnel returning to FDIC facilities on a voluntary, as-needed basis.

FDIC developed a Return to the Office Plan.

The FDIC also created an intranet website dedicated to COVID-19 to keep employees abreast of the latest developments internally and externally related to the pandemic. The site includes information on FDIC Guidelines, Prevention/Treatment, the RTO Plan, FDIC Resources, FAQs, and other resources.