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| |  | | --- | | **COMPONENT COVID 6 UPDATE**  April 9, 2020  **IMPORTANT MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION**  As we communicated to all components on March 19th, we want to confirm AIA is extending the **lapsed deadline date to April 28th.** The AIA Call Center is continuing to reach out to those still-to-be-renewed members to work with them in continuing their membership and although slightly behind where we were this time a year ago (-2.3%) , we are working to keep those members with us.  During some of these calls, members are inquiring about **dues adjustments**. Normally, we would refer the member back to the local component, however, in an effort to increase customer service, the AIA Call Center will directly send a [Dues Adjustment Form](https://higherlogicdownload.s3-external-1.amazonaws.com/AIA/2020%20Dues%20Adjustment%20Form.pdf?AWSAccessKeyId=AKIAVRDO7IEREB57R7MT&Expires=1586444400&Signature=7HFYKEyehdbs0AAUwOay%2FNK2CmM%3D) to the member when requested. When the member turns in a completed form, the Call Center will forward the dues adjustment request to the local chapter (or state chapter for single state organizations) for review and approval (AIA national matches all dues reductions agreed on by the approving chapter). The initial approval still falls to the approving component, we are simply minimizing the number of steps needed to submit a request. Components should still discuss each situation personally with the respective member.  **COMPONENT OUTREACH**  The CACE Executive Committee is starting phone outreach calls to staffed components beginning this week. They want to learn what you are doing to navigate your component through this unprecedented time and determine what information you need. We want to better understand your needs now and in the months to come. Please take a moment from your busy day to speak with your colleague.  **CARES ACT AND PAYROLL TAX DEFERRAL AND PAYCHECK PROTECTION PROGRAM LOANS**  We are receiving many inquiries from components regarding whether the payroll tax deferral is applicable to 501(c)6 organizations. According to AIA's auditors, it appears there is no penalty/interest from the IRS for using this, but it can only be used if the employer has not had debt forgiveness under section 1106 or 1109 of the CARES Act. [From the IRS website](https://rsmus.com/what-we-do/services/tax/state-and-local-tax/payroll-and-employment-tax/cares-act-provides-fica-payroll-tax-deferral.html#.Xo3TqxWHlaI.mailto):  Section 2302 of the CARES Act provides that the payment and deposit of the employer's share of the social security portion of FICA tax and the employer's share of the social security portion of RRTA tax for deposits that are due to be made during the period beginning on March 27, 2020, and ending before January 1, 2021, is not due before December 31, 2021 (for the first 50 percent of the liability), and December 31, 2022 (for the remaining 50 percent of the liability). ***Under this provision, an employer is treated as having timely made these required deposits of FICA and RRTA taxes if all such deposits are made not later than the applicable due dates.*** This deferral of payment does not apply to employers that have had indebtedness forgiven under either section 1106 or 1109 of the CARES Act.  For components with payroll administrators, [LINK HERE](https://rsmus.com/what-we-do/services/tax/state-and-local-tax/payroll-and-employment-tax/cares-act-provides-fica-payroll-tax-deferral.html#.Xo3TqxWHlaI.mailto) for more information.  The CARES Act does include a Paycheck Protection Program loans (expansion of existing SBA 7a loans) that can be forgiven, and therefore not repaid, if they use it for the "covered expenses" only. That includes keeping staff employed and at the same salary, rehiring any staff already let go by June 30, and they can use up to 25% to pay operating costs like rent. However, 501(c)3 organizations are eligible for Paycheck Protection Program Loans, but 501(c)6 organizations are not.  501(c) 6 organizations are eligible for a different loan within the bill, the Emergency Economic Injury Disaster Loans (expansion of existing SBA 7b loans), if they meet all the necessary certification. Those are strictly loans-not forgiven.  For the family paid leave provisions, it is 2/3 of salary when you are out to care for a loved one (for a limited number of weeks), but those provisions were amended in the last bill to set caps on how much certain employers were required to pay per employee, and there are some exemptions for employers under 50 employees. It is not only available to employees with children-its any immediate family member, so it could include a spouse or a parent. There is also full salary covered (for a limited number of weeks) if you yourself are sick. That is subject to the same limitations as the family leave. The attached document is a useful tool.  **COVID-19 ArchMap**  A newly created [AIA Task Force](https://www.aia.org/press-releases/6282337-architects-taking-action-to-support-covid-) has created a national COVID-19 project database of best practices from state to state - the COVID-19 ArchMap - to identify solutions for how architects can help or are helping communities adapt hospitals and related facilities to support mobilization efforts for COVID-19 treatment. Architects, designers, engineers and facility owners are asked to contribute current, in progress or completed COVID-19 projects. Please click on the link and upload a story, or simply review these ideas to see how you may help your community. Share your project [HERE](https://www.aia.org/events/6283705-covid-19-project-survey-and-database?utm_source=kc&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=kc20-c19-dynamic-1).  **ASAE EMERGENCY AID REQUEST**  In response to ASAE's request for associations to sign on to their letter to Congress and the Trump administration calling for critically needed emergency aid for associations, more than 3000 organizations (including many AIA chapters) became signatories. Our Advocacy team is in contact with ASAE and monitoring this closely. The letter is attached. ASAE prepared [sample social media](https://www.thepowerofa.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Sample-Social-Media.pdf) to use to continue to advocate for the additional aid for associations.  **CARES ACT PRESENTATION**  AIA hosted a webinar last week on the CARES Act and Congressionally approved relief measures. The slide deck from the presentation is attached and you can [CLICK HERE](https://aiau.aia.org/courses/live-course-what-architects-and-firms-need-know-about-federal-coronavirus-stimulus-plan) for the ON-DEMAND course if you were unable to attend.  **ECONOMIC FORECASTS WITH AIA CHIEF ECONOMIST KERMIT BAKER**  Components have been asking for economic information from AIA's Chief Economist Kermit Baker. He's doing weekly updates for firms ([link here](https://aiau.aia.org/courses/live-course-economic-impact-covid-19/?utm_source=real-magnet&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=aiamem20-covid-19-2-weekly-001members)), but if there is additional information you are seeking, please email [Michele Russo](mailto:michelerusso@aia.org), Managing Director, Research & Practice.  **K-12 Resources needed**  AIA national is collecting K–12 resources for a COVID-19 response page. We're looking for design-based resources and activities to keep children engaged and learning during stay-at-home orders. Upload activity plans, lesson plans, coloring pages, e-learning, and games directly to your post or email them to [k12@aia.org](mailto:k12@aia.org), along with any questions. AIA will credit all resources back to components. Thanks for your support!  **BEING A GOOD VIRTUAL NEIGHBOR**  With all the technology we have, it can be tempting to do everything via email and chat. It's certainly quick and easy. However, it's nice to reach out on the phone or video to pick up on some cues we might miss in only written communication. Take a few moments to check in with how your component colleagues are doing-really doing. It's okay to take a few minutes to talk about what's happening in people's lives before jumping into work.  **DAILY EXPOSURE TO NEWS**  Daily exposure to news these days is quite frankly overwhelming. Maintaining mental, physical and emotional health is critical. We've compiled a couple resources to help you handle the COVID-related stress. Here's [one resource](https://s3-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/uw-s3-cdn/wp-content/uploads/sites/31/2020/03/10140856/Coping-with-COVID-19-Related-Stress5.pdf), [another resource](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/managing-stress-anxiety.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fprepare%2Fmanaging-stress-anxiety.html), and a [third resource](https://www.sciencenewsforstudents.org/article/how-to-deal-as-covid-19-imposes-social-distancing) on coping with social distancing. Hang in there…we will get through this.  Remember to visit the [COVID Resources page](https://www.aia.org/pages/6280670-covid-19-resources-for-architects/?utm_source=real-magnet&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=aiamem20-covid-19-2-weekly-001members) on AIA.org to catch up on information, articles and tools to help guide our members. It's being added to frequently, so check back often.  Stay healthy everyone! | |