

To whom it may concern,

My name is Vajra Alaya, and I am an owner of a small clothing store in Portland, Oregon. I have three part-time employees and my business stocks clothing from predominantly small female-run brands, thus supporting more than 12 US-owned small businesses. We are just into our second year of business, and as it goes, we already have around \$60,000 in loans and CC debt that helped us to open and operate our business. It feels impossible for me to imagine staying in business if I had to take out further loans at the interest rates I'm currently offered. I am already paying hundreds of dollars in interest payments, and currently, my sales are at an all time low.

My recommendation is to offer small business grant options to help pay for rent while businesses are closed. In addition, refinance options with extremely low interest rates to help manage current debt and any new loans needed to survive would help immensely. It is hard as a business owner of a relatively new store to get low interest loan options, as most banks do not offer business loans prior to the completion of two years of business.

I look forward to learning more about options available.

Best,

Vajra Alaya
Owner
Monochromatic, Portland OR