



SBA Information Notice

TO: All SBA Employees and 7(a) Lenders

CONTROL NO.: 5000- 807424

SUBJECT: Expiration of SBA Express Bridge Loan Pilot Program

EFFECTIVE: March 31, 2021

The purpose of this Notice is to advise SBA employees and 7(a) Lenders that the Express Bridge Loan Pilot Program (Express Bridge Pilot) expired on March 13, 2021 and was not renewed.

On October 16, 2017, the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) published a notice in the Federal Register announcing the Express Bridge Loan Pilot Program ([82 FR 47958](#)). In that notice, SBA provided an overview of the Express Bridge Pilot and modified an Agency regulation relating to loan underwriting for loans made under the Express Bridge Pilot. On May 7, 2018, SBA published a notice in the Federal Register to revise certain program requirements ([83 FR 19921](#)). On April 1, 2020, SBA further revised the program requirements to allow Express Bridge Pilot loans made under the COVID-19 Emergency Declaration and extended the pilot program through March 13, 2021 ([85 FR 18107](#)).

In the October 16, 2017 Federal Register notice, SBA stated it will be using the following criteria to evaluate the Express Bridge Pilot: (1) The measurable objectives to be achieved through the Express Bridge Pilot, including the number of small business concerns served, the percentage of Express Bridge Pilot loans made that were paid off or paid down using lower fixed rate disaster loans versus those that are held to term, and the default rate on the Express Bridge Pilot loans compared to regular SBA Express loans of similar size in the 7(a) portfolio; and (2) the costs and standards of performance which, in order to be acceptable, must not impact the subsidy model for the 7(a) Loan Program. However, few loans were made at the onset of the pilot and no loans were made within the last 29 months. Because of the limited number of loans made, SBA was unable to conduct a meaningful program evaluation.

Therefore, SBA has determined the Express Bridge Pilot did not provide a significant benefit to small businesses and the pilot was not renewed. The elimination of the Express Bridge Loan Pilot Program should have no impact on lenders or small businesses, as the program was underutilized from the start.

Questions

Questions concerning this notice should be directed to the lender relations specialist in the local [SBA Field Office](#).

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Director
Office of Financial Assistance