



Jewish Federation OF GREATER HOUSTON

April 3 AM - Jran Email

Dear Jran Community:

Today I will go over even more new developments in the Paycheck Protection Program (constant change is fun!), Harris County's decision to release some inmates from county jails, developments from the Texas Medical Center, and a new section at the end called "In Other News..." where I'll post some uplifting stories.

Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) Open

Today is the big day...[kind of](#). The Small Business Administration opened the application for the PPP but there have been changes over night and a rocky start this morning. [Many banks are struggling](#) to get the applications online. Only Bank of America has managed to get the application up. Also, overnight, the SBA made some adjustments to PPP. Here is a quick breakdown of what changed:

- The interest rate of the PPP is no longer .5%--the **new interest rate is 1%**
- Independent contractors **do not count** as employees (they can apply for their own PPP)

[No need to worry](#) if your lender is not accepting applications today. Be sure to check in with your bank regularly for updates and have the [sample application filled out](#) so you are ready to go. If you have any questions or need technical assistance, please [email me](#).

The Jewish Federations of North America continues to update their resource page and has answers to many commonly ask questions. Be [sure to check it out](#) as you fill out your organization's application.

Harris County to Release Non-violent Inmates

On yesterday's Interfaith Ministries/Greater Houston Partnership call for faith-based organizations, Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo explained the [county's decision to release non-violent inmates](#) from jail. Here is what she wants you to know:

- COVID19 is easily spread, especially in crowded conditions
- Harris County jails are overcrowded and cannot comply with social distancing with the current inmate population
- If COVID19 spreads through the county jails, it will overwhelm our health care system
- In order to minimize inmate contact, Harris County will release certain nonviolent offenders who are awaiting trial and were unable to afford bond
 - These people are eligible for bonds under \$10,000 (about \$350 bail bond)

- Most were unable to come up with the funds, so are awaiting trial in jail
- Harris County will screen and take appropriate measures as best they can
 - Will put on ankle monitors or install breathalyzers for individuals who need them

Texas Medical Center's Innovations for COVID19

It should come as no surprise that Houston-based hospitals are at the forefront of research related to COVID19. Baylor College of Medicine is [beginning experimental treatments](#) for those currently battling the disease. In Galveston, the University of Texas Medical Branch is developing a new tool in hopes of [streamlining a vaccine](#) and their engineers are trying to develop a [ventilator using household items](#).

In Other News...

Mayor Turner wants to [read you a story](#) as part of #OperationStoryTime.

H-E-B is [going gourmet](#) while supporting local restaurants.

The Houston Museum of Natural Science has jumped on the [Zoom backdrop bandwagon](#).

Looking for past Jran emails? Accidentally delete one? Purposely delete one and wish you hadn't? You can find them all archived on the [Federation's COVID19 resource page](#).

I hope you have a restful Shabbat and if you need me, I'll be Zooming from underneath a dino.

Shabbat shalom,

Jackie

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