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Rep. Mikie Sherrill Joined by Women's Center for Entrepreneurship's Rana Shanawani Leads Coronavirus Virtual Town Hall for Small Business Impacted by COVID-19 Crisis.

*The Women's Center for Entrepreneurship is providing support to apply for Covid-19 funding for small businesses and currently offers free financial counseling*

(Chatham, NJ, - April 8 2020) Congresswoman Mikie Sherrill, joined by Women's Center for Entrepreneurship Executive Director Rana Shanawani and state officials, held a COVID-19 forum focused on small business and unemployment assistance for those impacted by the crisis.

The April 7 Town Hall centered on the \$2 trillion CARES Act stimulus package and how small business can access help. A major portion of the package designates \$350 billion in federally guaranteed loans — which generally can be forgiven — for businesses with 500 or fewer employees.

Ms. Shanawani offered assistance to small business owners—helping to navigate potential funding sources for women-owned businesses and those affected by the economic and social impacts of the virus. “As a COVID-19 information hub, [WCEC](#) can help you navigate the complicated maze of potential sources for funding during the crisis,” said Ms. Shanawani.

Rep. Sherrill reported that CARE funding has begun to filter through NJ. Several small business owners and newly unemployed individuals phoned into the virtual Town Hall voicing concern that their applications for loans or unemployment insurance were rejected or delayed. Rep. Sherrill said she would press the US Dept of Treasury and others to release the funds expeditiously.

Additional panelists at the Town Hall included Alfred Titone, New Jersey District Director, U.S. Small Business Administration; Tim Sullivan, CEO, New Jersey Economic Development Authority (NJDEA) and Rob Asaro-Angelo, Commissioner, New Jersey Department of Labor.

The Women's Center of Entrepreneurship is now offering free [COVID-19 financial consulting](#). It has substantial resources on funding and other information to help businesses manage their operations during the coronavirus crisis. Its events feature notable women in business, as well as panel discussions and gatherings to network, inspire and share ideas.

**About the Women's Center for Entrepreneurship** Corp. Founded in, 2009, the Women's Center for Entrepreneurship is a non-profit organization that works to promote entrepreneurship to women in the NY/NJ Metro area. Our mission is to provide the tools for women to successfully own, operate and grow their businesses. By being the resource for businesses of all sizes, we empower women to invest financially, intellectually and emotionally in their community. For more information or to donate, visit [www.wcecnj.org](http://www.wcecnj.org) or call (973) 507-9700