

Federal Reserve's Main Street Lending Program opens for lender registration

June 15, 2020

The Federal Reserve's Main Street Lending Program opened for lender registration this morning, the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston announced.

Lenders can find the necessary registration documents on the program site and are encouraged to begin making Main Street program loans immediately.

Eligible lenders can now register through the program's lender portal, through which lenders will provide relevant identifying information, and sign and submit required registration forms and agreements.

The Main Street Lending Program, administered by the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, intends to purchase 95% of each eligible loan that is submitted to the program, provided that the required documentation is complete and the transactions are consistent with the relevant Main Street facility's requirements. The Main Street Lending Program will also accept loans that were originated under the previously announced terms, if funded before June 10, 2020.

To participate in the program, lenders must register using the lender portal, which provides secure access and verification, and promotes the resilience of the program.

Business borrowers must apply for the program loans through a participating lender. Information for borrowers is available on the program website.

The Main Street Lending Program is designed to help credit flow to small and medium-sized businesses that were in sound financial condition prior to the COVID-19 pandemic but now face cash flow interruptions.

To assist businesses, the program offers five-year loans with floating rates, with principal payments deferred for two years and interest payments deferred for one year. To support a broad set of businesses, the loans range in size from \$250,000 to \$300 million.

Lenders will work directly with businesses to determine eligibility and loan approval.

By purchasing 95% of the loans, the Federal Reserve will share in the risk that would otherwise need to be absorbed solely by lenders, and will create additional balance sheet capacity for lenders to extend more loans.

The Main Street Lending Program will begin purchasing loan participations through the lender portal soon. When these purchases begin, all required transaction documents will be submitted through the lender portal.

Interested parties can visit www.bostonfed.org/mslp to find program information, including frequently asked questions and can subscribe for e-mail updates. Inquiries about the program can be emailed to MSLP@bos.frb.org.

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