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**HATCH FAIRHOPE TO OFFER FREE CONSULTING SERVICES TO BUSINESS IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19**

**Fairhope, Ala.** – Hatch Fairhope, a business resource hub for technology-based entrepreneurs in Baldwin County, is offering free consultation services to businesses in Fairhope and Baldwin County who have been impacted by COVID-19. Under the direction of the Baldwin Community and Economic Development Foundation, Hatch Fairhope has established processes and expertise for helping technology entrepreneurs launch and grow, and that expertise will allow Hatch Fairhope to assist a broad range of businesses who are currently in need of guidance.

At this time, Hatch Fairhope's free consultation services will advise small businesses who need guidance in determining what financial assistance is available to them while also referring businesses to SBA, SBDC, USDA and other business resources and partners. Hatch will assist businesses in learning how to help displaced employees, preparing to navigate new federal programs, and planning for business on the other side of COVID-19. These consultation services are designed to be a resource and a starting point for Baldwin County businesses who need assistance, during this difficult time, and are not sure where to turn for help.

"I'm grateful for Hatch's proactive work in providing resources for our local entrepreneurs – the backbone of our economy. I encourage anyone seeking information about financial programs currently available to reach out and take advantage of this free service, said Mayor Karin Wilson, "Deciphering through the material is overwhelming in a time when entrepreneurs are scrambling to work with creditors and other obligations including financially supporting their employees."

"We want to provide an additional resource to Baldwin County business owners, as they navigate this unprecedented economic event," said Lee Lawson, president and CEO of the Baldwin County Economic Development Alliance. "If any business owner in any industry has questions about government aid, payroll, economic outlook, or anything else, our goal is to inform them, partner with them and get them the assistance they need."

If you would like to set up a consultation session for your business, please contact Rick Miller, Hatch Fairhope's center director, at [rmiller@hatchfairhope.com](mailto:rmiller@hatchfairhope.com) or schedule an appointment directly at <https://calendly.com/rmiller-17>.