

PPP Funds Are Reaching the Self-Employed Through Financial Technology Lenders

On Thursday, Tom Quaadman, the Chamber's executive vice president for the Center for Capital Markets Competitiveness, joined a call with reporters to discuss how online lenders like Kabbage and QuickBooks are effectively getting Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) funds to the self-employed and sole proprietor small businesses.

There has been a significant increase in requests for loans to self-employed Americans in recent weeks, Quaadman said, and "tens of millions of self-employed Americans run their own businesses, and their survival is critical for a successful recovery."

Kabbage was one of the first financial technology companies to accept PPP applications and has now processed over 115,000 applications. Of those, more than 40% of applications were self-employed businesses, and more than 80% had five or fewer employees.

QuickBooks by Intuit immediately took action after realizing the broader Intuit portfolio of online financial programs, including TurboTax, put the company in a unique position to help small businesses easily apply for and manage their PPP loans. QuickBooks estimates they have been able to save about 150,000 jobs through the PPP loans they have made.

"It is important for the administration to continue to effectively get PPP loans out to the self-employed, and for the administration and Congress to ensure that we have clear rules of the road so that it can be done effectively," Quaadman said. "This is something that will be critical for us moving forward to recovery."

The House of Representatives on Thursday passed H.R. 7010, the Paycheck Protection Program Flexibility Act, which would allow small businesses more leeway on how to spend PPP loan money. The Senate is expected to take up the bill next week.

The Chamber [sent a letter](#) to lawmakers Thursday morning expressing strong support for the bill.