Many people are struggling to adapt to the changing environment as a result of coronavirus spreading in Arkansas and across the globe. Local businesses, especially in the food, hospitality and service sector, are among the hardest hit with mandatory closures and lack of customers as residents have adopted social distancing. As the community is working its way through this crisis, here are some helpful tips for small businesses leasing spaces.

**Open a Dialogue**
Tenants are encouraged to contact their landlords now and describe specific “pain points” in the short term to see how the landlord can help.

**Outline a Short-Term Plan**
Think of this crisis in two- to three-month increments. Come up with a proactive plan now for the next couple of months, then readdress once the “new normal” picture is more clear.

**Work with Financial Institutions**
Tenants should contact their bank to explore options. Many banks are offering interest-only loans for the next couple of months.

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The bottom line is that there are many levers landlords and business owners can pull during these trying times. An open dialogue with landlords and lenders will help come up with potential solutions.