



News Release

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**The biggest names in entertainment
are helping the smallest names in business**

**Verizon kicks off *Pay It Forward Live* entertainment series to support
small businesses through the COVID-19 crisis with
performance by Dave Matthews on Thursday, March 26**

Basking Ridge, NJ - Verizon today announced the launch of *Pay it Forward Live*, a weekly streaming entertainment series that will include music, gaming, comedy and more in support of small businesses affected by COVID-19. The weekly series will debut on Thursday, March 26, at 8:00 p.m. ET with a performance from Dave Matthews.

The 30-minute performances, where artists will create intimate concerts from their homes, will give viewers a way to connect during this time of social distancing and a way to support their favorite small businesses now. The concerts will stream live at 8:00 p.m. ET on Twitter [@verizon](https://twitter.com/verizon) and on [Yahoo Entertainment](https://www.yahoo.com/entertainment). Additional artists and partners will be announced at a later date.

"Small businesses are being impacted in extraordinary ways as we all fight against the spread of COVID-19," said Hans Vestberg, Chairman and CEO, Verizon. "These companies provide employment opportunities, goods, services, and gathering places that are the soul of local communities. *Pay it Forward Live* will give all Americans an opportunity to help their favorite small businesses survive this unprecedented hardship."

Understanding the toll of small businesses closing their doors to help fight the spread of the COVID-19 virus, Verizon will donate \$2.5 million to Local Initiatives Support Corporation ([LISC](https://www.lisc.org)), a national nonprofit that has invested \$20 billion to fuel economic opportunity for people and communities across America. Over the course of the series, all viewers who tune in will be encouraged to tag their favorite local businesses and make a purchase in advance for when the crisis is over and the businesses reopen. As consumers engage, Verizon will unlock an additional \$2.5 million in funds, bringing the total donation to a potential \$5 million.

LISC will use the funds to provide grants of up to \$10,000 to businesses facing immediate financial pressure because of COVID-19, especially entrepreneurs of color, women-owned businesses and other enterprises that don't have access to flexible, affordable capital in historically underserved communities. LISC will launch an online process for small businesses to submit applications for grants. Applications will be reviewed and then entered into a lottery. The grants are designed to help business owners fill urgent financial gaps - from paying rent to meeting payroll - until they can resume normal operations or other financing becomes available.

Verizon is also giving its own customers an easy way to support small businesses by leveraging their customer loyalty program, [Verizon Up](#), which will give members the ability to use their monthly reward for a Visa eGift card to use to support small businesses throughout the month of April.

The funds from *Pay it Forward Live* are in addition to Verizon's combined \$13 million donation to nonprofits directed at supporting students and healthcare first responders, including No Kid Hungry, the American Red Cross, the Center for Disaster Philanthropy (CDP) COVID-19 Response Fund, Direct Relief, and the COVID-19 Solidarity Response Fund in support of the World Health Organization (WHO)'s global response.

Verizon's support for small business also includes adding 15GB of high speed data for wireless consumer and small business customers to be automatically applied with no customer action necessary; providing first responders with priority and preemption abilities for voice and data and no data caps for consumer and small business Fios and DSL broadband internet plans.

To find out more about what Verizon is doing to help its customers, visit [verizon.com/about/news/our-response-coronavirus](https://www.verizon.com/about/news/our-response-coronavirus).

Verizon Communications Inc. (NYSE, Nasdaq: VZ) was formed on June 30, 2000 and is celebrating its 20th year as one of the world's leading providers of technology, communications, information and entertainment products and services. Headquartered in New York City and with a presence around the world, Verizon generated revenues of \$131.9 billion in 2019. The company offers voice, data and video services and solutions on its award-winning networks and platforms, delivering on customers' demand for mobility, reliable network connectivity, security and control.

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