My Intended audience are bank stakeholders and customers.

The Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) was a business relief program that was implemented during Covid-19 to assist failing businesses. The program was part of the CARES Act passed by the House and Senate which included billions in forgivable funds to small businesses. Overall, there were 4,885,388 loans totaling $521,483,817,756 approved and disbursed to struggling businesses. There were 5,461 lenders who participated in the disbursement of funds that were to be used to cover payroll costs and other crucial business expenses such as utilities, insurance, business debt and taxes. A total of $62.6 billion was disbursed for Texas for an average loan amount of $66,767 with an average company size of 8. My overall objective is to identify the program’s effectiveness for the state of Texas by analyzing total loan proceeds per business type, what proceeds were used for (payroll, insurance, utilities, mortgage etc....), average business age and current loan status.

SQL was used to collect the data; Python was used to clean and analyze data and Excel was used to visualize the data.

There were 938,531 Texas businesses who benefited from the loan. With a total of $62.6 billion being disbursed for an average loan amount of $66,767 and an average company size of 8. Overall, the program was effective and helped businesses in need. The program was initiated abruptly which led to an extensive amount of fraud because of improper preparation and lack of internal controls. Even while taking into consideration the amount of fraudulent loans that were identified, almost all PPP loans have been forgiven.

Future initiatives: Although the intended goal was accomplished, there were many areas of improvement that should be addressed. In the future there should be a plan with the proper processes and controls already in place.

* Imposing more robust loan guardrails upfront to screen borrowers more carefully;
* Improving the selection of lenders to ensure a more equitable distribution of loans;
* Conducting better loan audits to prevent waste, fraud, and abuse;
* Establishing stricter standards for loan forgiveness, particularly over $150,000;
* Increasing public loan data to enable more program transparency; and
* Including more funding to conduct needed loan oversight.
* To conduct my analysis, I will be using data collected from the following websites:

<https://www.federalpay.org/paycheck-protection-program>

<https://www.federalpay.org/paycheck-protection-program/tx#:~:text=Texas%20has%20a%20total%20of,and%20number%20of%20jobs%20reported> https://www.kaggle.com/datasets/danb91/covid-ppp-loan-data-with-fraud-examples