



Lancaster Chamber



LANCASTER COUNTY, PA  
Economic Development Company

**FOR IMMEDIATE  
RELEASE**

**CONTACT: Tony Gorick**  
**Email: [agorick@lancasterchamber.com](mailto:agorick@lancasterchamber.com)**

**Phone: 717.471.4030**

**May 14, 2020**

## **Key Economic Recovery Plan Activities Advance**

LANCASTER, Pa. – Yesterday the Board of Lancaster County Commissioners unanimously approved a memo of understanding to commit \$33.4 million in Title V CARES Act Funds to the Lancaster County Economic Recovery Plan. Spearheaded by the Economic Development Company of Lancaster County (EDC) and the Lancaster Chamber, the plan is designed to help reopen the Lancaster County economy as the community continues to navigate through the COVID-19 public health crisis.

Funds would focus on small Lancaster County businesses through a multipronged strategy of ensuring deployment of all available government and private funding; mobilizing resources to manage public health and safety; preparing businesses with the necessary protocols, procedures and personal protective equipment to reopen and operate as part of a “new business normal”; analyzing economic conditions and activities to gauge progress; and communicating this essential information to businesses as well as the consumers who patronize them.

Specifically, \$6 million would be used for the bulk procurement and mass distribution of masks, thermometers, face shields, gloves and other personal protective equipment; \$25 million for a Small Business Recovery and Sustainability Fund to provide working capital and specific public health physical retrofit needs such as physical barriers and sanitation stations; \$1.5 million for a comprehensive communications strategy to reach small businesses and consumers; and \$900,000 in administrative costs related to implementation.

“We look forward to executing on this plan as quickly as possible and getting the help where it’s most needed –our County’s small businesses,” said Lisa Riggs, President of the EDC. “We are delighted to have partnered with the County Commissioners to advance this plan forward and prepare Lancaster County businesses for a successful re-opening.”

Additionally, at this morning’s meeting, another significant initiative that is an essential component of the Economic Recovery Plan advanced regarding testing/tracing. The EDC and the Lancaster Chamber were fully supportive of a proposal from Penn Medicine/Lancaster General Health for \$25 million that was approved at this morning’s meeting believing that a testing and contract tracing infrastructure is essential for businesses to reopen safely.

“Everyone acknowledges that we must find a way to get back to work in Lancaster County as quickly and as safely as possible,” said Tom Baldrige, President & CEO of the Lancaster Chamber. “And today’s action by the Commissioners on these two critical proposals provides a clear path to do just that.”

More than 97 percent of Lancaster County businesses are small, under 100 employees, or micro, under 10 employees. They are a foundation of this community that has created a history of economic stability. It also means that in this public health crisis the vast majority of the county’s business need the resources, tools and support to help them adapt to the changes dictated by this global pandemic.

Lancaster County Commissioners, the EDC and the Lancaster Chamber will continue to partner on the details of the plan.