



Lancaster Chamber



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## **Small Business Recovery & Sustainability Fund Phase 1 Closes**

Grant Awards Expected at July 1 Board of Commissioners Meeting

June 22, 2020 - The application period for the first round of small business grant funding made available through the Lancaster County Economic Recovery Plan closed on Friday, June 19. A total of \$10 million is available in this round, which targeted Lancaster County businesses with 20 or fewer employees.

By the Friday evening deadline, 1,167 applications requesting \$27,389,359 in total grant funds were received. These applications were automatically scored through a process utilizing seven weighted criteria that were approved by the Lancaster County Board of Commissioners in late May and are included in the Frequently Asked Questions material on [www.recoverylancaster.com](http://www.recoverylancaster.com). Applications are now being reviewed to ensure the accuracy of submissions, and to confirm the outcome of the automated scoring process. The Lancaster County Board of Commissioners will make the final approval of grant awards, which is expected to

occur at its Wednesday, July 1, Commissioners Meeting. Between June 26 and June 29, all grant applicants will be notified by email as to whether they are recommended for Phase One funding in advance of the Commissioners meeting.

“We fully expected demand for this first round to be strong based on what we’ve heard from small businesses impacted by business shutdowns and the economic downturn caused by COVID-19,” stated Lyle Hosler, Vice President for the Economic Development Company of Lancaster County. “What this round confirms is how broad and deep the need is in our county’s small business community.”

The average grant applicant requested \$23,470, with far more funding needed for working capital than for public health retrofits. Applications were received from all 60 of Lancaster County’s municipalities and represent a broad range of industry, from retail, personal services and restaurants to health care, construction and manufacturing. “One of our goals with this program was to make sure that small businesses across Lancaster County are aware of resources to help them,” added Heather Valudes, Community Impact Director for the Lancaster Chamber. “A silver lining is that many businesses across our community are now connected to the recovery effort. Even though we cannot fund everyone in this round, there may be other resources that can assist those not receiving funding.”

The Small Business Recovery & Sustainability Fund is a component of the Lancaster County Economic Recovery Plan, an initiative led by the Lancaster Chamber and the Economic Development Company of Lancaster County. The Lancaster County Board of Commissioners committed \$33.4 million in federal CARES Act funding to support the Plan. For more information, visit [www.recoverylanaster.com](http://www.recoverylanaster.com).