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YORK COUNTY & THE CITIES OF WILLIAMSBURG & POQUOSON LAUNCH NEW COVID-19 RECOVERY GRANTS FOR BUSINESSES

Businesses could qualify for up to \$5K in grant funds for pandemic-related expenses

(YORKTOWN, VA, July 21, 2020) – York County, in partnership with the cities of Williamsburg and Poquoson, is debuting a new grant to reimburse small businesses for coronavirus-related expenses. The COVID-19 Small Business Grant offers up to \$5,000 for businesses in the three participating localities with 20 or fewer full-time-equivalent employees.

COVID-19 Small Business Grant

The COVID-19 Small Business Grant is designed to help businesses cover expenses directly related to reopening, per the state’s guidelines for their specific industry. Examples include:

- Purchase of protective supplies, tools, equipment, or inventory
- Cleaning services or supplies
- Property improvements or renovations of a commercial location to accommodate social distancing and/or outdoor dining, recreation, etc.
- Software/Hardware expenses to accommodate delivery, online payments, online reservations, etc.
- Signage, advertising, marketing expenses, etc. to promote that your business is open/operating under modified conditions, to promote proper distancing/sanitization, etc.
- Rent or mortgage expenses during times of closure or modified operations.

To fund this program, York County partnered with Williamsburg and Poquoson to apply for a Community Development Block Grant through the Virginia Department of Housing & Community Development—improving their chances of approval by working as a region. York’s department of Community Services led the effort to apply for the funds and will administer the program, which was awarded a total of \$1.23 Million, with support from the economic development staff of the partnering localities.

“We’re all one team working together to help the citizens,” said Abbitt Woodall, manager of York County’s Division of Housing and Neighborhood Revitalization. “If the greatest need for the County right now is economic development, then my department is going to focus on that. We have a key role in helping navigate these unprecedented times and supporting the businesses to reopen, but in a way that keeps their patrons safe. I think that we’re going to be as creative and flexible as we can with grant applications, as long as we can tie it to some kind of safety measure or structure.”

Applications for the COVID-19 Small Business Grant will be available online at the following websites beginning Wednesday, July 22.

York County businesses apply at www.yesyorkcounty.com/330/CSBG

Poquoson businesses apply at <https://www.ci.poquoson.va.us/376/Small-Business-Grants-for-COVID-19-Assis>

Williamsburg businesses apply at [//yeswilliamsburg.com/cdbggrant](http://yeswilliamsburg.com/cdbggrant)



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