

York County businesses have a chance to receive up to \$5K in coronavirus relief

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July 25, 2020



For-profit businesses within York County can apply for the COVID-19 Small Business Relief Grant. (WYDaily/Courtesy York County)

Thanks to the COVID-19 Small Business Grant, for-profit, small businesses in the York County area have the opportunity to apply for grants that offer up to \$5,000.

“There are a lot of businesses over the years that have been here for a very long time, and they have given back to the community over and over again,” said Melissa Davidson, assistant director for York County’s Office of Economic Development. “That’s what local businesses do. This is a time where they need the help.”

The funding comes from the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development under the Community Department Block Grant program to help small businesses impacted by Gov. Ralph Northam’s Executive Order 53 related to COVID-19.

The funds must be used to reimburse expenses incurred after state reopenings, officials said.

Approvable expenses are those that are directly related to the recovery of the applicant's business, including reopening.

All items or services must have been bought/paid for after March 13 and before Jun. 22, 2021.

Approvable expenses include the purchase of personal protective equipment and cleaning services, property improvements or renovations to accommodate social distancing, and payments for rent or mortgage during times of required business closure or modification, officials said.

There are several guidelines that make businesses eligible for funding. They must currently employ no more than 20 full time equivalent employees. Only active businesses located and licensed in York County prior to March 1, 2020 may apply. The business also must be open in some capacity as of the application date.

Home-based businesses are also eligible but must clearly show that the expenses are business related, officials said.

Grants are available on a first-come, first-served basis based on competition of the application progress and supporting documentation that illustrates how the funding will aid business recovery.

Multiple applications may be submitted until a business reaches their maximum \$5,000 grant amount.

Businesses can submit applications, attachments, and receipts via email to econdev@yorkcounty.gov or via mail to York County Economic Development, P.O. Box 612, Yorktown, VA 23690.

Businesses will then receive an approval or denial notification from York County Economic Development. If approved, businesses will receive a grant funding check by mail. Only one check will be issued per application, according to York County Economic Development.

All reimbursement requests for approved funds must be submitted by June 1, 2021.