



For Immediate Release

Date: September 29, 2020

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Pittsylvania County receives \$330,000 grant for rental/mortgage assistance and retooling of local businesses

To help local businesses that have been adversely impacted by COVID-19, Pittsylvania County is administering a small business recovery program through a \$330,000 grant from the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development.

"Since many businesses in Pittsylvania County have experienced negative consequences from COVID-19, we are thrilled to be able to offer this program to help keep them running," said Susan McCulloch, project manager for Pittsylvania County Economic Development who is leading the program.

The Pittsylvania County Board of Supervisors approved a resolution on Tuesday night, a requirement for the grant contract to be formalized.

"This grant is meant to help the business that have been really affected by COVID-19: the restaurants, the retail establishments, the health and beauty businesses," McCulloch said.

Grants will be a maximum of \$15,000, with up to \$10,000 toward rental/mortgage assistance and up to \$5,000 for retooling and the purchase of personal protection equipment. The funds will allow as many as 20 county businesses to pay bills, become more efficient, reopen safely, retain existing staff, or fill vacancies. Pittsylvania County businesses, including those that are in the Towns of Chatham, Gretna, and Hurt, that apply can request funding to cover past expenses during the pandemic or to cover future costs.

Pittsylvania County will utilize \$30,000 of the \$330,000 grant to administer the program. Several other Virginia localities, including the Town of South Boston and Halifax County, are also receiving small business assistance grants through the same program.

"While our larger, manufacturing facilities have been able to remain operational and weather the economic impacts of COVID-19, many of our small, family-owned businesses have been hurt by the

economic fallout from the pandemic," said Pittsylvania County Economic Development Director Matt Rowe. "This program is a small way to keep these businesses running through this difficult time."

The application process for the grants is being developed as Pittsylvania County finalizes the terms with the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development and develops a matrix for scoring applications as they come in. More details about the application process will be announced in the coming weeks.

"Programs like this help keep our local economy moving, our businesses thriving, and our citizens taken care of during these unprecedented times," said Pittsylvania County Administrator David Smitherman. "We are grateful for the assistance of the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development that will help our local businesses and nonprofits stay afloat."