

Bergen County CARES provides Direct Reimbursement to Small Business Grants up to \$10,000 for eligible local businesses

Bergen County will launch a grant program to provide relief for small businesses financially impacted by the government ordered shutdown. “Non-essential” businesses that were forced to close as a measure to stop the spread of COVID-19 can receive up to \$10,000 in financial relief to cover rent, property mortgage, and utilities expenses.

“The COVID-19 pandemic has had a serious financial impact on business communities across the country. It is important that we use available resources to support the small, mom and pop shops, who were forced to close their doors. These local businesses are the backbone of Main Street, Bergen County and it is important to support our fellow neighbors as we begin to reopen”, said Bergen County Executive Jim Tedesco.

To qualify for the Bergen County CARES Small Business Grant program, scheduled to receive applications mid-July, businesses must fall under the following criteria:

- Businesses with a physical location in Bergen County, NJ. Home-based businesses are eligible.
- Businesses deemed “non-essential” within the classification of “Businesses Required to Close” as per the Governor’s Executive Order No. 104, dated March 16, 2020
- Businesses with 1 - 19 full-time employees
- Sole-proprietorships; LLCs; LLPs; Corporations; and S-Corporations are eligible.
- Businesses owned by county employees and elected officials, as well as their immediate families, are not eligible
- Businesses must have been open and operating on March 1, 2020

Priority will first be given to businesses who have not received any Federal grant assistance, New Jersey Economic Development Authority grants or US Small Business Administration grant or other grant assistance.

The Bergen County CARES Small Business Grant Programs are funded through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act Federal relief fund. The County of Bergen intends to begin accepting applications for both programs by the end of the month. A subsequent announcement will be made regarding the small business grant application process. Questions about the County’s grant programs can be sent to BergenCountyCares@co.bergen.nj.us.