**Lehigh County Funding/Grant Opportunities**

**Quality of Life Grant Program**

The County of Lehigh is currently requesting applications for its Quality of Life Grant Program. Funding for this grant may be requested for specific, cultural, civic or recreational programs, new projects, events, for capital projects or organizational support. Cultural, civic or recreational organizations based in Lehigh County are eligible to apply. For cultural organizations not based in Lehigh County which serve the Lehigh Valley and which receive a minimum of one-to-one matching support dollars from the organization’s home county government may also apply.

Please refer to our website for detailed information: [http://www.lehighcounty.org/Departments/Community-Economic-Development/Grant-Programs](http://www.lehighcounty.org/Departments/Community-Economic-Development/Grant-Programs)

**Tourism Development Grant**

The County of Lehigh is currently requesting applications for its 2021 Tourism Development Grant Program. The main goals of this grant are to assist organizations which are promoting tourism on a regional level and which encourage visitors to plan overnight stays in our local hotels. Regional tourism venues which are a non-profit 501(c)3 organization, political subdivision, or a municipal authority are eligible to apply. Tourism Development Grants may be awarded for projects occurring in Lehigh County that encourage substantially large events or improve facilities, are regional in nature, and have the potential to draw a significant amount of people. Capital projects (but not general maintenance) which will promote tourism, events, or conventions are also acceptable.

Please refer to our website for detailed information: [http://www.lehighcounty.org/Departments/Community-Economic-Development/Grant-Programs](http://www.lehighcounty.org/Departments/Community-Economic-Development/Grant-Programs)

**Federal Resources**

1) **Families First Coronavirus Response (FFCRA) Act:** Emergency relief package providing funding and other changes to law to assist the Nation responding to COVID-19. Key elements of the $100 billion, bi-partisan bill are: paid emergency leave to workers, provisions for free coronavirus testing and bolstered unemployment benefits.
2) Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act:

Congress has approved $350 billion in emergency loans for small businesses to help keep their workers employed. In fact, if small businesses maintain or later restore their payrolls, they may not have to repay some — or possibly any — of the loan.

Here are resources from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA):

- **Paycheck Protection Program**
  Provides loans to small businesses to help them continue to pay employees and cover other business expenses during the COVID-19 crisis. All loans have a 1% fixed interest rate, require no collateral or guarantor (meaning owners don’t need to put anything down to back the loan) and will be due in two years with no prepayment penalties or fees. Loan payments will also be deferred for six months; during that time, interest will accrue. Qualified entities include small businesses and nonprofits with 500 or fewer employees.
  - [Click here](#) to view the Paycheck Protection Program Q&A for employers
  - [Click here](#) for the list of SBA-Approved Chamber Members participating in Paycheck Protection Program

3) **Economic Injury Disaster Loans/Emergency Economic Injury Grants**

Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL) are low-interest loans of up to $2 million to be used toward expenses that could have been met had the disaster not occurred, such as payroll and other operating expenses. Eligible businesses must have 500 or fewer employees. The grants provide an emergency advance of up to $10,000 to small businesses and private nonprofits harmed by COVID-19 within three days of applying for an EIDL. The advance does not need to be repaid and may be used to keep employees on payroll, pay for sick leave, meet increased production costs due to supply chain disruptions, or pay business obligations, including debts, rent and mortgage payments.

4) **SBA Express Bridge Loan Pilot Program**: Enables small businesses that currently have a business relationship with an SBA Express Lender to access up to $25,000 quickly. The funding may be used as a term loan or to bridge the gap while applying for a direct Economic Injury Disaster Loan.
5) **SBA Debt Relief**: Provides a financial reprieve to small businesses by automatically paying the principal, interest and fees of some current loans and microloans

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**More Federal Funding Resources**

- [Small Business Guide and Checklist on Coronavirus Emergency Loans](#)