

---Charlotte County Launches Small Business Grant Program for COVID-19 Relief---

The COVID-19 pandemic and associated economic downturn have had an unprecedented effect on small businesses around the country, including the business community in Charlotte County. The temporary business closures caused by the pandemic, as well as the added expenses required to keep customers and employees safe, presents a unique challenge for all businesses.

To help meet this need and assist small businesses in their operation throughout the pandemic and related economic downturn, the Charlotte County Board of Supervisors approved the Charlotte County CARES Business Recovery Grant Program, funded by the federal CARES Act. This micro-grant program will assist Charlotte County small businesses by providing needed cash for working capital to support rent, mortgage payments, utility expenses, or other similar expenses that occur in the ordinary course of business.

The Charlotte County CARES Business Recovery Grant Program is a fund to offer financial assistance to businesses whose operations were either closed or restricted by the Commonwealth of Virginia in response to the novel coronavirus. The program is administered by the Charlotte County Administrator's Office through an allocation of the County of Charlotte Coronavirus Relief Funds provided through the federal CARES Act. Current funding for the program is \$150,000.

Applicants will be required to demonstrate and certify that they are eligible, that they were operational as of March 1, 2020, and that they are suffering negative business impacts from COVID-19. Information on the program and an application can be found on the Charlotte County website at charlotteva.com. Applications will be reviewed and awarded on a first come, first serve basis until the approved program funding is depleted. Small businesses are encouraged to apply and must review the eligibility requirements prior to applying.