

Disbursement of Small Business Assistance Grants

By Becky Bartlett

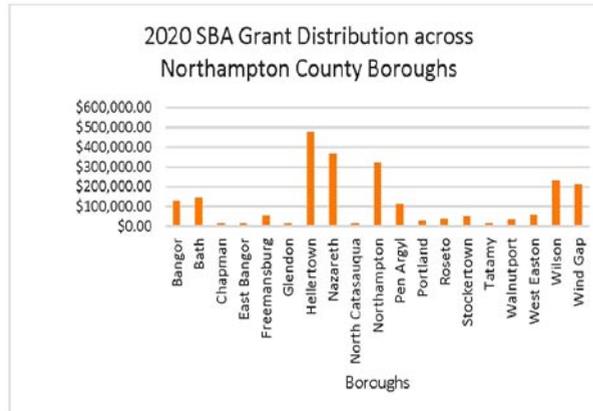
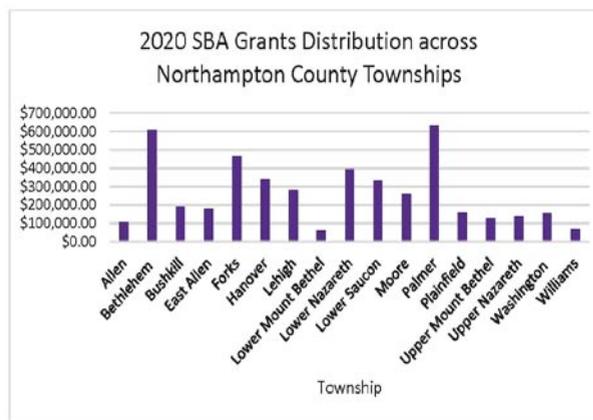
EASTON - At the Council of Governments meeting on Wednesday, March 24th, Lamont McClure detailed the disbursement of over \$10 million in Small Business Assistance grants to 767 small businesses in Northampton County in 2020. The funding came from the CARES Act. Recipients of the grants included florists, gyms, retail stores, restaurants, hair salons and dentists across cities, townships and boroughs.

To qualify for a SBA grant, a business must have been located in Northampton County with fewer than 100 employees. The funds could be used for rent, payroll and other operating expenses. The maximum grant amount was \$15,000 per business.

SBA grant allocation among the municipalities

Cities	\$3,151,664.00
Townships	\$4,515,503.00
Boroughs	\$2,341,383.00
Total	\$10,008,550.00

"Small businesses are the lifeblood of our local economy, providing jobs and needed services for our residents," says Lamont McClure. "They are an important resource for our quality of life. I encourage everyone to support small businesses by shopping local."



Scavello Introduces Legislation to Enable Community Solar Projects

By Christine Zubeck

HARRISBURG— Senator Mario Scavello (R-40) today announced the introduction of legislation to enable community solar projects in Pennsylvania.

Community solar allows neighbors, businesses, farms, and other community members to directly participate in and receive the benefits from a solar project connected to their local electric distribution company's grid. Participants can subscribe to a portion of an offsite solar project and receive credit on their electricity bill for the power produced, just as if the panels were on their roof.

Senate Bill 472 extends to all Pennsylvania residents and businesses the ability to acquire solar energy from a specific community solar project, regardless if they are renters or if their property is too shady for onsite solar panels. The program is voluntary – there is no mandate for participation or request for state funding.

"We get many calls in my office on a daily basis from people who see the benefit and want community solar in Pennsylvania. Farmers, renters, homeowners, business owners from all corners of Pennsylvania have reached out to my office," said Scavello. "Community solar is another option for consumers and will also provide a positive economic impact statewide."

In addition to diversifying Pennsylvania's energy portfolio, Scavello said community solar projects will provide an economic boost for families and farmers.

"Community solar will provide \$2 billion in economic benefits that we cannot ignore," Scavello said. "The construction of new community solar projects would create jobs for families who are in need, especially in rural Pennsylvania, where so many people are grappling with unemployment in the wake of COVID-19. And farmers could generate thousands of dollars in income by leasing small portions of their land to these projects."

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