

# GIANT

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areas of the food supply chain including: dairy farms; beef, pork and poultry farms; processors; orchards; produce farms; apiaries; maple syrup producers; artisan cheesemakers; craft breweries, winemakers and cider producers; specialty yogurt, snack, sauce and condiment manufacturers; a coffee roastery and confectioner.

"Our team was honored to work together with GIANT to truly make a difference for small businesses in the commonwealth as they answer the call to feed fellow Pennsylvanians," said Ryan Unger, president and CEO, Team Pennsylvania. "Reading through the applications it is crystal clear that we all need to find ways to support these critical cogs in our agricultural supply chain. Their experiences will inform us as we work with our economic development and public sector partners to reopen and recover."

In addition, with grants ranging from \$2,500 up to \$15,000, 55% of grants awarded are going to PA Preferred® companies and special designations (LGBT-owned, veteran-owned, women-owned, minority-owned, USDA defined beginner rancher/farmer, USDA defined socially disadvantaged and limited resource farmer) account for more than half of the grants awarded.

"We have been in business since 1887 and we are a 5th generation family run business. We've been through the Great Depression, floods and fire but this is by far the worst in modern memory because not only does it affect us but it affects ALL of our customers - no one is left out," said Karen Thompson, Clair D. Thompson's and Son's Inc. in Jersey Shore, Pa. and one of the grant recipients. "It has been very stressful, and this grant has helped to alleviate some of that pressure. We are extremely grateful and appreciate The GIANT Company for this grant that we shall use to continue our employees' insurance benefits during the time they are forced off work, to help with expenses to continue additional sanitation and to upgrade our facility to meet this new market demand for individual packaging."



## Pursuing a dream and a diploma?

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## Ready to learn more?

To learn more and register, visit [www.cpdf.org/apps/form/requestinformation](http://www.cpdf.org/apps/form/requestinformation) to secure your place at our open house. We'll send you the log-in information.

We'll be using Zoom to host this meeting. You will need access to a computer so that you can see and hear us. A microphone or headset is important. A webcam is optional (but nice to have). You may want to test your settings a few minutes prior to joining us.

Join us for a live, virtual information session on April 29th.

We'll host sessions at 12:00 PM and 6:00 PM. Choose the one that fits your schedule.

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## Ken Field

Owner of Slate Belt Energy Services

### Exclusively in the Blue Valley Times

#### Don't Shoot the Messenger

It seems that people have a short fuse lately. There isn't any need to question the reasons for it because they are too numerous to list but directing the anger at friends, neighbors, contractors is not warranted. I think I have been more compassionate to most during this upsetting time. Businesses are closed and some will never open again. Other businesses are treading water and may not recover even in the long run. My business is affected slightly less than most but I still have to enter people's homes on a daily basis and some people are holding out for the green light from government before they allow anyone in their homes.

Heating and air conditioning equipment doesn't care whether there is a stay at home order, if it is worn out, it may just quit. It may not be a good time to have to pay for repairs or a replacement system but some financing companies have reduced the interest rate to help in cases like that. No matter what goes wrong, there is always a way forward and shooting the messenger doesn't change the message. I've been married for a long time so getting yelled at is not a new thing for me. As a service provider, I'm really just an innocent party and have to deliver the news no matter what it is. A failed air conditioner isn't the worst thing that could possibly happen. It is not a welcome event either but since winter has returned for a couple weeks, it should buy some time to make a plan to move ahead. Some of the options are to use a less efficient model for replacement to keep the cost lower. That may mean that you won't be eligible for a rebate from the utility but those aren't very large anyway. Repairing an old unit may also be an option even though there is no telling how long the rest of the system will last. It depends on what parts are available and what they cost. What may not seem like a good value may still need to be the way forward. It may buy another year or two and the world may be back to normal by then. Going through summer without air conditioning seems like an option not to consider unless you want to relive the 1960s.

The bottom line is be nice to everyone you have to deal with these days because nobody is loving this turmoil. A stimulus check doesn't go very far and most of us know that we will pay for it later somehow.

**Ken Field is the owner of Field's Service, Inc. and Slate Belt Energy Services. He has over 40 years of experience in heating, air conditioning and is certificated by RESNET and BPI in various areas of energy conservation. He can be reached at 610-599-8832 or at [www.SlateBeltEnergy.com](http://www.SlateBeltEnergy.com)**

## MC<sup>2</sup> is hiring.

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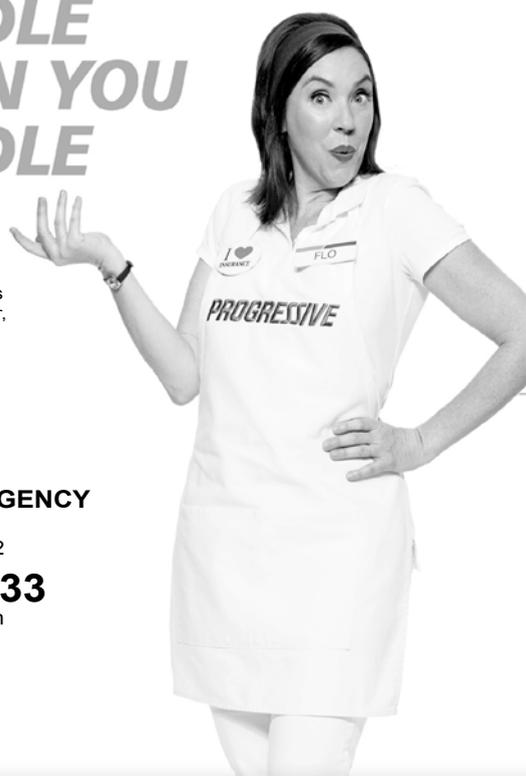
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NORTHAMPTON COUNTY  
PENNSYLVANIA



## Applications for Northampton County EMS Grants opens on May 18th

By Becky Bartlett

EASTON - Lamont McClure and the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) announce that the County of Northampton will begin accepting applications on May 18th for the 2020 Emergency Medical Services (EMS) grants. EMS grants are available to Northampton County volunteer fire departments non-profit emergency medical service organizations and can be used for capital improvements, vehicle purchase, equipment purchase and training. Eligible organizations can apply for \$10,000 per application or project.

The application process opens on Monday, May 18th, and closes on Friday, June 26th. Approvals are scheduled to be announced in August 2020.

Details and applications can be found on the Department of Community and Economic Development's (DCED) webpage: <https://www.northamptoncounty.org/CMTYECDV/Pages/Apply-for-Funding.aspx>

The funding for EMS grants comes from the Northampton County's share of the revenue from table games under the Pennsylvania Race Horse Development and Gaming Act, 4 Pa.C.S.A. §§ 1102, et seq. Grants are awarded via a competitive process through a committee consisting of the DCED staff.

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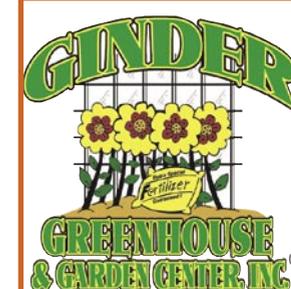
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