



NORTHAMPTON COUNTY
PENNSYLVANIA



County Council Unanimously Approves McClure's Plan to Aid Small Businesses and Embattled Municipalities

By Becky Bartlett

EASTON - Northampton County Council unanimously approved Resolution No. 51-2020 at their June 18, 2020 meeting. The Resolution will allow the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) to apply for and accept \$27.6 million in funds through the COVID-19 County Relief Block Grant Program.

"Our desperate small businesses, their furloughed employees and our embattled municipalities can rest assured that I will continue to push hard to get the relief to them ASAP," says Lamont McClure.

Under the provision of the CARES Act, funds from the County Relief Block Grant program may be used to support businesses with fewer than one hundred employees, to support businesses and other entities engaged in the tourism industry, to fund Behavioral Health & Substance use disorder treatment services and to help boroughs and townships with response and planning efforts related to COVID-19.

The Northampton County Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) has put together a guideline for the distribution of \$27.6 million of CARES funds.

\$10 Million Small Business

- Small business loan program
- Small business grants program
- Fund for Small Business Marketing
- Technical assistance and micro grant program
- Entrepreneurship/early state company protection program

\$10 Million Municipal and Community Assistance

- Assistance to the County's Municipalities for response and planning efforts
- Purchase of PPE in response to the pandemic
- Assistance for Bi-County Ventures

\$4.6 Million Non-profit Assistance Programs

- Food Security
- Housing Tourism related NPO's

\$3 Million Human Services

Northampton County's Drug and Alcohol and Mental Health divisions will utilize this funding to ensure:

- Our existing consumers can continue to receive treatment services, including inpatient and outpatient Drug and Alcohol and Mental Health Counseling
- New consumers can access Drug and Alcohol and Mental Health services amidst and beyond the COVID-19 pandemic
- Adequate funding for transitional housing services
- Providers have access to appropriate technology to continue and enhance telehealth services
- An adequate supply of personal protective equipment for county and provider staff
- Extended shelter stays for individuals experiencing homelessness

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Pen Argyl Parade for 2020 Seniors

By Michael Ortoski

PEN ARGYL - Pen Argyl drove a parade around the streets of Pen Argyl last week celebrating their 2020 seniors. People with a senior were encouraged to decorate their house and have their senior and family out in front of their house.

There were lots of them, it was a perfect weather day for it. I saw many of the Seniors dressed in the gowns and hats through out the hill district.

When the Fire trucks, Ambulances, school busses and cars came to each house the sirens and horns went off and the families cheered. Considering everything that has gone on this year this was a moment of joy for everyone!



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