

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**ESSEX COUNTY EXECUTIVE DIVINCENZO ANNOUNCES
\$10 MILLION GRANT PROGRAM TO HELP ESSEX COUNTY SMALL BUSINESSES
AND NON-PROFIT AGENCIES IMPACTED BY CORONAVIRUS**
Applications are Available at cv.business.nj.gov

Essex County, NJ – Essex County Executive Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr. announced that Essex County is allocating \$10 million for a grant program to help small businesses and non-profit agencies in Essex County that have been negatively impacted by the Coronavirus. Essex County businesses and non-profit agencies with fewer than 25 employees would be able to apply for grants of up to \$10,000. Essex County is partnering with the New Jersey Economic Development Authority (NJEDA) to administer the program. Information and a sample application available in English, Spanish, and 10 other common languages can be found at cv.business.nj.gov. Applications are now being accepted.

“Small businesses form the backbone of our local economy and non-profit organizations provide a vital safety net of social services for our residents. Both have been heavily impacted by the Coronavirus and both need our help to be able to economically survive,” DiVincenzo said. “Through our partnership with the NJEDA, we are making grants available to help small businesses and non-profits weather this unprecedented storm. The first phase of grants awarded by the State were a tremendous boost for businesses. There is still a grave need and the additional funds being provided by Essex and the state will help reach a greater number of businesses and non-profits,” he added.

The \$10 million from Essex County will be awarded to Essex County-based businesses and nonprofits through Phase 2 of the NJEDA’s Small Business Emergency Assistance Grant Program. This statewide Grant Program will use \$50 million the NJEDA received from the federal Coronavirus Relief Fund to support small businesses and non-profits. The NJEDA will use \$5 million of federal funding to fund waitlisted applications from Phase 1 of the Grant Program, with the remaining \$45 million allocated to Phase 2 applicants on a first come, first serve basis. [The](https://forms.business.nj.gov/grant-2/) application is available at <https://forms.business.nj.gov/grant-2/>.

“Partnering with Essex County will expand our reach as we advance this next round of support for business owners and their employees during this unprecedented time,” said NJEDA CEO Tim Sullivan. “The COVID-19 outbreak has brought many underlying inequities to light, and the NJEDA is dedicated to awarding grant funding in a manner

that bears out Governor Phil Murphy's vision for a stronger and fairer state economy," he said.

The NJEDA launched the first round of the Small Business Emergency Assistance Grant Program on April 3 with \$5 million in NJEDA funds. This phase provided grants up to \$5,000 to a precisely targeted subset of businesses that had been hit particularly hard by the Coronavirus outbreak. Phase 2 of the program will provide grants up to \$10,000 to a significantly expanded variety of businesses and nonprofits with up to 25 full-time employees, including: sole proprietorships and home-based businesses, which were excluded from Phase 1. To ensure equitable access for businesses in economically disadvantaged communities, \$15 million of Phase 2 funding will be reserved for businesses in census tracts that were eligible to be designated as Opportunity Zones.

Grants can be used to help businesses and non-profits replace revenues interrupted by the Coronavirus. Grants cannot be used for capital expenses, including construction. There are no application fees charged to businesses and non-profits.

Essex County is utilizing money from the Federal CARES Act to fund the small business and non-profit agency grants.