



Press Release

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ECIDA Board approves COVID-19 Disaster Relief Grant Program

Erie County Businesses may qualify for \$10,000 to cover PPE, social distance compliance fixture costs

Buffalo, NY— **The Erie County Industrial Development Agency (“ECIDA”)** Board of Directors approved a COVID-19 Disaster Relief Grant program Wednesday that will help Erie County businesses cover PPE costs. Businesses may apply for reimbursement of documented PPE expenses dating back to early March, or future PPE expenses, including modifications necessary for social distancing. The program will begin taking applications in August.

“My administration created the Erie County Business Task Force in June to encourage development of programs like this for employers in Erie County. The grants offered through the ECIDA will help lower the cost burden for businesses purchasing PPE supplies or making minor modifications to comply with social distancing regulations,” **said Erie County Executive and ECIDA Board member Mark C. Poloncarz.**

New York State has temporarily amended the general municipal law to allow Industrial Development Agencies to provide grants to eligible small businesses and not-for-profit corporations for the purpose of acquiring personal protective equipment or installing fixtures necessary to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

ECIDA President & CEO John Cappellino says the state law amendment allowed the ECIDA to carve out \$500,000 from the Agency’s general fund to create the Emergency Grant program.

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“As a member of the Erie County Business Task Force, I have participated in many discussions regarding the great need for businesses to be able to cover these unexpected PPE-related expenses. After New York State amended the municipal law and we were able to release the funds, we determined this program would be the most prudent but effective way the ECIDA could offer relief as quickly as possible, in addition to our low-interest Disaster Relief business loans,” **said Cappellino.**

For more information about the ECIDA’s COVID-19 Disaster Relief Grant Program call 716-856-6525 (ext. 219) or visit www.ecidany.com

Another recent New York State law change in IDA lending regulations has now allowed the ECIDA to create a new COVID-19 Disaster Relief Loan Program aimed at businesses in immediate need of working capital. Low-interest, special qualifying and interest-only plans may help Erie County employers navigate the financial challenges many businesses are facing.

This new program is in addition to those currently offered by the ECIDA’s lending affiliate, the Regional Development Corporation (“RDC”). The RDC, in partnership with the Erie County Business Task Force, recently announced the development of multiple COVID-19 Disaster Relief Programs available to Erie County businesses to help them survive the negative economic impact of the pandemic. The RDC programs offer low-interest rates and special terms. For further details on the loan programs please call 716-856-6525 (ext. 219) or visit www.ecidany.com/loans

The Erie County Industrial Development Agency is a public benefit corporation sanctioned by the State of New York to offer tax incentives to qualified businesses, and is dedicated to furthering economic development, adaptive reuse of qualified properties, job creation and ensuring a thriving business environment in Erie County. ECIDA staff are not employees of the City of Buffalo, the County of Erie, or the State of New York. The ECIDA does not receive operating funds from taxpayer revenues. The ECIDA receives its operating funds by collecting fees from businesses that enter into contracts with the Agency, from investments, and from loan fees. For more information, visit www.ecidany.com