



In the News

Contact: Robbie-Ann McPherson
ECIDA Marketing & Communications Director
716.856.6525 ext. 125 office 310.433.7443 cell

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ECIDA sunsets PPE reimbursement grant program

Grant program awarded \$700,938.63 to 110 small businesses and nonprofits in Erie County

Buffalo, NY— The Erie County Industrial Development Agency (ECIDA) sunsetted its successful Disaster Emergency Relief PPE Grant program, after Governor Andrew Cuomo ended the Emergency Declaration in New York State in late June.

“Once the Emergency Declaration was no longer in place, the temporary legal authority for IDAs to offer the PPE grants was lifted,” **said ECIDA President and CEO John Cappellino**, “but we consider the program to have been a great success, having approved \$700,938.63 in PPE reimbursement grants to 110 small businesses,” added Cappellino. “The need was clear from small businesses and nonprofits, and our staff and Board of Directors really stepped up to review and approve all the applications each month.”

The grant program also helped retain 1,128 jobs, by alleviating some of the unexpected PPE costs incurred by small businesses and nonprofits in Erie County. The ECIDA Board of Directors received a final report on the grants program at its July 28 meeting.

“We started this program in August of 2020 with a first round of \$500,000,” **said Cappellino**. “By March 2021, we had awarded the entire \$500,000. The Board had approved an additional \$500,000 in January, and we were almost halfway through that second round of funding when the Emergency Declaration was lifted in June,” said Cappellino. “If circumstances in the future lead to another Emergency Declaration due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we will have to see what legal authority IDAs have at that point, before we reinstate the grant program,” Cappellino said.

The ECIDA’s COVID 19 Disaster Emergency Relief Grant program offered qualified small businesses up to \$10,000 in reimbursement for documented PPE expenses, including modifications, equipment, and sanitizing items.

Qualified businesses were required to meet the following minimum qualifications to apply for the PPE reimbursement grant program:

- Business must be located in Erie County/except Amherst, Clarence, Concord, Hamburg or Lancaster
- For-profit or nonprofit businesses must have 50 or fewer employees
- Applicants were required to meet at least one of the following:

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- ✓ Located in a Highly Distressed Census Tract
- ✓ Minority-owned
- ✓ Women-owned
- ✓ Veteran-owned

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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. The staff of the ECIDA 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