

## **Grant Program Announced for Maine Small Businesses Impacted By Covid-19**

Southern Maine Planning and Development Commission

alerting small businesses:

*“Forgivable loans of \$5k are first come, first served”*

*Saco, Maine* -- More Covid-19 financial relief is available for certain small business owners in Maine in the form of a new **Micro-Enterprise Business Grant Program**. Southern Maine Planning and Development Commission (SMPDC), the nonprofit that leads planning and economic development for 39 member towns in Southern Maine, will administer the program for the southern Maine region. According to Chuck Morgan, SMPDC Economic Development Director, The Covid-19 relief package of \$2 million is allocated from \$11 million Maine received from the federal CARES Act for its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. Says Morgan, “This is an excellent opportunity for small business owners who fall within lower income levels to apply for a forgivable loan up to \$5k. We are urging businesses to check this out immediately as applications are now being reviewed and the funds will be awarded on a ‘first come, first served’ basis.” Businesses may use the forgivable loan funds for working capital, which includes fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable, and other bills that can’t be paid due to the disaster’s impact. **To apply, business owners should visit [www.mainesbdc.org/cdbg](http://www.mainesbdc.org/cdbg)** . A Maine Small Business Development Center advisor will determine eligibility and work with business owners to submit an application.

**More details:** The Maine Department of Economic & Community Development (DECD) in partnership with the Maine Small Business Development Centers (SBDC) will provide grants of up to \$5,000 for businesses with five or fewer employees, with an owner whose income is in the low to moderate range as defined by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Businesses must demonstrate revenue loss as a direct consequence of COVID-19. Funds cannot duplicate those received from other federal, state, or local programs (including other CDBG programs).

**These funds are made possible** as part of the \$11 million Maine received from the federal CARES Act for its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. The funds for the program are being distributed through Southern Maine Planning & Development Commission (SMPDC), Androscoggin Valley Council of Governments (AVCOG), Coastal Enterprises, Inc. (CEI), Northern Maine Development Commission (NMDC).

### **About the Southern Maine Planning and Development Commission**

Southern Maine Planning and Development Commission (SMPDC) is a non-partisan nonprofit that cultivates thriving, sustainable communities and strengthens local governments by leading planning and economic development for 39 member towns in Southern Maine. The organization was founded in 1964 to provide technical expertise to municipalities in York, southern Oxford and Cumberland Counties. SMPDC offers a coordinated effort for land use, smart growth, resource management, environmental sustainability, and transportation planning. For more information, please visit [www.smpdc.org](http://www.smpdc.org)

Interviews available upon request.



# SMPDC

SOUTHERN MAINE PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Southern Maine Planning & Development Commission

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