



FILED SEP 11 2020 PM 2:03

COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

September 10, 2020

The Honorable
Erie County Legislature
92 Franklin Street, Fourth Floor
Buffalo, New York 14202

Re: Small Business Assistance Grant Program

Dear Legislators Lorigo, Rath, Todaro, and Mills:

The timing of your September 3rd letter proposing the creation of a small business grant program through Erie County's Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) could not have been better. I am pleased to report that my team has already begun working with the county's Coronavirus Small Business Task Force and the Erie County Industrial Development Agency to develop a small business assistance program utilizing \$25 million in CRF funding.

While details are currently being worked out, many of the concepts outlined in your draft resolution are being considered. We are aiming for a program that helps to partially offset the end of the successful Payroll Protection Program (PPP) while also assisting small business that were unable to access those forgivable loans. As the grant program becomes more developed my staff would be happy to provide a presentation to your honorable body.

As your letter notes, my administration has worked with the ECIDA to aid Erie County businesses in a number of ways including a loan program and through the provision of personnel protective equipment and sanitizing supplies. Unfortunately, participation in these programs has been relatively low due to the availability of other direct aid from the federal government. As those programs expire, my hope is that this program can be a local lifeline to our small businesses.

Sincerely yours,

Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.
Erie County Executive

MCP/bqs

cc: Hon. April Baskin, Chairwoman Erie County Legislature

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Hon. Stefan I. Mychajliw, Erie County Comptroller
Robert Keating, Budget Director
Town Supervisors & Village Mayors