COVID-19 Reopening Support Mini-Grant Fund

Saranac Lake, NY - The Saranac Lake Local Development Corporation has partnered with the Saranac Lake Teachers Association to start a reopening support fund for businesses in Saranac Lake. The mini-grants will provide support to small businesses for qualified reopening expenses associated with mandates and guidelines related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Local businesses and organizations are working hard to meet new state guidance in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This fund provides support specifically for business expenditures to create safe environments for employees and customers (i.e. plexiglass barriers, floor decals to indicate appropriate distances, signage, disinfectant, and personal protective equipment).

“The Saranac Lake Teachers Association is always proud to support local businesses and very glad to be a partner in this initiative,” said Don Carlsto of the Saranac Lake Teachers Association.

The fund’s review committee is currently accepting applications and will begin award disbursement on Thursday, June 11 on a rolling basis, contingent on available funding. Applicants are encouraged to apply early, as funding is limited. More information regarding the mini-grant fund is available on the following page.

If you are interested in supporting this program with additional funding, please email slldc@saranaclakeny.gov.
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Summary: Local businesses and organizations are working hard to meet new state guidelines in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Workplaces are required to have safety plans that incorporate social distancing procedures and proper COVID-19 precautions aimed at keeping both employees and customers safe. These precautions require upfront cash expenditures that strain already stretched budgets due to the economic shutdown. Businesses and organizations will need to think creatively to source hardware (e.g. Plexiglas, hand sanitizer stations, etc.), personal protective equipment (e.g. masks and gloves), and cleaning disinfectant. Costs for these products are increasing as demand increases. This fund provides support to acquire these resources and will enable businesses and organizations to create a safe environment for employees and customers.

Fund Guidelines

- Maximum award of $300
- Businesses and/or organizations must be located within the village of Saranac Lake
- All awards will be processed as reimbursements, with proper documentation/receipts required; cash advance considered on a case-by-case basis.
- Aid in sourcing manufacturers, distributors, or products is available through the Saranac Lake Area Chamber of Commerce and its network of partner Chambers
- Applicants should submit the following to slldc@saranaclakeny.gov:
  - detailed narrative (no more than 250 words) describing and justifying the enhancements, include business name, address, and contact information
  - materials cost estimate
  - labor cost estimate (if applicable)
  - indicate whether this is reimbursement or a cash advance
- Application review will begin on Thursday, June 11th, with award allocation on a rolling basis by the fund’s review committee
- Review process will consist of location verification, narrative review, and cost estimate review
- All complete and qualified applications will receive funding on a first-come first-served basis contingent on available funding

COVID-19 Reopening Support Mini-Grant Fund Review Committee

- Matt Scollin - Vice Chair, Saranac Lake Local Development Corporation
- Ellen Yousey – Vice President, Saranac Lake Teachers Association
- Dani Delaini - Business Transition Program Coordinator, ANCA