

Program Overview

The Northeast PREP (Partnership for Regional Economic Performance) is establishing a COVID-19 Response Grant program that will provide grants up to \$50,000 to qualifying small businesses that have been impacted by the coronavirus pandemic.

Program Eligibility

Businesses within the seven county Northeast PREP Region (Carbon, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Monroe, Pike, Schuylkill and Wayne Counties) are eligible to apply if they meet the following criteria.

- The business must be able to demonstrate that they were impacted by the coronavirus pandemic. The disruption may include but is not limited to: temporary closure of operations, temporary adjustment of operations, furlough or release of employees, interrupted supply chain.
- The applicant must be able to prove that the business was viable prior to the pandemic. Evidence can be in the form of a financial statement or Federal Income tax return.
- Businesses starting during the pandemic may also qualify with additional qualifications.
- The business must be able to prove revenue under \$1 million or less than 100 employees.
- Business must be able to provide evidence that the business taxes are up to date, or a payment plan has been established.
- The applicant must be able to demonstrate that with the assistance the business will create or retain at least one Full Time Equivalent (FTE) job.
- The business either employs an individual whose household qualifies as Low-to-Moderate Income (LMI) eligible, or the business is located within a census tract that has a poverty level of 20% or higher.

Ineligible Applicants

Businesses with the Northeast PREP Region are not eligible for assistance if any of the following criteria is met:

- The business is classified as a non-profit.
- The business is classified as a real estate developer.
- The business provides assistance in the form of lobbying or other political activities.
- The business is considered a “sin” business as defined in the Opportunity Zone Regulations.
 - Suntan parlor
 - Horse tracks and casinos
 - Golf Course
 - Country Club
 - Massage Parlor
 - Hot tub facilities
 - Liquor stores (defined as stores with the principal purpose of selling alcoholic beverages for consumption off the premises)

Eligible Expenses

Businesses may submit a request for financial assistance to offset the following expenses:

- Payroll
- Rent/Mortgage
- Utilities
- Supplies (needed for day-to-day operations up to 90 days)
- Equipment purchases needed to “prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus.”
- Insurance
- Accounting
- Legal
- Advertising