

## **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