

IMPORTANT MESSAGE FOR ALL WOLCOTT SMALL BUSINESSES FROM MAYOR TOM DUNN AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR PAT MCKINNEY.

The Lamont administration announced yesterday that it is launching a \$50 million grant program for small businesses and nonprofit organizations that have been struggling in the COVID-19 pandemic.

Businesses and nonprofits with fewer than 20 employees, or a 2019 payroll of less than \$1.5 million, will be eligible for a one-time grant of \$5,000 under the Connecticut CARES Small Business Grant Program.

Qualifying applicants also will have to demonstrate minimum revenue losses year-over-year of 20% due to the outbreak compared to Sept. 20, 2019.

The state Department of Economic and Community Development anticipates it will begin accepting online applications the week of Nov. 9. The funds must be disbursed no later than Dec. 30 to comply with CARES Act requirements.

The funding will be sufficient to provide grants to 10,000 recipients, said Gwendolyn Thames, a deputy DECD commissioner. The grants can be used for payroll, rent, utilities, inventory, purchase of machinery or equipment, or costs associated with compliance to the state's reopening rules.

Fifty per cent of the grants will go to economically distressed cities and towns and the remaining will be distributed among the other towns including Wolcott. **If you would like to be considered it is important to get the appropriate financial information together and have it available for November 9th. Applications should become available on the State of Connecticut - Department of Economic and Community Development website.** These grants should go very quickly.

As more information becomes available, we will post it here on the Town's home page.