



COVID-19 FRIDAY UPDATES

May 1, 2020

Sections with New/Updated Information Moved to the Top

Small Business Updates/resources

Resource Links:

Senate passed additional \$1.7 billion relief bill, final vote and details should be available early next week.

Here are **two new grants** for small businesses we just found out about:

TAILWIND GRANT FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

We're a marketing tech company and [set up a \\$1M program](#) to help support hard-hit small businesses. And after working with our local chamber in Oklahoma and seeing how hard they're working for the community, it made us think to expand our outreach to other chambers.

I've included all of the information here, in hopes that you could pass it along to the businesses you serve, along with some other news.

The **deadline** is coming up -- on **March 8th** and with thousands of grants already spoken for, the sooner businesses apply at www.tailwindapp.com/covid, the better.

Thanks in advance for spreading the word. If there's anything we can do to help you, please let us know.

[Ellana Walker](#)

Chief of Staff

Tailwind

**RUTHERFORD COUNTY EMERGENCY SMALL BUSINESS GRANT
APPLICATION INFORMATION**

Opens May 4 - 15, 2020

Visit the Chamber or RCED Facebook page to access a link to the application – link will open on 5/4 - <https://www.facebook.com/RCCOCNC>

Details -

Rutherford County Chamber of Commerce and Rutherford County Economic Development have teamed up to provide an Emergency Small Business Assistance Grant in an amount up to \$2,500 for qualifying Rutherford County businesses. Together, these two organizations are committed to help the Rutherford County business community during these uncertain times. They understand that Coronavirus and the corresponding mandatory closure or change in service requirements could jeopardize many local small businesses. In an effort to ensure businesses remain viable and doors are able to reopen, an emergency grant program has been created to offer funding to help cover fixed operation costs for our most vulnerable businesses.

GRANT FUND DETAILS

- Funding for eligible operational costs (i.e. Rent, Mortgage, Utilities, etc.) incurred between May 1 through 31, 2020.
- Maximum grant amount is \$2,500 per company with like ownership.
- Grants will be distributed once approved by a review team.

BASIC CRITERIA FOR ACCESSING THE APPLICATION FOR GRANT ASSISTANCE

- Business has a physical presence in Rutherford County and can show direct impact by the government-mandated shut down due to Coronavirus.
- Business has 20 or less FTE (full-time equivalent employees) in Rutherford County.
- Business is in good standing with regard to state and local taxes and licenses.
- Business can provide information to support operational expenses.
- Exclusions: national and regional chains with no local ownership.
- Local franchise owners can apply.
- There is a scoring matrix that will ultimately determine if a company qualifies for the grant dollars and the level that will be awarded

<https://www.sba.gov/page/coronavirus-covid-19-small-business-guidance-loan-resources>

<https://www.coronavirus.gov/smallbusiness>

Keeping Work Environment Safe if Open or when Opening – there is a ton of information from various organizations and communities around this subject. After reading through several, here are two we thought worth sharing due to their source:

This is from a blog put out by ICMA – International City/County Management Association

<https://icma.org/blog-posts/seven-things-consider-when-reopening-communities>

Below is a summary from the US Chamber issued from OSHA in coordination with the CDC.

U.S. Chamber Summary on Guidance Issued by the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)

To help you and your members better understand the recent guidance issued by the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration and in coordination with the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#), the U.S. Chamber has created a [summary](#) outlining what employers need to know about protecting their workers as they maintain or resume operations in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The summary describes OSHA's comments and addresses three of the main questions:

1. How should employers protect their employees?
2. Do employers have to record cases of COVID-19 on their injury logs?
3. How will OSHA conduct enforcement related to Coronavirus?

Mountain BizWorks - Mountain BizWorks, working with Dogwood Health Trust, announced a targeted effort to provide increased access to the highly anticipated Small Business Administration (SBA) Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) for nonprofits and small businesses in the region, with a focus on rural and minority and women-led organizations. The PPP was created to provide loans to organizations impacted by COVID-19 and are forgivable if they are used to cover payroll,

mortgage, rent and utility costs over an eight-week period after the loan is issued. The Mountain BizWorks regional application process is still open. Information and application materials can be found at www.mountainbizworks.org/ppp/

Good News in the Gorge

Buy a Bag Campaign - Grocery Program for Displaced Employees of Businesses in the Gorge - Live Today – May 1st! We have received \$5,000 in donations from our non-profit partners to kick off this campaign today. You can also participate by purchasing a bag of groceries (which equals a \$25.00 Ingles Gift Card). Go to - <https://hickorynutchamber.org/events/details/buy-a-bag-grocery-campaign-for-gorge-employees-13267>

Restaurant Strong Fund – The Greg Hill Foundation and Samuel Adams have teamed up to support those from the restaurant industry across the country who have been impacted by the Covid-19 closures. <https://www.restaurantstrong.org/index.html>

Businesses Gift Card Campaign - As of today, we have \$3,020 in purchases. **THANKS EVERYONE FOR THE GREAT SUPPORT. KEEP IT GOING.** To buy yours and to see which businesses you can support, go to <https://hickorynutchamber.org/events/details/buy-your-gift-card-and-support-your-community-12161>

COVID-19 Numbers/Resources

Local link to Emergency Operations Center on FB:

<https://www.facebook.com/rcemergencymanagement/>

Statistics/Maps/Graphs -

https://www.rutherfordcountync.gov/departments/fire_marshall_emergency_management/covid-19_updates.php

Rutherford County (as of 4/30/20) – Positive Cases 142; Deaths 6; Individuals Tested 1130; Negative Tests 817; Pending Tests 171; Households Effectuated - 89

County/State/Health Dept. Updates

Governor news briefing from Thursday 4/30 – they do not intend to extend the May 8 stay home orders of EO #135. On May 9, we will begin Phase 1. See EO Order #135 and read details of the three phase approach:

<https://governor.nc.gov/news/governor-extends-stay-home-order-through-may-8-plans-three-phase-lifting-restrictions-based>

Q&A

Following Executive, County & Town Orders. Which ones do we follow? All North Carolina citizens should follow the orders of the Governor. However, if there are County and/or local municipality orders still in play, or stricter, you follow the stricter of the orders. For example: Rutherford County's short term rental suspension already expired, but it is still in place for the Town of Lake Lure's jurisdiction until May 15. If you are in the TOLL, you are still required to follow the Town's proclamation.

No New Information for items below – but still great information to share

Important resources/links

Rutherford County Emergency Management Link – this will show current COVID-19 numbers and press releases.
www.facebook.com/rcemergencymanagement/

Chamber Website has a COVID-19 section with valuable resources listed across several subjects - <https://hickorynutchamber.org/> Click on the COVID-19 tab.

211 – Please remember to call 211 with any COVID-19 questions, and 911 is for emergencies only.

Rutherford County Health Council created a new website - <https://www.rutherfordhelp.com/>

Great resource for information on

- Find assistance (housing, child care, mental health & food as well as CDC & Dept of Health & Human Services information). Also addiction recovery information.
- Medical Screening Hotline
- Latest Community Information (from the emergency operations center of RC)
- Volunteer Opportunities

No Kid Hungry If you have children, or know of someone with children, and those children need food text FOODNC to 877-877, they will then ask for your address (zip code based), and provide you with a list of locations that have a “No Kid Hungry” distribution site.

New mental health Helpline – Hope4NC – Call 1-855-587-3463 open 24/7

Local Mental Health Links:

Partners Behavioral Health Management for Rutherford County-
<https://www.partnersbhm.org/>

Family Preservation Services- <http://www.pathways.com/ncfps>

RHA Health Service- <https://rhahealthservices.org/our-locations/north-carolina/>

Blue Ridge Health- <https://www.brchs.com/locations/blue-ridge-health-lake-lure>

If a patient calls 828-625-4400 someone on site can direct them toward the best way to access care and at what time. It is always best to call ahead, but we do welcome walk-ins as well. Right now, we have screenings at the front door to keep patients safe – but folks are welcome to show up and access the care they need any time Monday-Friday 8am-5pm.

They can also contact Blue Ridge Health through our online contact form at -
<https://www.brchs.com/contact>

Unemployment Updates

Unemployment is filed and paid through the Division of Employment Securities – we are hearing claims are getting processed and the additional stimulus money is included. <https://des.nc.gov/apply-unemployment>

Local Needs

They still need our help - Hickory Nut Gorge Outreach.

Here is the link of what they are in need of today -
<https://hickorynutgorgeoutreach.org/supplies-we-need/>

You can also make a monetary donation by going to their website-
www.hickorynutgorgeoutreach.org and click on the DONATE button. You can use PayPal or mail a check. Outreach is open on Monday, Thursday and Friday 10:00am-4:00pm.

Rutherford County Humane Society Thrift Shop – Lil’s Place –

Lil’s thrift shop may be closed due to COVID-19, but the animals of Rutherford County are still in need of our help. There are many dogs and cats in foster care and in need of veterinary attention. With kitten season upon us, Lil’s resources are

stretched to the limit. Please consider making a tax-deductible monetary donation to: RCHS Lil's Place, 305 Buffalo Creek Road, Lake Lure, NC 28746