



SMALL BUSINESS ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Frequently Asked Questions as of January 20, 2022

Q. What is the Small Business Economic Assistance Program?

- A.** The Small Business Economic Assistance Program was established to provide assistance to eligible small businesses who have experienced economic hardship as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Q. What requirement do I need to meet in order to qualify?

- A.** This program is for for-profit businesses operating within the Cumberland County.
- The business must possess the capacity to be successful with the use of American Rescue Plan Act funds.
 - If the business is a sole proprietorship or a partnership, each person owning an interest in the business must be at least 18 years old.
 - The business must have a valid tax identification number consisting of the owner's social security number if the business is a sole proprietorship or Federal Employer Identification Number if the business is other than a sole proprietorship; a State Employer Number; and a business bank account in the name of the business.
 - If the business is a corporation, limited liability company or limited partnership, it must be registered in good standing with the North Carolina Secretary of State.
 - The business must not currently be in bankruptcy. If the business is a sole proprietorship or a partnership, no person owning an interest in the business may currently be in bankruptcy.
 - The business is current with property taxes and any fees that are collected with property taxes or has a payment plan in place with the tax collector.
 - Business will have general liability insurance in policy with sufficient coverage in place at the time the award is received.

Q: Are there any businesses ineligible to apply?

- A:** Businesses owned in part or fully by Cumberland County employees*, commissioners, or their family members.

*As per the Personnel Ordinance Section 501 (c) "employee" means:

All officials, officers, members and employees, whether elected or appointed and whether paid or unpaid, of the government of the county and all of its agencies.

Q. Where do I submit my application?

A: Applications can be completed through web application, emailed, delivered or mailed to:

Mail applications to:

Cumberland County – SBEAP
Attn: Tye Vaught, Management Analyst
PO Box 1829
Fayetteville, North Carolina 28302

Deliver applications to:

Cumberland County – SBEAP
117 Dick Street Room 507
Fayetteville, NC 28301

Complete online application at:

www.cumberlandcountync.gov/ARP

Email application to:

tvaught@co.cumberland.nc.us

Indicate in the email subject line, SBEAP Application – [Business Name]

Q: How much funding is available?

A. Businesses can apply for up to \$50,000 for eligible costs.

Q: Once I submit my application, how long will it take for my application to be approved?

A. The application process consists of several steps that involve verification of document received; verification of eligibility; determining eligible costs; determining the level of need; and determining the amount of funding to be awarded. The time to process each application will vary. To ensure that your application is processed in a timely manner it is important to make sure that all applicable materials and information are included upon submission.

Q. Can I contact the office to check on the status of my application?

A. You may contact the office to check on the status of your application. However, staff will be contacting applicants throughout the application process in order to obtain additional information, if needed, as well as provide an update on the status of the application.

Q. Why are you asking businesses about additional funding received from other sources?

A. The program is funded through a Federal agency, U.S. Department of the Treasury. Therefore, staff is required to ensure the assistance the business receives from Cumberland County does not duplicate other forms of assistance the business received to address the same need. Receiving other forms of assistance does not automatically disqualify the

business for assistance through the Small Business Economic Assistance Program. However, staff will thoroughly review the amount of assistance your business received from other sources to determine if the assistance from those sources was intended for the same purpose or need that you indicated on the SBEAP application. Staff will use this information to determine the unmet need.