

The following policy was originally adopted on January 18, 2022, by the Board of Commissioners. This policy was amended on June 19, 2023, by the Board of Commissioners.

Cumberland County

Section I – Board Approved Policies

Subsection 10: American Rescue Plan Act of 2021

Policy No. 10-2.9: Small Business Economic Assistance

1.0 PURPOSE

Cumberland County has received an allocation of funds from the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds of H.R. 1319 American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA/CSLFRF). The Board of Commissioners approved allocating ARPA funding to establish a Small Business Economic Assistance Program (SBEAP) in response to the economic impacts experienced by small businesses as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. This program describes eligible activities as defined in 31 CFR Part 35.

2.0 SCOPE

Funds are made available by the U.S. Department of Treasury through Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (CSLFRF) and are administered by the Cumberland County ARP Staff Committee. The goal is to provide up to \$50,000 in financial assistance to small for-profit businesses that faced economic hardship due to the pandemic. For the purpose of this program Cumberland County has defined a small business as a business with no more than two hundred and fifty (250) full-time equivalent individuals (FTEs) which may include the owner.

For the purposes of this program applicants are permitted to request funds to be reimbursed for:

- Payroll, which includes wages, benefits, and associated payroll taxes; and
- Occupancy, which includes rental lease payments, mortgage (for business property), and utilities

The business must have been in operation on or before March 3, 2021.

Funds under this Program may not be used for any purpose other than reimbursement of payroll and occupancy expenses.

3.0 STATEMENT OF THE POLICY

For-profit businesses operating within Cumberland County employing no more than two hundred and fifty (250) FTEs may apply.

- (a) Employ low to moderate income individuals, being those full-time equivalent positions paying less than or equal to \$37,350;
- (b) possess the capacity to be successful with the use of the ARPA/CSLFRF program funds;
- (c) have a valid tax identification number (EIN) or Social Security Number (SSN) for sole proprietors;
- (d) Be registered and in good standing with the North Carolina Secretary of State if the business is a corporation, limited liability company or limited partnership;
- (e) not be in bankruptcy;
- (f) be current with property taxes and any fees that are collected with property taxes, or has a payment plan in place with the tax administrator;
- (g) maintain a policy of general liability insurance with at least as much coverage as the amount of funding received from the program;
- (h) comply with [Cumberland County Policy No. 3-11: Conflict of Interest](#);
- (i) have employees with wages reported with a W-2 or Form 1040 Schedule C for sole proprietors; and
- (j) maintain employment of at least one full-time equivalent low to moderate income employee for one year after the first receipt of assistance under the program.

4.0 IMPLEMENTATION

A contractual relationship will be established between the County and the small business to ensure compliance with county, state and federal guidelines.

- [31 CFR 35, Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds Final Rule](#)