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County Executive Dr. Sam Page Announces More CARES Act Funds for Restaurants and Other Small Businesses

ST. LOUIS COUNTY (November 19, 2020) More than \$3 million in CARES Act funds will be distributed to small businesses and restaurants in the County’s continued response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

“These grants come at a critical time for small businesses and restaurants in St. Louis County,” said County Executive Dr. Sam Page. “We know these businesses have been acutely affected by the pandemic and our efforts to control the spread of the virus. I implore all businesses that qualify to apply for these grants and I call on our leaders in Washington to get together now and approve a stimulus package so that we can get more financial assistance out into our communities. This should have happened months ago.”

The county earlier this year awarded \$19.7 million to more than 1,600 small businesses and restaurants. The additional funds come at the recommendation of the Economic Rescue Team, a group of volunteers appointed by Dr. Page earlier this year to help lead the County’s economic recovery efforts.

The St. Louis Economic Development Partnership will administer the new program, known as the Small Business Rapid Deployment Fund.

“As a catalyst for economic development in the St. Louis region, we remain committed to helping existing businesses weather the devastating impact of the COVID-19 virus. These funds are part of a comprehensive support plan,” said Rodney Crim, CEO and President of the St. Louis Economic Development Partnership.

Small businesses impacted by COVID-19 can apply for \$5,000 grants to pay for operating expenses or business costs, including rent and payroll. Restaurants that have had to adapt to

COVID-related public health restrictions can apply for \$5,000 grants to off-set related costs for things such as equipment for outdoor dining, heaters, tents, and curbside service.

In order to qualify, businesses must have 25 or fewer full-time equivalent employees and have a physical presence in St. Louis County. The grants can only go to businesses significantly impacted by the continued economic challenges created by COVID-19 and will only cover expenses and costs incurred between April 1, 2020 and December 16, 2020. Businesses that have already received a County CARES Act grant are not eligible.

Application for the Small Business Rapid Deployment Fund grants open Monday, November 23, at 9 a.m. and will remain open until 5 p.m. Monday, December 7. Businesses and restaurants are encouraged to apply as early as possible because funding may be limited based on demand. To apply, go to the Partnership website at STLPartnership.com.

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