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Polk CARES 2020

This is Polk County Board of County Commissioners (County) approved plan to help residents and small business owners left struggling financially from COVID-19 pandemic layoffs and business closures, utilizing the \$126 million Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act federal grant funds.

Beginning Tuesday, May 19, individuals and small business owners may apply online via the county's website at www.polk-county.net/polk-cares-2020.

Individuals/Households

Individuals and/or households may apply for rent, mortgage and utility assistance. Individuals who have lost their job or income due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and reside in a household with combined income of less than \$75,000 will be eligible for up to \$2,000 assistance.

On your application, you must confirm that you:

- Have not received other COVID-19 assistance for rent, mortgage or utility payments

Required Documents:

- Valid Florida ID or Florida Driver License
- 2019 Income Tax return or the most recent tax return paystubs for the past 60 days
- Proof of loss of income related to COVID-19 impacts due to health and employment (furlough, lay-off letter from employer, unemployment statement, etc.)
- Utility invoice, and/or mortgage or rent bills

Small Business

Small businesses that can show they were impacted by COVID-19 include funding levels of \$1,000 for those who are self-employed, \$2,500 for businesses with 2 – 9 employees, and \$5,000 for businesses with 10 – 25 employees.

Small business applicants must attest they:

- Were negatively impacted by COVID-19
- Have the authority to apply for this grant on behalf of the business
- Have not received Paycheck Protection Program (PPP); Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL); or benefited from the SBA Debt Relief Program as provided under the CARES Act
- Will use the grant funds for authorized business expenses only
- Will apply for a Polk County Business Tax Receipt if not registered with the Polk County Tax Collector
- Plan to resume normal operations after emergency guidelines are lifted
- Shall cooperate with Polk County or appropriate officials for grant auditing purposes

Required Business Documents:

- W-9, DBA, Employer ID Number, or Social Security number for sole proprietors
- Valid photo ID
- Copy of active state business registration from Florida Division of Corporations
- W3 Summary or IRS Form 941 prior to February 15, 2020
- Information to estimate your company's average monthly expenses for wages, business utilities, and commercial lease (or mortgage interest) before February 15, 2020

Both funds will be offered on a first-come, first-serve basis until the allocation is gone. The allocated funds to both small businesses and individuals do not have to be paid back.