LaPorte County Funding Program Requirements and Application

LaPorte County, Indiana is making grants available to qualifying business to be used for working capital. The guiding principle of the funding is to assist in and help retain current workforce. These grant funds are available to business that are in operation in **UNINCORPORATED LAPORTE COUNTY.**

These funds have been made available by a grant from the State of Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA). **FUNDING WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE UPON RECEIPT FROM OCRA.**

This is a direct incentive for small businesses to keep their workers on the payroll and businesses in operation. The maximum grant per business is $10,000.00 and must be used in the next two months (two months from grant award). Applications will be accepted by LaPorte County Office of Community and Economic Development for business that can demonstrate a need for working capital.

The funds may be used to bolster the current financial health of a business. Below is a listing of the priority uses for the funding.

* Payroll costs
* Inventory
* Rent
* Utility costs (water, sanitary, electric, gas and internet access)
* Equipment lease payments
* Transportation costs
* Other

The employees identified for payroll expenses must meet in total, the income requirements set forth by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Priority for the funding will be directed to families (household income of three or more). If after the initial request for assistance for Applicants are reviewed and additional funding is available, individual household and two personal household will be considered.

Businesses not using the funding for payroll and that propose to exclusively use the grant funds for other purposes, must provide payroll information and income verification for EVERY employee at the LAPORTE location.

Application will be reviewed on a first come first serve basis and will be subject to the availability of funding and the criteria listed below. All decisions by LaPorte’s Grant Committee are final and once the funding has been exhausted, unless OCRA offers additional funding, the program will be closed.

LaPorte County reserves the right to increase the amount of the grant award to a company provided that the use of the funding has a specific and direct benefit to qualified residents in LaPorte County.

In order to be eligible to receive funding, the Applicant must meet the following criteria:

1. Business located in UNINCORPORATED LaPorte, Indiana
2. Must be willing to certify qualified employees that are within the Department of Housing and Urban Development income guidelines
3. Must agree to all conditions, responsibilities and reporting set forth by the Office of Rural and Community Affairs including but not limited to income certification and payroll information
4. Maximum amount of assistance $10,000 per business
5. Grant funds must be used two months from date of award
6. Businesses that have received federal assistance for the business including Payroll Protection Program (PPP) or Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) must use OCRA grant for other operating costs

Please complete the following Application and all relevant attachments. If you are unable to complete this form electronically, please print, complete, and sign the documents and return to:

LaPorte Community and Economic Development

covidgrantapps@laporteco.in.gov

Once the County has received funds from OCRA, application will be reviewed on a weekly basis and successful applicants will be notified and able to pick up the funding at the LaPorte County Offices.

Additional if you have any questions regarding this application or need assistance, please contact Office of Community and Economic Development.

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