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Monroe, Washington Economic Development Newsletter for November, 2020

Monroe **Business**

Message from the Mayor >>>

These are painful times. And through all this, I've witnessed a community coming together. I've witnessed residents and business owners helping other residents and business owners. I've witnessed a City Council supporting our staff, supporting you, and supporting me. And I've witnessed people putting themselves at risk to make certain that our supply chain stays intact. Painful times, yes, but a time of people rolling their sleeves up to help one another.

Throughout 2020, the City of Monroe has provided assistance to our business community through our economic development specialist, James Palmer. Mr. Palmer has been crucial in getting timely, relevant, and accurate information to you despite almost daily changes in State rules and guidance. Further, he has been instrumental in helping Monroe businesses navigate through grant and loan applications. I am thankful for his work to our community throughout this year and as his service continues. Thank you, James.

And when our elected leaders in DC agreed to provide funding through the CARES Act, the City of Monroe delivered grant funds directly to our community with over \$150,000 to businesses, over \$170,000 to residents, and over \$190,000 to service providers in Monroe. In all, approximately 2/3 of the funds the City of Monroe received became direct financial grants to Monroe businesses, residents, and service providers impacted by the response to limit the spread of COVID-19. The remaining funds contributed to updating information systems and PPE at the City to ensure that our staff could still provide services to our community. I thank our City staff for the work they have done to get all of the funding out the door to support our community. And I thank our City Council for their support in choosing a path to help our community in this way.

Despite the sacrifices we all made earlier this year, we find ourselves being required to make sacrifices again as case counts and hospitalizations are on the rise. At the City, as we have been doing throughout 2020, we will continue to provide the best support we can to our residents, businesses, and service delivery organizations. We will continue reaching out to you and inviting you to reach out to us. For our business community, this means continued coordination through our Chamber of Commerce, our economic development specialist James Palmer, our staff, and elected officials.

While these are dark times for many of us, there is a light that shines in that darkness. The light I see is the love and support that I have witnessed throughout this year. I thank everyone choosing to live and work in Monroe for being that light. Yours in Service,

Geoffery Thomas, Mayor



NEW COVID-19 GUIDELINES

Gov. Jay Inslee on Sunday, November 15th, announced a four-week statewide set of restrictions in response to the recent rapid spread of the COVID-19 virus in Washington and across the country. The restrictions are statewide and will take effect Monday, November 16 at 11:59 PM and will remain in effect until Monday, December 14. The modified restrictions of restaurants, however, will take effect Wednesday, November 18 at 12:01 AM. To help mitigate financial impacts on businesses and their employees, the state will commit \$50 million in aid. In the short term, the state is committing \$20 million be dedicated to cash assistance targeted directly to hardest hit industries. Remaining funds will be focused on supporting recovery efforts through business loans. Additional details are forthcoming.

Gatherings

Indoor gatherings have been one of the biggest driving factors of COVID-19 spikes in Washington and nation-wide. Because of this, indoor gatherings with people outside the household will be prohibited unless they quarantine for the fourteen days (14) prior to the social gathering or quarantine for the seven (7) days prior to the gathering, and receive a negative COVID-19 test result no more than 48-hours prior to the gathering.

AEROSPACE NEWS & RESOURCES

After Boeing's announcement that they are moving the 787 Dreamliner production to South Carolina many local aerospace suppliers may be wondering if they will be affected and how they can mitigate such an impact.

The Washington Department of Commerce is working with the SBA to help aerospace manufacturers develop new markets by providing funds to help promote exports.

STEP: Export Vouchers, funded by the U.S. Small Business Administration's State Trade Expansion Program (STEP), reimburses eligible export expenses up to \$6,000, depending on the expense.

The following lists the eligible activities and reimbursement levels. If your business qualifies, you may receive up to the maximum allowed for that activity, or a lesser amount. Awards are granted based on committee review of your [export voucher application](#).

<https://www.commerce.wa.gov/growing-the-economy/business-loans/export-voucher-program/>

One voucher/company/industry/year

If companies want to make sure they qualify, use this tool to find out: <https://www.sba.gov/size-standards>

SHOWS/CONFERENCES:

- PNAA: <https://www.pnaa.net/events/2021-annual-aerospace-conference> (STEP vouchers available, up to 75% of registration fees)
- ADSS: <http://seattle.bciaerospace.com/> (Washington State Dept. of Commerce will have vouchers available as well)
- Paris Air Show: more info to come soon, but Commerce is planning on taking a delegation and vouchers are available but this one will count towards their 1 voucher/year
- AIX Hamburg: moved to end of August. Booth is full but can take delegates
- DSEI: <https://www.dsei.co.uk/> Contact Denise Ryser (denise@pndc.us) to find out which companies already signed up.

If you would like to speak with a local aerospace specialist contact;

Amandine Crabtree | AEROSPACE INTERNATIONAL
TRADE SPECIALIST

Washington State Department of Commerce

Phone: 206-256-6137

Cell: 206-485-8541

Email: amandine.crabtree@commerce.wa.gov

Outdoor gatherings are limited to no more than five people.

For long-term care facilities, only outdoor visits will be allowed. Indoor visits may be permitted for essential support persons or end-of-life care.

Restaurants and Retail

Restaurants and bars will be closed for indoor service, with to-go services and restricted outdoor dining allowed.

In-store retail, grocery stores and personal services are limited to 25% of occupancy and must close any congregate areas.

Religious Services, Weddings and Funerals

Religious services will be limited to 25% indoor capacity or 200 people, whichever is less, and choirs, bands or ensembles are prohibited from performing. Wedding and funeral ceremonies can go on with limited attendance, but receptions of any size are prohibited indoors.

Entertainment and Fitness

Indoor service will be closed at fitness facilities and gyms, and youth and adult amateur sporting activities are limited to outdoors only with facial coverings.

Bowling alleys, museums, zoos, aquariums, and movie theaters will be closed for indoor services.

The full proclamation is available [here](#).

The full guidance page is available [here](#).

OUTDOOR DINING for RESTAURANTS and BARS

Restaurants and Bars are closed for indoor dine-in service. Outdoor dining and to-go service are permitted, provided that all outdoor dining must comply with the requirements of the Outdoor Dining Guidance. Table size for outdoor dining is limited to a maximum of five (5) people. These modified restaurant and bar restrictions go into effect at 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, November 18, 2020.

After reviewing the new restrictions Mayor Thomas responded, "I am supportive of allowing the expansion of outdoor dining. We have discussed this with Council previously, but it was during a time when the State was loosening up restrictions. I will work with our staff to try to get something to Council ASAP. I will also work with staff on identifying if the costs of securing pop up tents and/or heaters would be eligible for CARES funds and then how those tents and/or heaters could be made available. I realize time is of the essence for our businesses and am making this a priority."

Loan, Grants and Financial Assistance >>>

City of Monroe 2020 SMALL BUSINESS RENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

SUBMISSION DEADLINE:

Monday, November 30, 2020 3:30PM

NOTICE OF AVAILABLE FUNDING:

The Monroe Chamber of Commerce is accepting applications for Small Business Rent Assistance. Funding is intended to support business solvency through COVID-19 public health emergency. \$40,000 is available to assist with business rent, lease, or mortgages in arrears between April 1 and Oct 31, 2020. Grants will be awarded on a first come, first served basis, and will be for up to four (4) months of past due payments incurred during the specified time period.

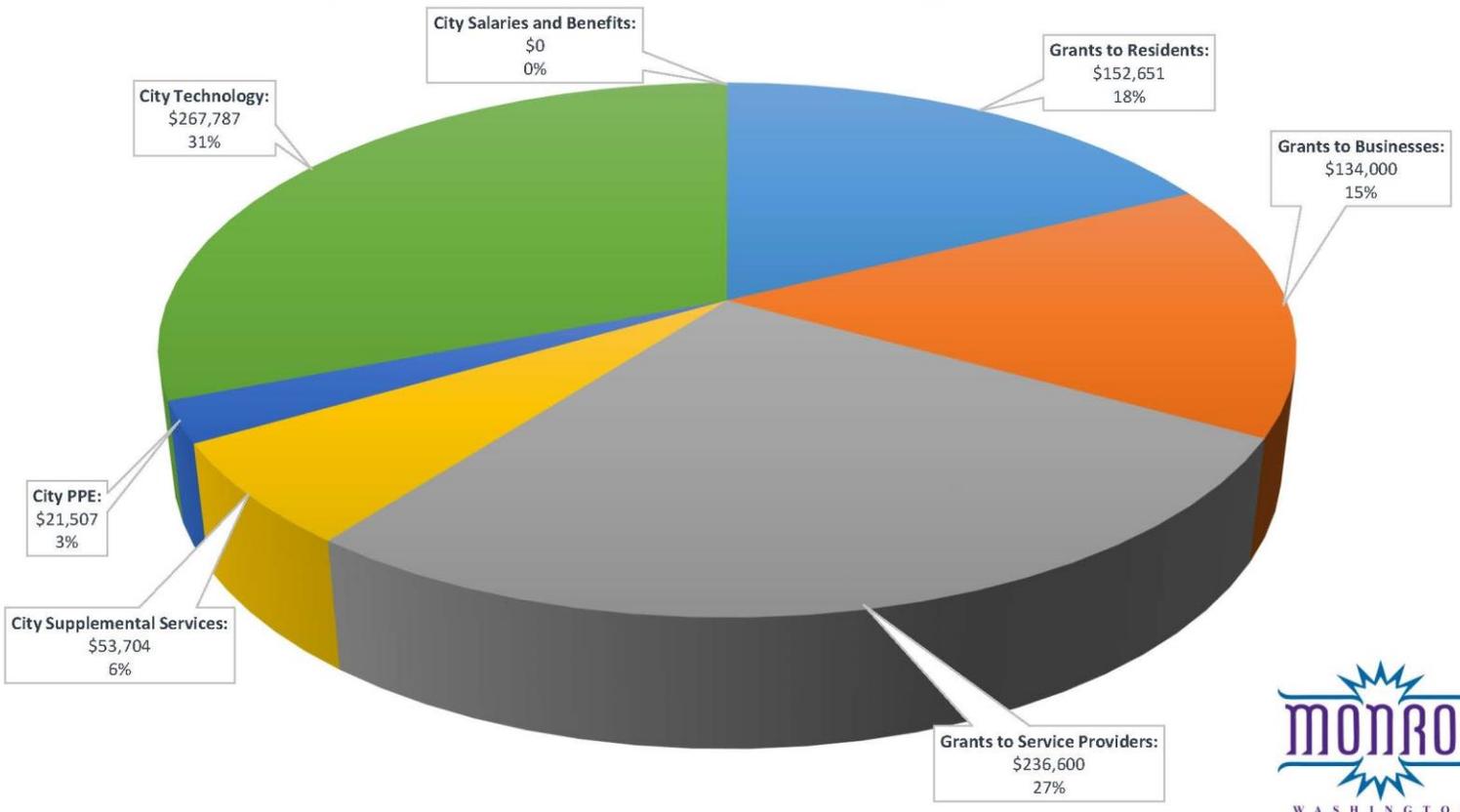
APPLICATIONS MUST BE MAILED OR EMAILED TO:

Monroe Chamber of Commerce
Janelle Drews
Executive Director
125 S Lewis Street
Monroe, WA 98272
Director@Choosemonroe.com

To apply, go to => [2020 CITY OF MONROE SMALL BUSINESS RENT ASSISTANCE APPLICATION](#)

How is Monroe Spending Federal CARES Act Funds?

City of Monroe CARES Act Funds Usage Breakdown



Saturday, Nov 28, 2020 10:00 AM

We invite every business, resident and tourist to shop small with Monroe and participate in Small Business Saturday November 28th!

Small Business Saturday is meant to inspire you to explore and wander through Monroe's many offerings and share a shopping day with friends, family and neighbors while celebrating, discovering and supporting our wonderful small businesses right here in our own community!

Shopping small is BIG!

Tuesday, December 01, 2020

Economic Alliance of Snohomish County
Presents Coffee Chat

8:30 am - 9:30 am

Location: Zoom Call

Guest Speakers:

- Anil Verma, Bear Creek Technologies
- Geoff Lawrence, Impact Washington

Topic: CyberSecurity

Our speakers will highlight current issues in CyberSecurity, which businesses are being targeted, and steps you can take to protect your business.

Upcoming Coffee Chats:

Tuesday, December 8

9:00 - 10:00 am
SoundTransit Update
Featuring Peter Rogoff

Tuesday, December 15

8:30 - 9:30 am
Revitalizing the Economy
Featuring Councilmember Nate Nehring;
Diane Kamionka, NWIRC; and Joy
Emory, Workforce Snohomish

To Register for EASC's Coffee Chats, go to:
[EASC Coffee Chats](#)

HELPFUL RESOURCES

County begins offering Safe Start Kits for Small Businesses

Snohomish County has begun offering Safe Start Kits to help small businesses with personal protective equipment (PPE) needs. See press the [full release](#) for more information.

Small Business Survival Guide in the Time of COVID-19

SizeUp Washington can help small business and entrepreneurs assess and adapt to the new challenges and opportunities in this changing business environment. Join Mario Ubalde of SizeUp as we demonstrate how to use this tool to better position businesses in their respective markets. During the demonstration, you will be able to see how well a business ranks amid similar competition, identify unique market characteristics and how to optimize marketing efforts. There will also be an opportunity to ask questions.

When: Wednesday, November 18 from 10:00-11:00 a.m.

Registration: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/global-entrepreneurship-month-sizeup-washington-tickets-128882588291>

This session is brought to you by the Washington State Department of Commerce as part of Global Entrepreneurship Month. Check out the more than 50 free sessions here <http://bit.ly/wa-gem>.

From Unemployed to Entrepreneur

Project Reinvent™ will provide an opportunity for dislocated workers:

- 1) to share their extensive knowledge and skills and in the process improve the success of new and existing small businesses; and
- 2) to explore entrepreneurial opportunities and engage in workshops to expand on their innovative ideas.

Dislocated workers who may be taking this time to develop their own ideas will become part of StartupNW. StartupNW provides the resources to help workers bring new technologies to their base of knowledge and receive assistance with all aspects of starting their business, from validating the ideas to seeking seed funding. For more information go to => [Project Reinvent](#)

Contact Us >>>

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