

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **Small Business COVID-19 Grant/Loan Recipients** *Announced under the Lockport Recovery Initiative (LRI)*

Lockport, IL – The City of Lockport is excited to announce that under the Lockport Recovery Initiative (LRI), over 40 grants and/or loans have been awarded through the Small Business COVID-19 Grant and/or Loan Program totaling \$350,000 to help our local small business and non-profit 501(c)(3) organizations during the State of Illinois stay-home-orders and additional impacts of Governor Pritzker’s Executive Orders due to COVID-19.

The City’s Small Business COVID-19 Grant and/or Loan Program was authorized by [Ordinance No. 20-008](#) approved by the City Council at their regular meeting on April 15, 2020. This Ordinance established a local business grant and or/loan program to help offset the economic hardships related to COVID-19 in the City of Lockport, including a set of program guidelines and criteria. The program was also discussed previous to the City Council Meeting at a Special Meeting of the Committee of the Whole on April 8, 2020.

The grant/loan program received over 50 applications for assistance. The Review Committee, authorized to oversee the program, awarded grants/loans to selected businesses who met eligibility requirements and priority levels, demonstrating need related to the COVID-19 pandemic and related mandates by the State of Illinois.

Mayor Steven Streit noted that “This program has been extremely successful in engaging the business community including through our partnerships with the Lockport Chamber of Commerce and Main Street Lockport who helped promote the grant/loan opportunity. We are hopeful that these awards will help our businesses be re-invigorated as we come out of this challenging economic period in history. In fact, one of the things that we are most proud about is that we had business owners who declined awards because they wanted to allow the funds to go to others who needed it more. What a testament to our community!”

The City continues advancing multiple strategies to help our community come back stronger than before COVID-19 changed the way that we live, work and play. Additional initiatives include a Water Bill Relief Program and Eat Lockport microsite <https://www.eatlockport.com> supporting local restaurants by advertising those that continue to serve the community.

In addition, volunteers of the SHIELD Program will be working to serve others in the community. “There is more to come as we seek to lead Lockport into summer 2020, a season unlike any other we’ve seen in our lifetime” said Mayor Streit.

If you have any questions regarding the Lockport Recovery Initiative (LRI) or the Small Business COVID-19 Grant/Loan Program, please contact Lance Thies, Director of Community and Economic Development at (815) 838-0549 x1137 or [lthies@lockport.org](mailto:lthies@lockport.org).

City Council and Committee of the Whole Meeting packets, agendas, and videos are available on the City’s website in the [Agenda Center](#). If you are interested in being notified when meeting agendas/packets are published, please sign up via the [Notify Me](#) function of the City website.

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The City of Lockport is a historic community of just over 25,000 residents, located just 35 miles southwest of Chicago’s Loop. An upcoming community with a historic downtown and trails along the I&M Canal, Lockport is the perfect place to live and do business. For more information about the City, visit [cityoflockport.net](http://cityoflockport.net) or call (815) 838-0549.