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Citizens for Economic Development (CED) Offers Grant Funding for Rockingham County Micro-Businesses

Rockingham County, NC (April 13, 2020) – Citizens for Economic Development, in partnership with Rockingham County Economic Development, announced a new funding stream for micro-businesses in Rockingham County who are being impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Economic Development has been working with the Citizens for Economic Development (CED) to develop a grant package for Rockingham County micro-businesses, defined as businesses with less than 10 full-time employees, to apply starting Monday, April 13th. Each grant will be for \$1,250 and will serve as a supplement to assist with rent/mortgage, employee support (salaries, insurance, paid leave), utilities (i.e. electricity, phone/internet, etc.), purchase of COVID-19 supplies for business protection/cleaning, expenses associated with marketing, and such. All Rockingham County micro-businesses are eligible to apply although priority will be given to businesses whose business model relies on face-to-face customer interaction, such as boutiques, salons, spas, restaurants, breweries, performing studios, and art galleries.

“Many of our micro-businesses, the majority of whom are located in our vital downtowns, rely on customer interaction to survive. The prolonged “stay at home” order due to COVID-19, has made it nearly impossible for some of these entities to stay open. In an effort to help keep these businesses afloat we are pleased to partner with CED to offer this grant,” said Leigh Cockram, Rockingham County Economic Development Director.

“It is our hope that this grant opportunity will allow us to lend a helping hand to our local micro-businesses,” states Grayson Whitt, Chairman of Citizens for Economic Development. “With so many of our local businesses suffering a dramatic and sudden loss in revenue, we

want to remind them we are here for them to lean on and hope these funds will help alleviate any financial burdens they may be feeling during this time.”

A copy of the grant application can be downloaded from Rockingham County Economic Development’s website at <https://www.gorockinghamcountync.com/covid-19-information-and-resources/>. Completed applications should be emailed to bbrame@co.rockingham.nc.us or mailed to P.O. 66, Wentworth, N.C. 27375. Applications should be completed in their entirety to be considered.

For more information, questions, or for ways to help, please contact Tara Martin, Economic Development Marketing Manager at tmartin@co.rockingham.nc.us.

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