



# REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

*of the County of Bucks*

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## JOINT NEWS RELEASE

### **Redevelopment Authority of the County of Bucks in Collaboration with Bucks County Commissioners Announce Emergency Relief Program to Support Non-Profits During the COVID-19 Pandemic.**

**For Immediate Release  
April 17, 2020**

*Second collaborative program for COVID-19 emergency relief targets local non-profits.*

Following the success of the COVID-19 Emergency Economic Rapid Relief Loan Program, the Redevelopment Authority of the County of Bucks and the Bucks County Commissioners announced a second COVID-19 Emergency Relief Program to provide direct financial relief to non-profit organizations in Bucks County that are addressing negative impacts of the Coronavirus Pandemic. Funding for the emergency relief program in the amount of \$150,000 is provided through the gross terminal revenue generated from Parx Casino in Bensalem Township and administered by the Redevelopment Authority under Pennsylvania Gaming legislation introduced by Senator Tommy Tomlinson.

“When I drafted the legislation creating the Municipal Grant Program I did so to help our local communities offset any effects from the introduction of casino gaming at Parx,” said Senator Tomlinson. “Now these critical funds will be used to help offset the effects of a pandemic that forced Parx to shut down. I commend the Redevelopment Authority for thinking outside of the box and for working together with the County to help non-profit organizations continue their operations that will benefit our communities while we work to defeat COVID-19.”

Bucks County Commissioner Chair, Diane Ellis-Marseglia said, “Our non-profits have shown an amazing ability to meet the public’s need on shoestring budgets. But, now, they would have almost no ability to assist if it weren’t for the generosity and quick response of the RDA.”

Commissioner Robert Harvie commented, “Non-profit organizations work hard every day for our neighbors in need, but never get the attention they deserve until there is a real emergency. Now, when we need the non-profits more than ever, they are struggling because the need is great but the support they get from the public cannot keep up. I’m glad we are able to work with the RDA to make funds available for the critical work which needs to be done.”

Commissioner Gene DiGirolamo added, “Under these conditions, a lot of people in Bucks County need services to navigate through this pandemic we are all experiencing. I want to thank the RDA

for working with the Commissioners and the County to develop this program to support our non-profit organizations that do an excellent job in normal circumstances. These funds will help them continue to provide critical services to those in need during this difficult time.”

“Non-profits have been hit exceptionally hard during this crisis. Fundraising has become increasingly difficult, staff and volunteers are practicing social distancing, and for many, the need for their services is greater now than ever before. This program will help to provide some relief to support the missions of those non-profit organizations that serve our community”, said Sean Schafer, Chairman of the Redevelopment Authority.

Jeff Darwak, Executive Director of the Redevelopment Authority, explained eligible applicants are 501(c)(3) organizations operating in Bucks County with priority consideration given to organizations with a physical location and/or a primary service area in a “Municipal Grant Program eligible” municipality. Those municipalities include Bensalem Township, Bristol Borough, Bristol Township, Hulmeville Borough, Langhorne Borough, Langhorne Manor Borough, Lower Southampton Township, Middletown Township, and Penndel Borough.

Funding will be targeted to organizations that are currently providing critical services to Bucks County residents in response to the challenges of COVID-19 and organizations addressing the impacts associated with Parx Casino in Bensalem Township. The maximum grant request is \$10,000.00. Applications must be submitted through the Redevelopment Authority’s website, [www.bcrda.com](http://www.bcrda.com). The deadline to apply is May 1, 2020.

Darwak added, “During this unprecedented time, the Redevelopment Authority is going to do everything possible to support Bucks County communities. I want to thank the County Commissioners and county staff for their efforts to initiate these emergency relief programs.”

Applicants should note that the Redevelopment Authority’s physical office is closed pursuant to Governor Wolf’s Order of March 19, 2020. Redevelopment Authority staff is currently working remotely. Please DO NOT call the Redevelopment Authority’s office at this time.

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*The Redevelopment Authority is authorized to administer municipal grants to the municipality in which the gaming facility is located, the county in which the licensed facility is located and to the municipalities that are contiguous to the municipality in which the gaming facility is located or are wholly within the boundaries of a contiguous municipality. Grants from Pennsylvania Gaming Revenues are authorized by the Board of Directors of the Redevelopment Authority of the County of Bucks, under the Municipal Grant Program created by the Act from language introduced by Senator Robert M. “Tommy” Tomlinson.*