

## Sturdivant, Ed

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**From:** Meyers, Andy  
**Sent:** Monday, June 1, 2020 5:20 PM  
**To:** Sturdivant, Ed  
**Cc:** Pechukas, Robert; Elam, Chris; Hodges, Emily; Dobbs, Diana; George, KP  
**Subject:** CARES Funding for Small Businesses

Ed, Judge:

Here are some suggestions on the "Save Small Business Grant Program"

We have to define our objective. Is it to help the really small businesses survive or is it to help as many businesses as possible to reopen so to provide employment for our citizens after government forced them to close? I believe we should help as many businesses and unemployed as we can. To do that, I believe we should follow these guidelines:

1. Lower the minimum annual sales to \$25,000 to include the sole proprietors who don't make a lot of money but are still affected by the shutdown.
2. Increase the maximum annual sales to \$5,000,000 to include those restaurants and franchises that have been successful in the past, but are struggling to reopen.
3. Do not limit how businesses can spend the funds. The businesses that have been most successful in reopening are those with an internet presence. Those businesses without such a presence may have to develop one. Businesses will also have to do more advertising to let patrons know that they are open for business and have taken steps to minimize potential exposure to the virus. The guideline should be whatever expenditure the business owner deems necessary to reopen and rehire the furloughed and laid off, and remain open.
4. I don't think the one-size fits all of \$8,000 works well for such a diverse segment. A sliding scale of \$5,000 to \$25,000 based on annual sales, square footage occupied, or number of employees or a combination would be more equitable, if the objective is to preserve/create as many jobs as possible. Furthermore, we should take into consideration how much the business intends to spend to reopen and rehire in determining how much assistance to provide.
5. Those businesses that have not received any financial assistance from the feds, state, or local governments should be first in line. We can obtain a list of the firms that have received federal support from the Small Business Admin. We can have a website for filing an application for funding that would include:
  - a. Name, address, ownership of firm.
  - b. Years in business and type of business (i.e. restaurant, nail salon, beauty salon, etc.)
  - c. Annual sales
  - d. Number of employees (FTEs), were they furloughed, was their compensation continued with PPP, did they file for unemployment.
  - e. Square footage occupied, how long at location, rent or own, annual rent or mortgage payment, landlord or mortgage company name, has business received an eviction notice or mortgage default notice.
  - f. Financial assistance received, from where, dollar amount, to cover what expenditures, is it continuing or has it run out.
  - g. How the funds will be used to reopen or remain open and to rehire furloughed employees. How many jobs will be preserved or created. Expected total expenditures above normal, regular operating expenses.

We should have a committee of businessmen/women and county personnel review the applications and select recipients and amount of benefit based on need and how much the business is contributing and how many jobs preserved. I suggest each member of the Court appoint 1 member to the committee that would review application from

businesses and make recommendations to the court as to which businesses to help and how much each should receive. We really need to increase the amount by another \$20 million.

*Andy Meyers*

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