FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New applications for small business CARES Act Grant on hold for now

**August 24, 2020** – Flagler County is suspending new applications from small businesses for the CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security) Act federal stimulus monies.

“We have taken in close to 1,000 applications from our local small businesses,” said Tourism Director Amy Lukasik. “We don’t want to give out false hope. The concern is that we have already accepted applications that could possibly cover the remainder of the funds allocated by the State of Florida.”

Less than two weeks ago, Flagler County distributed all of the grant money it had received to date for small businesses – $2.4 million. The application process continued until today.

“It has always been our goal to pump the grant monies into the economy as quickly as we possibly can,” Lukasik said. “We don’t want to overpromise – to let a business know they qualify, and then have to turn around and say there is nothing left.”

Businesses that have applied but that have not notiﬁed that a check is ready, or that the business is unable to be processed, are in the queue. Flagler County is currently waiting for more funds to be made available for distribution.

“We haven’t been told by the state when to expect the next allocation,” Lukasik said. “We are as anxious as anyone to get this money into our economy.”

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