

# CATTARAUGUS COUNTY IDA

## **A Message from Corey Wiktor, Executive Director of the Cattaraugus County IDA for the week of May 18, 2020:**

As everyone knows, we are very excited that the counties comprising Western New York, including Cattaraugus County are now in phase 1 of the state's reopening plan which includes manufacturing, construction, farming/agriculture and other sectors. More information about phase 1 can be found in the state's recently [released detailed guidelines](#). You also can take a deeper dive of the [overview](#) of the State's rebuilding process.

As we move forward into the next phases of re-opening the economy, every business must develop a plan of which a template can be found [here](#). It is important to note that while you do not need to submit the plan to the state for approval, you must fill out the template and be prepared to provide a copy of the plan if requested. Employers also must post a notification that their company has such a plan similar to postings in the workplace about workers compensation and other workplace notices required by the New York State Department of Labor.

Many businesses throughout the region have received a loan through the Payroll Protection Program (PPP). As you know, for those businesses that received this funding the clock is ticking as you have a 8 week window to use these funds 75% of which must go towards payroll. The loan can turn into a grant if you fulfill the various criteria in the PPP but you have to submit a [forgiveness application](#). At the same time, there is still funding available in the PPP so if your business is interested in applying, please contact your banking institution or fill out the [application](#).

As we have learned through the state's PAUSE order which essentially closed on premise business operations, Internet access and technology in general is vital to sustaining operations. This can be particularly challenging in rural communities such as Cattaraugus County where high-speed internet and general access can be challenging. As such, there are new [funding opportunities](#) that are now available especially for rural communities to pursue to enhance broadband services.

Finally, Congressman Tom Reed was part of a bi-partisan group of Congress who introduced legislation to provide financial support to state and local governments on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic. The State and Municipal Assistance for Recovery and Transition (SMART) Fund will provide \$500 billion in emergency funding to every state, county and community in the country, while prioritizing assistance to the areas with the greatest need. You can read more about the SMART Fund [here](#).

As always, stay positive, stay healthy and stay safe and let's be diligent during phase 1 so we can quickly get to phase 2 opening!

Corey