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Micro businesses can apply for relief funds on Monday
West Side Connect [dstrickland@qcitymetro.com]

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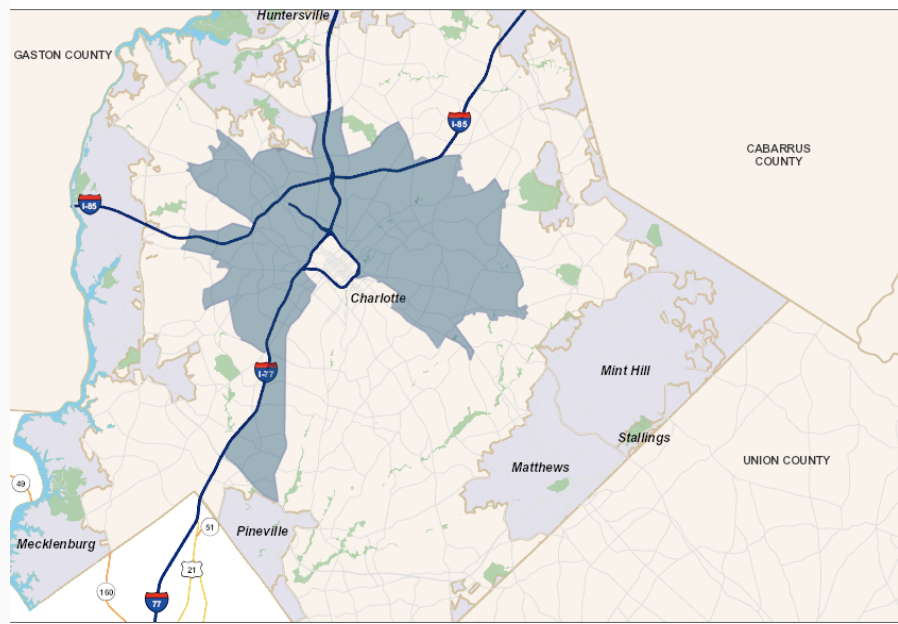
Micro businesses can apply for relief funds

Starting Monday, Charlotte's micro businesses -- those with five or fewer employees -- can apply for grants to combat the economic disruption caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

The city has partnered with Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) to deploy the Micro Business Relief Fund, where 100 micro businesses -- located within opportunity corridors that fall largely on the east and west sides of town -- could receive up to $10,000 each. The cash can be used for operational costs such as payroll, vendors, utilities and rent. Applications open Monday at noon.

A city official tells QCity Metro that, because the grant program will draw a large number of submissions, applications will be judged using strict standards.

The application will be available Monday at noon on the LISC website. For questions or assistance, email info.charlotte@lisc.org.

Read the full story. [Katrina Louis]

COMMUNITY NEWS

Charlotte stays at home, in front of the lens:
Qcitymetro's photo series captures Charlotteans and a slice of life under lockdown.

West End fresh seafood market providing for community during Covid-19

As businesses and organizations pull together to provide relief during the pandemic to residents on the west side, Historic West End spotlights the West End Fresh Seafood Market, which is providing free baby food, an extra clean work area with curbside service, and a fish sandwich themed Friday plate.

Radio personality gifts laptops to students for remote learning

WSGE 91.7 FM radio personality Tim Greene recently purchased laptop computers for students in the NC Works NEXGEN program at Gaston College. The program helps youth ages 16 to 24 overcome barriers to self-sufficiency.

'Live from the Print Shop,' a new stage for Carolina creatives

What began as a concept for live performances at MacFly Fresh's print shop at Camp North End has quickly transitioned into a virtual soundstage to support creatives during times of Covid-19. Today's premiere episode will feature singer-songwriter Jason Jet.

Atrium Health begins daily testing for Covid-19 in Black and Latino communities

The decision to test more Black and Latino residents for Covid-19 comes as Atrium officials said the mobile units have detected a "slightly higher"

rate of the disease in Mecklenburg County's lower-income communities where the units have set up.

[JCSU seniors now have a graduation date](#)
Seniors at Johnson C. Smith University can breathe a little easier now that commencement has been rescheduled. School officials announced Tuesday that an in-person graduation ceremony will happen Oct. 28, 2020, at Bojangles' Coliseum as part of the school's homecoming festivities.

EVENTS
Due to North Carolina's stay at home order, nonessential in-person events have been postponed or canceled. If you have virtual events to share, please submit them to our [events calendar](#).

SATURDAY, noon
[Drums4Life's Drum Circles on Live](#): Tune in to Instagram or Facebook live with your drums, pots and pans, water jugs... All ages and levels are welcomed!

MAY 4, noon
["Mondays with Michelle Obama:"](#) The former First Lady reads a beloved children's book every Monday through May 11: This week's book: *Miss Maple's Seeds.* The video will be livestreamed on [PBS KIDS' Facebook](#) page and [YouTube channel](#).

MAY 5, 6 p.m.
[Levar Burton of Reading Rainbow](#) is performing a live stream of his podcast, Levar Burton Reads, from his Twitter account. The Wednesday evening performance is appropriate for teenagers.

MAY 7, noon
["Rosenwald Schools:"](#) A lunch-and-learn exploring how African Americans built, funded and staffed more than 800 schools in the depths of Jim Crow-era North Carolina and across the South.

MAY 7, 1 p.m.
[Digital Communications for Neighborhood Groups:](#) Digital communication can help build capacity in neighborhoods and foster a stronger sense of community. In this session hosted by the City of Charlotte in partnership with NextStage Consulting, learn how to use digital communication as a tool to improve communication in your organization.

Got an event you'd like to post? [Click here to get started.](#)

Give us feedback

Got a story idea for West Side Connect? What about an event you want to share with your neighbors? Perhaps your westside church is hosting a

revival or special event. Or maybe you want to advertise or get involved in some other way. Drop us a line at editor@qcitymetro.com.

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