

Palm Beach County Commission
District 4

From the desk of
Vice Mayor Robert S. Weinroth



561-276-1220
rweinroth@pbcgov.org



Visit our Website

Grants expanded for eligible businesses

The Board of County Commissioners approved an additional \$20 million in Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act Restart Business Grants for businesses previously excluded from prior grant programs and not required to close due to state and/or county executive orders.

The grants in the amount of up to \$15,000 (offset by any PPP, other grants or forgivable loans) will be available to an **expanded list of eligible businesses that were**

negatively impacted by COVID-19 and did not previously meet the criteria to receive grant funds through the county.

The CARES Restart Business Grant Program will resume taking applications on **Monday, Oct. 26, 2020, at 8 a.m.**

The online application will be accessible for one week, closing on **Monday, Nov. 2, 2020, at 5 p.m.**

For more details on eligibility requirements, please visit the Department of Housing & Economic Sustainability [website](#).

Grants for nonprofits

The Board designated \$4.24 million through the county's CARES Act funding to meet the needs of qualifying 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(19) nonprofit agencies affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The grant-funded program will prioritize health and human services or veterans services organizations in Palm Beach County with a focus on at least one of the following areas:

- Unemployed individuals needing job skills training, assistance with job search and employment applications
- Low-income individuals, youth and/or families
- Individuals with disabilities
- Homelessness
- Individuals with a mental/behavioral health issue
- Providing critical services in an underserved area
- Veterans

Other 501(c)(3) agencies may be considered for funding, if available.

Applications will be accepted through Nov. 30 at 11:59 p.m.

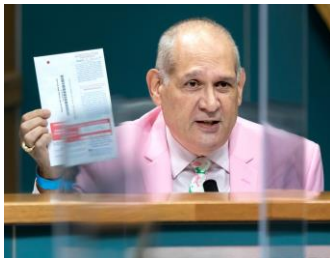
For more information or to apply, click [here](#).

Grants for cultural organizations

The Palm Beach County Cultural Resiliency Fund is an official county grant program approved by the Board of County Commissioners. The program will be administered by the Cultural Council and provide direct relief to cultural organizations recovering from the impact of COVID-19.

The guidelines and application materials will be released on Monday, Oct. 26. For more information, click [here](#).

November election information



The Board of County Commissioners is working closely with Supervisor of Elections Link's office in preparation of the November election. There are:

- 25 "wrapped" rental vans at ballot drop-off locations to increase visibility and have a consistent look to provide convenient places where ballots can be dropped off
- Cameras have been installed at three ballot drop box locations (Palm Beach Gardens, Delray Beach, and Belle Glade) to provide extra safety and security

The BCC previously approved funding for return postage on Vote by Mail ballots to make it easier to return them by mail.

However, only ballots received by the Supervisor of Elections by 7 p.m. on Nov. 3rd will be counted. As the deadline approaches, residents are urged to consider dropping their signed Vote by Mail ballot off at one of the designated drop box locations on or before Nov. 3.

Reminders.....

The deadline to request a Vote by Mail ballot be mailed to you is **Oct. 24, 2020.**

Again, Vote by Mail ballots **must be received** by the Supervisor of Elections Office on Election Day, **Nov. 3, by 7 p.m.**

To verify your ballot has been received by the Supervisor of Elections office, go to PBCElections.org.

If your household received multiple Vote by Mail ballots, please ensure the ballots are placed in the correct envelopes. ***Do not combine ballots into a single envelope***, and make sure each envelope has the required signature.

There are six ballot questions. If approved, the following changes will be made to the Florida Constitution:

- Amendment 1 would require only citizens be allowed to vote in Florida.
- Amendment 2 would raise the minimum wage to \$15 by 2026.
- Amendment 3 would establish "top-two" open primaries.
- Amendment 4 would require future amendments to the Florida Constitution be passed twice. (If this passes, all future amendments will need to receive 60 percent of the votes cast in two successive elections.)

- Amendment 5 would increase the period during which a person may transfer “Save Our Homes” benefits to a new homestead property from two years to three years.
- Amendment 6 would allow a homestead property tax discount to be transferred to the surviving spouse of a deceased veteran.

COVID-19 testing

Rapid antigen testing is now available at the following testing site:

FITTEAM Ballpark of the Palm Beaches
5444 Haverhill Road
West Palm Beach, FL 33407

Drive-up rapid antigen testing:

No appointments necessary

Tuesday - Saturday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Available for all ages **with symptoms**.

Regular COVID testing for any age; need not be symptomatic, Tuesday - Saturday 8 am - noon
Drive-thru site, by appointment only; call (561) 642-1000

For a complete list of over 115 testing sites (public and private) please click [here](#).

COVID-19 reminders

The county is currently in Phase 3 re-openings, all capacity limitations have been lifted, and businesses may operate at 100% capacity while adhering to CDC guidelines. *For more information, click [here](#).*

Facial coverings (Emergency Order 2020-012) are still in place.

Additionally, all individuals, businesses, and establishments, are required to adhere to:

- social distancing guidelines issued by the CDC; and
- enhanced cleaning protocols, such as those in guidelines issued by the CDC (relating to enhanced cleaning and disinfecting guidance for reopening).

The COVID-19 Education Compliance Team will continue to inspect establishments, and education remains the team's primary focus. The public comment line is 561-24COVID, and the email is covidcompliance@pbcgov.org.

Avoid the Three Cs
Be aware of different levels of risk in different settings.

There are certain places where COVID-19 spreads more easily:

- 1 Crowded places**
with many people nearby
- 2 Close-contact settings**
Especially where people have close-range conversations
- 3 Confined and enclosed spaces**
with poor ventilation

The risk is higher in places where these factors overlap.
Even as restrictions are lifted, consider where you are going and #StaySafe by avoiding the Three Cs.

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO?

- Avoid crowded places and limit time in enclosed spaces
- Maintain at least 1m distance from others
- When possible, open windows and doors for ventilation
- Keep hands clean and cover coughs and sneezes
- Wear a mask if requested or if physical distancing is not possible

If you are unwell, stay home unless to seek urgent medical care.

Mortgage Assistance Program

Round 2 of the CARES Act Mortgage Assistance Program provides up to six months of assistance (not to exceed \$10,000) to income-eligible households that are at least one month delinquent (after Feb. 29, 2020) in home mortgage,

escrow payments, and/or condominium and homeowner's association dues. Assistance can only be provided through December 2020.

To qualify, homeowners must demonstrate their debts are directly tied to COVID-19. Additional criteria include, but are not limited to:

- income eligibility
- residence must be owner-occupied
- property must be in Palm Beach County
- the assessed value cannot exceed \$331,888.

All applications must be submitted online, will be processed on a first-come, first-eligible basis and can be accessed at the Department of Housing and Economic Sustainability [website](#).

Rental and Utility Assistance Program

The Community Services Department has resumed acceptance of rental and utility applications under the CARES Act. Eligible residents who experienced a loss of income as a direct result of COVID-19 and are at or below 140 percent Area Median Income may apply for rental and utility assistance.

Additional eligibility requirements apply, and maximum benefits are as follows:

- Rent up to \$10,000 in arrears beginning in March 2020
- Electric, water and/or gas up to \$1,200 in arrears beginning in March 2020

Residents may reapply for rental/utility assistance if they are still affected by the pandemic and have not received the

maximum benefits listed above. The application portal for rental/utility assistance will remain open until Oct. 30, 2020.

To apply for rental and utility assistance, please click [here](#). To view a detailed list of eligibility requirements, please click [here](#).

FPL continues to offer direct relief to customers

FPL residential and small business customers may be eligible for a one-time bill credit based on the status of their account and how long the account has been overdue.

FPL is also continuing to offer payment extensions, waive late, reconnection and collection fees, and help connect customers with financial assistance.

To apply or request more information, please call **800-226-3545**.

In-person and virtual mental health services

The Palm Beach County Youth Services Department has resumed in-person mental health services following CDC guidelines. Telehealth services will continue to be offered based on client preference.

Office hours are Monday through Thursday, 7:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. with locations in West Palm Beach, Palm Beach Gardens, Delray Beach and Belle Glade. Mental health services are offered in person or virtually via Zoom video and are available in English, Spanish, French and Creole. Please call 561-625-2540 to schedule an appointment.

For a full list of mental health services provided by Palm Beach County Youth Services, please click [here](#).

Food resources

The county is providing pre-paid debit cards to approved residents to purchase food. This one-time benefit allowance is based on household size, and maximum amounts are listed below. Only one card will be given out per household, and all expenditures must be made by Dec. 30, 2020. The application portal will remain open until Oct. 30, 2020.

- 1-2 household members: \$400
- 3-4 household members: \$800
- 5 or more household members: \$1,000

County residents may apply for food assistance [here](#). A list of frequently asked questions can be found [here](#).

For more information, contact the Community Services Department at (561) 355-4792.

Where to find food:

Food Finder Map

United Way offers an [Interactive Food Finder map](#) to assist in locating free food and hot meals throughout Palm Beach County.

Palm Beach County Food Bank

To find food distribution sites through the Palm Beach County Food Bank, please click [here](#).

Feeding South Florida

To find food distribution sites through Feeding South Florida, please click [here](#).

School District of Palm Beach County

Breakfast and lunch is free to all students attending school in person on campus. The district also offers free grab-and-go curbside meal pickup on Tuesdays and Thursdays for those who have remained in distance learning. Please click [here](#) for updated times and locations.

Palm Tran debuts pink bus & honors frontline workers



On Oct. 20, 2020, I joined Mayor Kerner and fellow commissioners for the debut of Palm Tran's Susan G. Komen Florida and Frontline Faces Taking You Places buses at the Robert Weisman Palm Beach County Governmental Center.

The pink Susan G. Komen bus was created through an annual partnership between Palm Tran, Lamar Transit Advertising and Susan G. Komen Florida.

This year, the bus is promoting the 30th anniversary of the Race for a Cure. The upcoming race will be virtual and take place on Jan. 30, 2021. The debut of the bus coincided with the recognition of October as Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

For more information on the Susan G. Komen Organization and/or upcoming race, please click [here](#).

Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners | 301 North Olive Avenue, 12th Floor , West Palm Beach, FL 33401