



July 16, 2020

The Honorable Tom Wolf
Governor of Pennsylvania
508 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

RE: CARES Act County Relief Block Grant Program – Lebanon County

Dear Governor Wolf:

Under the provisions of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, 2020 Enacted H.R. 748, 116 Enacted H.R. 748, the “CARES Act”), the U.S. Department of the Treasury was authorized to transfer funds to the Commonwealth to cover costs of the Commonwealth that: are necessary expenditures incurred due to the public health emergency with respect to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19); “were not accounted for in the budget most recently approved as of the date of enactment of this section for the State or government; and “were incurred during the period that begins on March 1, 2020, and ends on December 30, 2020.

According to the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED): Only county governments, those not directly funded by the Federal Government, are eligible to receive the COVID-19 County Block Grant Program funding through DCED.

Sixty-six of 67 counties have received their funding and are working quickly to infuse it into their local economies, helping thousands of businesses, non-profits, municipalities, and more. Lebanon County is the only one left in Pennsylvania that has not received the money as promised by the Federal Government.

This is an unacceptable exclusion of just one county. This money, close to \$13 million, is desperately needed to help our business community continue to recover and survive the ongoing restrictions and added costs to follow CDC guidelines. Tourism, small business, non-profits, and more have been patiently waiting to apply for this grant money as announced by the state. To take that away is an unfair punishment.

We implore you to reconsider this decision as Lebanon County deserves every right to provide this recovery funding as the other 66 counties in Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Karen Groh".

Karen Groh
President/CEO

604 Cumberland Street
Lebanon, PA 17042-5272
P 717.273.3727 • F 717.273.7940
lvchamber.org

Vision Statement

The Lebanon Valley Chamber of Commerce will excel as the premier business leadership organization and catalyst for change, growth and prosperity in the Lebanon Valley

Mission Statement

To be a leader in the advancement of the economic vitality and quality of life in the Lebanon Valley through access, resources, and services to the business community.