

2021 City of Bath Economic Relief Bridge Program

The City of Bath will offer one-time loans in its Economic Relief Bridge Program in response to immediate needs for small businesses affected by the COVID-19 Pandemic in 2021. The loans are potentially forgivable, see below for criteria.

The goals of the Bridge Program are to:

- Provide operating capital to small businesses facing immediate needs to relieve financial constraints in 2021. These immediate needs can include reduced hours of operation, revenue decline, increased operating costs, inability to access capital, inability to respond to home deliveries, interrupted supply, inability to serve customers and decreased customers.
- Stabilize the City's economy by supporting small businesses in meeting immediate needs.
- Supplement state and federal economic relief programs.

Program Guidelines and Eligibility

The City of Bath, through funding from the BIW TIF District, will be able to offer one-time loan of up to \$5,000 for small businesses to meet immediate needs related to COVID-19 Pandemic. Loans will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis with program funding up to \$200,000.

The following guidelines will apply for all loans:

- The business owner must be the applicant.
- The business must have a physical location within the City of Bath.
- Each applicant may be awarded only one loan, up to \$5,000.
- The terms of the loan are two years, zero-interest, with deferred payments for the first 12 months.

The loan will be forgiven as long as: the loan proceeds are used to cover payroll, mortgage interest, rent, and utility costs in 2021; and employee and compensation levels are maintained or are returned to levels (as of Feb. 29, 2020), on or before December 31, 2021.

Application Process

Applications and guidelines for the Economic Relief Bridge Program may be obtained from the City Manager's Office or on the City of Bath website (www.cityofbath.com). A rolling application period will begin February 1, 2021.

Applications will only be considered complete if the following are included:

- Completed application form
- Financial information (2019 and 2020)
- Debt schedule

This program has been recommended by the City's Economic Development Committee and funding approved by the City Council. Applications will be reviewed and approved for funding by City's Economic Development staff. The City of Bath reserves the right to accept or reject any applications.

"Small business" will be defined by the U.S. Small Business Administration Size Standards through SBA. Non-profits are not eligible for the program.