



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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More than 400 Small Businesses and Nonprofits Receive \$5.3 Million from LEAP to Aid in Restart and Recovery Amid COVID-19 Crisis

Regional Geographic Distribution, Economic Impact and Inclusion-Minded Process Drove Complex Grant Awards

LANSING, Mich. (Sept. 29, 2020) — Following a [statewide announcement](#) from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC), the Lansing Economic Area Partnership (LEAP) is announcing 412 small businesses and nonprofits from across Clinton, Eaton and Ingham counties have been selected to receive grants ranging from \$5,000-\$20,000 to assist with restart and recovery amid the ongoing COVID-19 crisis. The grants are funded by federal CARES Act dollars, approved by the Michigan legislature and Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, provided to LEAP through the MEDC. With 1,640 eligible applications received in the Lansing region, LEAP was able to provide grants to approximately 25% of the applicants.

“LEAP is thrilled to assist more than 400 small businesses and nonprofits from across our three county area, to survive this historic crisis and prepare to thrive moving forward with a total of \$5.3 million. Some businesses have closed and will now have a real shot to reopen and some are operating at greatly reduced capacity, but now will be able to remain in business,” said Bob Trezise, president and CEO of LEAP. “Though this is a significant amount of money, an unfortunate reality is it still isn’t anywhere near enough funding to provide for all who needed and deserved it, which makes the process both rewarding and heartbreaking. No doubt though, LEAP is doing vital good for the regional economy.”

Research conducted by the [Association for Enterprise Opportunity](#) notes microbusinesses represent 92% of all US businesses, collectively employing 41.3 million people. Additionally important, the [Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research](#) quantifies more businesses from underrepresented groups are operating sole proprietorships, which are classified as microbusinesses. In the Lansing region, including Clinton, Eaton and Ingham counties, 61.5% of businesses are classified as microbusinesses.

“In addition to awarding hundreds of grants to many traditional businesses and nonprofits, we especially focused on microbusinesses which tend to be heavily owned by underrepresented populations,” Trezise added. “I am also most pleased that our intentional efforts toward equity resulted in grants awarded to every geographic section of the three county region, as well as to underrepresented populations that have been historically neglected of opportunity including women, minorities, veterans and persons with disabilities.”



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With this in mind, LEAP identified three grant categories for the Lansing region restart grant program in order to meet regional needs and state requirements: microbusinesses (1-9 paid employees/workers), traditional small businesses (10-50 paid employees/workers) and nonprofits (50 or fewer paid employees/workers):

- 210 \$10,000 grants for microbusinesses
- 125 \$20,000 grants for traditional small businesses
- 77 \$5,000 or \$10,000 grants for nonprofit organizations

LEAP's process was designed to minimize bias and give all applicants a fair opportunity and included two independent reviews of each application, followed by additional, multitiered committee reviews. Thanks in large part to the nearly 70 regional economic development partners and a large group of local diversity, equity and inclusion partner organizations including NAACP of Greater Lansing, Melanin in Medicine-Black Business Alliance, Cristo Rey Community Center, Vietnam Veterans of America - Michigan State Council, Disability Network Capital Area, Lansing Hispanic/Latino Chamber of Commerce / Cafecito Caliente, Michigan Women Forward, Best Practices Consulting Services and Refugee Development Center, the geographic distribution of awards closely mirrors the geographic distribution of businesses across the three-county region, awarding 9% of grants in Clinton county, 19% in Eaton county and 72% in Ingham county.

Additionally, the state mandated minimum of 30% of all funds awarded among women-, minority- and veteran-owned business was met with a combined 63% of microbusiness and traditional small business grants awarded to women-owned businesses, 56% awarded to minority-owned businesses and 10% awarded to veteran-owned businesses. Though not required by the state, LEAP also added a specific focus on persons with disabilities, awarding a combined 4% of microbusiness and traditional small business grants to business owners who self disclosed as persons with disabilities.

“The more people and business we have operating at a maximum level throughout every layer of our regional economy, the more customers for our businesses, consumers with disposable income, growing businesses and revenue generation for schools and government services we will have. A significant portion of the economy, including women, minorities, veterans and persons with disabilities, are suffering at disproportionate levels whether related to COVID-19 death rates, failed businesses due to the virus, poverty rates or lack of access to federal COVID-19 Paycheck Protection Program relief programs,” said Trezise. “We found the right balance as a community, with what money we had in this grant program, to best strengthen the entirety of our economy, now and into the future. I want to thank the federal and state legislatures, Gov. Whitmer, the MEDC and especially our diversity, equity and inclusion service providers and the



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nearly 70 reviewers from across the region who made this all happen. It was a remarkable effort from all perspectives and LEAP was proud to lead the way.”

A [full statewide list of grant recipients](#) has been made available by the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC). A [regional list of selected grantees](#) and geographic and demographic detail of applications received and awarded in the Lansing region is available on LEAP’s website. Additionally, all program documentation including application review and scoring criteria, application review process documentation and a thorough program FAQ continues to be available to the public on LEAP’s website where it has been accessible since July 15, 2020.

**Michigan Small Business Restart Program
 LEAP Lansing Region Grants Awards Category and Demographic Detail**

Applications Received

- Total applications: 1,660
- Eligible applications: 1,639
- Applications from underrepresented business owners: 1,062 or 65% of eligible applications

Geographic Distribution

County	Known Business Distribution Across Clinton, Eaton and Ingham Counties	Percent of Eligible Applications Across Clinton, Eaton and Ingham Counties	Percent of Awarded Applications Across Clinton, Eaton and Ingham Counties
Clinton	11%	9%	9%
Eaton	24%	17%	19%
Ingham	65%	74%	72%

Municipal breakdown available at www.purelansing.com/businessrelief

Grant Categories



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Grant Category	Percent of Applications Received	Number of Grants Awarded
Microbusiness	67%	210
Traditional small business	22%	125
Nonprofit	11%	77

Business Owner Demographics – Regional Aggregate

Business Owner Demographics	Combined Percent of Applications Received in Microbusiness and Traditional Small Business Categories	Percent of Grants Awarded in Microbusiness and Traditional Small Business Categories
Woman-owned	46%	63%
Minority-owned	36%	56%
Veteran-owned	6%	10%
Persons with disabilities-owned	unavailable	4%

Business Owner Demographics of Awarded Businesses by County

Business Owner Demographics of Awarded Businesses	Clinton	Eaton	Ingham
Woman-owned	50%	64%	65%
Minority-owned	30%	42%	64%
Veteran-owned	20%	17%	8%
Persons with disabilities-owned	0%	3%	4%



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Businesses and Nonprofits Awarded Grants

Funds are expected to be distributed to the listed businesses by Sept. 30, 2020 as previously indicated by LEAP. Some of the listed awardees continue to complete final paperwork and will receive grant funds when the necessary documents are received and processed.

Awarded Microbusinesses

- 10 Reps to Freedom LLC
- 1910 Food Market
- A Wright Facility Management
- AA Prime Cuisine and Catering LLC
- Advanced Appliance Repair
- Ageless Beauty Center
- AGK Services LLC
- Akagi Sushi Restaurant LLC
- Alicia's Enterprises
- All Grand Events LLC
- Alliance Psychological Associates PLLC
- Altu's Ethiopian Cuisine Inc.
- Amy's Catering LLC
- Associated Psychological Services Center
- Aste Enterprises LLC
- Aux Petits Soins LLC
- Beacon Aviation of Michigan Inc.
- Becki Gorden & Associates Inc.
- Bella Viita
- Beyond Our Barriers for Michigan
- Big Mom's House
- Blackstarr LLC
- Blades Hair Studio
- Bobo Asian Grocery/Myint Myanmar LSC
- Braids & Things International
- Brandon Ashley Green
- Brant A. Johnson & Associates LLC
- Bridge + Main Market



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- Bridge Street Wedding Chapel LLC
- Brighter Health Counseling
- BRITE bites
- Capital City Soul Food
- Caring Convenient Dentistry of East Lansing
- Carolyn's Place
- Central Business Systems
- ChichiMovies Inc.
- Classy Image Hair Salon
- Coat of Many Colors LLC
- CODA Music Therapy Services LLC
- Core Wellness Rental & Training Group LLC
- Country Creek Reception Hall
- Crafting Lovely LLC
- Crown Sports Club
- Cruz Control Fitness LLC
- Custom Embroidery Plus LLC
- Daisy's Pet Retreat
- Davis Transport Inc.
- Delicious SoulFood
- Divinely Glamorous by Kenya LLC
- Dorris Daily Living
- E2 Services
- Early Childhood Discovery House LLC
- Earthen Craft Pottery
- EC Sparty LLC
- Ecopassports LLC
- Eisen Electric Corporation
- Eleven 11 Events LLC
- Elliott's Amusements LLC
- EM Services LLC
- Empower Lansing
- Eric King Agency
- Erica Product Specialist LLC
- Evelyn Oregon
- Everything is Cheesecake



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- Eye Full Hair Studios
- Eye Level Okemos
- Fireworks Glass Studios
- Five Start Builders Inc.
- Fusion Dance Center LLC
- G & G Tax Service
- Garde' d' Enfant Home Day Care LLC
- GDA Hockey
- Gigi's Closet
- Green Tree Essentialz
- Grow With Me Childcare
- Hair Boss Extensions LLC
- Hart Roofing LLC
- Health Numeric LLC
- Health Wellpreneurs Center
- HeartSaving Education LLC
- Hiit Fitness and Bootcamp Inc.
- His Productions
- HL Logistics LLC
- Hoffman Photography Inc.
- Holt Cleaners
- Hope Sports Complex
- Ideal Reupholstery
- Improve, Improv 3
- Initial Brands Inc.
- Joe's Gizzard Wagon
- Jones Publishing LLC
- Jus Us Kidz Childcare & Family Services
- Just B Yoga & Tai Chi LLC
- Key Concepts Counseling & Consulting LLC
- King Care Pharmacy LLC
- Knutson's Travelport LLC
- Koala Group Inc.
- Kona Ice Holt
- Kurt L. Gorski
- LabSys LLC



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- Lavacious Boutique
- Linda's LLC
- LITFITDG
- Living Arts Dance Studio
- Lotus Beauty Lounge LLC
- LotusVoice Integrative Therapies LLC
- Lotz of Love Daycare
- Lynn Osborne PC
- Lynna Nails
- Marcia Crump
- Maria's Cuisine
- Massage & Wellness LLC
- Master Mowing LLC
- May's Flowers Childcare LLC
- Meridian Chiropractic Center
- Meridian Professional Psychological Consultants PC
- Meridian Weekly
- Michael T. Terry
- Michigan Center for Martial Arts, Inc.
- Micky's Bar
- Mickys Catering LLC
- Mid-Michigan Pedorthic Clinic
- Mind & Body Symmetry LLC
- MLK Apartments
- Modern Groomers LLC
- MY1 Cleaning Services
- Naturally Chic Dread Bar
- New Grand Limousine Inc.
- Next Generation Lactation Service
- Old Town Hair LLC
- Olive Leaf Family Counseling
- OrganizingTogether (OT) Consultancy Group
- Pe'er Hair Studio
- Persis Indian Grill
- Playing Picasso LLC
- Plush1978.INC Barbershop



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- Popity Popcorn Co
- Prndl LLC
- Professional Writing Expert
- Psychological Services
- PT Trucking and Transportation LLC
- Qubic Marketing Agency
- Ragland's Trucking LLC
- Reflections Auto Spa
- Regatta Ranch LLC
- RELEASE! LLC
- River Inn Adult Foster Care Inc.
- Rodney Lamar Page
- RRChrome LLC
- S.W.A.T.ed LLC
- SAM Logistics LLC
- Sandrey Home Health Care PC
- SC Enterprise Inc.
- Schafers Bar LLC
- Seasonal Inspirations Gift Shop
- SeeLaVee LLC
- Silver Thread Tailor Shoppe
- Simple as 1, 2, Tan Inc.
- Snap Fitness of Haslett
- Sold in Style
- Somewhere In Time
- Sophisticated Stylez Hair & Nail Salon
- Sound EFX Production
- Spartan Athletics LLC
- Spartan Spin
- Sunset Place Events LLC
- SuperNatural Hair Solutions
- Sweet Encounter Bakery LLC
- Sydney's Nail House
- T-N-T CLEAN LLC
- TAB Construction LLC
- Tamara Bauer DDS PC



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- Tami's Tutoring LLC
- Tammy's Tinyb Tot's Daycare LLC
- Tantay LLC
- Taylored Therapy LLC
- Teff-rific
- Teresa A. Koch DDS
- Terry Cuts LLC
- Thai Village Restaurant LLC
- Thairapy Salon
- The Beauty Room by LeeLee LLC
- The Chronicle Newspaper
- The Cigar Connoisseur
- The Corner Spot
- The Dance Conservatory
- The Dance Studio
- The Standard/Setting the Standard
- The Thirsty Bird Bar & Kitchen
- THiNC.technology
- tinkrLAB
- Toaste
- Todd & Associates LLC
- Two-Own LLC
- Unlimited Potential LLC
- Urban Development Worldwide
- Vada's Day Spa LLC
- Value Engineering LLC
- Vesta Investments LLC
- VIBE Enterprises LLC
- Vintage Hair Design
- Walker Transport Inc.
- We Will Come To You LLC
- Wheel House Studio LLC
- William C. Robertson DDS PC
- Wire Works Inc.
- WWSJ Radio Joy 1580AM/ 100.3FM
- Young Ladies Achievement Center



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- Za'z Sunshine GCC
- ZapNabit

Traditional Small Businesses Awarded

- 247 Fitness Bootcamp & Boxing
- 7-Eleven 36896
- 98point6 Emergicenter
- A NU U Co.
- A Perfect Ten Nails & Spa
- Aces Gaming Supply LLC
- Acres of Play
- AddiXions 84 LLC
- All Body Kneads LLC
- All-Star Cafe
- Alpha Logistics LLC
- Ann's School of Dance Inc.
- Asian Buffet
- BAD Brewing Company
- Bells Greek Pizza
- Big Guy Foods LLC
- Blondie's Barn
- BW's Hair Salon
- Capital City BBQ
- Cask & Co
- Caterpillar Corner Childcare Center LLC
- Center for Yoga, Movement and Massage
- Champions Sports Bar and Grill
- Chapelure
- CharLanes Inc.
- Conquest Fitness
- Consolations Enterprises LLC
- Coral Gables
- Country Spice Catering
- Country Stitches Ltd.
- Creative Wellness
- Crunchy's



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- Darb's Tavern & Eatery
- Davis Auto Mart
- Detailed Drywall and Painting LLC
- DewittChiro
- DRM International Learning Center
- Duckett Brothers Distributing
- East Lansing Dental PLLC
- East Lansing Hot Yoga
- Eat the Rich LLC
- Eaton Rapids Craft Co.
- Elan Dental Group Lansing PLLC
- Ellison Brewing Co.
- Essential Touch Home Care Services LLC
- Everyday Authentic Chinese Cuisine
- Firefly Hot Yoga Bar
- Freight One LLC
- Goldfish Swim School Lansing
- Gorden Homes Co LLC
- Grand Grillin
- Gregory's Downtown Inc.
- GymTactics LLC
- Harry's Place
- Hibachi Grill & Sushi Buffet Inc.
- High Caliber Karting Inc.
- Hilltop Yoga Lansing
- Holiday Inn Express & Suites
- Home Health Strategic Management LLC
- HomeBase Kitchen and Catering LLC
- Jersey Mikes Subs
- Just Munchies LLC
- Kean's Store Co. LLC
- Kelly's Downtown
- Kenneth & Phyllis McClure Leasing Inc.
- Kick It Out Dance Studio LLC
- Ledge's Sweat Shop LLC
- Leslie Depot Diner



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- Lil G's Italian Restaurant
- Little Blessings Childcare Centers LLC
- Lockworx Salon
- Los Tres Amigos of East Lansing
- Maru East Lansing LLC
- Mayfair Bar Inc.
- Menchie's Frozen Yogurt
- Michigan Polymer Reclaim Inc.
- Mir's Oriental Rugs Inc.
- National Career Group LLC
- New Style Salon
- Ngage Management
- NIMBUS EL LLC
- Nola Bistro
- Paint & Clean Pros LLC
- Pam's Academy of Champions and Pam's Preschool Program
- Peoples Yoga LLC
- Popeyes Louisiana Kitchen
- Powerhouse Gym East Lansing
- Pretty Lady Cleaning Services LLC
- Prevention and Training Services Inc.
- Professional Party Planner LLC
- Roehms Day Spa LLC
- Rosalyn's Southern Eats and Treats
- S & G Residential and Commercial Cleaning LLC
- Safe Haven Assisted Living
- Salt Yoga
- Sansu Corp
- Sleep Inn Dewitt
- Sleepwalker Spirits and Ale Inc.
- Sonja G. Norris
- Sophias House of Pancakes
- Spagnuolo's Restaurant
- Spartan Printing and Promotional Products
- Splash of Color Tattoo & Piercing Studio
- Steakhouse Philly



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- Sultan's Restaurant
- Sunset Food Market
- Sylvan Learning Center
- Tavern 109 LLC
- The Avenue Cafe
- The County Journal Inc.
- The English Inn
- The Smoke N Pig BBQ LLC
- The Wheel Inn
- Thomas Janitorial
- Tim Hortons
- Tony M's Restaurant
- True Fitness Holt LLC
- Tunes Are Us
- Vital Education to Improve Lives
- Williamston Wellness PLLC
- Wing Heaven Lansing
- World Buffet and Grill
- Yoga Connect Haslett
- Yoga Connect LLC
- Zap Zone Lansing Ltd.

Nonprofits Awarded

- Against All Odds
- Alano Club Inc.
- All of the Above Hip Hop Academy
- Bharatiya Temple of Lansing
- Bond Ministries Inc.
- Boys & Girls Club of Lansing
- Capital Area College Access Network
- Capital Area Down Syndrome Association
- Cardboard Prophets
- Care Free Medical Inc.
- CASA-The Voice for Clinton County's Children
- CharlotteRising
- Closing The Digital Gap



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- Cristo Rey Parish Lansing
- Eagles Sports of Lansing
- Eastside Community Action Center
- Eaton Area Senior Center Inc.
- Eaton Clothing & Furniture Center
- Eaton Community Palliative Care
- Ele's Place
- Footprints of Michigan Inc.
- Forster Woods Adult Day Center
- Friends of Chrystal
- Friends of East Olive
- Grand Ledge Chamber of Commerce
- Grit Glam and Guts
- Habitat for Humanity Lansing
- Happendance Inc.
- Haven House
- HAWK Foundation
- Helping Hands Respite Care
- Impression 5 Science Center
- International Humanitarian Services
- Kingdom Life Church
- Kingdom Ministries
- Lansing Art Gallery & Education Center
- Lansing Kappa Alpha Psi Foundation Inc.
- League of Michigan Bicyclists
- Love on Assignment/Ecumenical Ecclesial Church
- Maranatha Spanish Assembly of God
- Michigan Association for the Education of Young Children
- Michigan Audubon Society
- Michigan Peace Team
- Mother-2-Mother
- Nokomis Cultural Heritage Center
- Northwest Lansing Healthy Communities Initiative
- Pass It On Inc.
- Pearls of Excellence Foundation
- Petals & Pinecones Inc.



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- Resolution Services Center of Central Michigan
- Riverwalk Theatre
- Ronald McDonald House of Mid-Michigan Inc.
- SafeCenter
- Salus Center
- Small Talk Children's Advocacy Center
- Solid Rock BC/The Rock
- South Lansing Community Development Association
- Space for Grace Fellowship Center
- St. Vincent de Paul of St. Johns
- Stepping Stones Montessori of East Lansing
- STREETS 517 Ministries
- The Davies Project for Mid-Michigan Children
- The Firecracker Foundation
- The House of promise
- The Jean Bradford Kline Senior Center
- The Mikey Foundation Inc.
- The Turning Point of Lansing
- Transformation GEMS
- Union Missionary Baptist Church
- Unity Spiritual Center of Lansing
- Village Summit Inc.
- Voices of Color
- Willow Tree Family Center Inc.
- Woldumar Nature Center
- Women's Center of Greater Lansing Inc.
- Women's Opportunity House
- Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc. Theta Rho Zeta Chapter

###

About LEAP

The [Lansing Economic Area Partnership \(LEAP\)](#) is a coalition of area leaders partnering to build a stronger community for all — working every day to grow, retain and attract business to the Lansing, Michigan, region.