

FROM LIBN.COM

# Nassau proposes \$25M business recovery program

Nassau County is proposing a recovery program that would direct \$25 million in American Recovery Funds in the form of grants, loans and assistance to downtown businesses.

The county said it is also opening a one-stop shop in Eisenhower Park in June to help streamline applications for various business recovery programs.

The program is aimed at helping businesses that continue to struggle from the impact of COVID-19.

The proposed program was developed after an analysis of a recent survey conducted by Hofstra University on behalf of the county and its Coronavirus Economic Advisory Council. Recent findings revealed that “direct support of small businesses, coupled with a streamlined application process, are the most important ways for Nassau to aid recovery,” according to a press release from the county.

The program would alleviate downward economic pressures by expanding the county’s Restaurant Recovery Grant Program to include

broader categories of small businesses, including all food services, retail and other hard-hit businesses, according to the county.

It would also provide new stabilization loans to the county’s small businesses, including start-ups and minority and women-owned business enterprises, and offer increase flexibility, extended pay-back periods and lower interest rates, according to the county.

The county, in addition, is establishing a Boost Nassau Resource Center in Eisenhower Park, to help streamline the application process for business grants and other recovery programs. The Towns of Hempstead, Oyster Bay and North Hempstead will be offered office space to consolidate information and opportunities for businesses and residents countywide.

“Small businesses employ our neighbors, family, and friends and are the heart of our vibrant downtown communities that need help,” County Executive Laura Curran said in a statement.

“We need to expand our efforts to support these businesses by providing direct assistance while also helping them take advantage of the

programs available from federal and state sources as well,” she added.

Through the program, the funds “expand direct assistance programs and provide vital direct relief to Nassau County small businesses to help them fully recover from the pandemic,” U.S. Sen. Chuck Schumer said in a statement.

“Small businesses are the lifeblood of our communities, and County Executive Curran’s plan to use this federal rescue package this way will help them, and their employees weather the remainder of the pandemic and power Long Island’s recovery,” he added.

“Hofstra University and our Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship have partnered with Nassau County throughout the pandemic to provide crucial research and information in order to create solutions and programs that assist Nassau residents and businesses,” Hofstra University President Stuart Rabinowitz said in a statement. “There’s nothing more important than improving our regional economy, providing people and businesses the assistance they need, and emerging from this time stronger than ever.”

“These programs will act as a shot of adrenaline for our local economy and hopefully act as a bridge for our main street shops as the country returns to some form of normalcy this summer,” Kyle Strober, executive director of the [Association for a Better Long Island](#), said in a statement. “I commend the county executive for reducing red tape, streamlining the process and making these funds as accessible as possible so our businesses can recover as fast as possible.”

“The County Executive’s efforts to help taxpayers and small businesses recover and thrive as we come out of the COVID pandemic will pay extraordinary benefits to the county and its future successes,” Nassau IDA Chairman Richard Kessel said in a statement.

“The Hofstra survey results clearly showed that residents and our downtowns are a top priority,” he added. “The council looks forward to working with the county executive to recommend innovative programs that can assist county residents and businesses to move forward.”

— ADINA GENN

## For SBU Cancer Center, new funding

Stony Brook University Cancer Center received secured \$670,000 in the recent New York state budget to support its major research programs.

The center is working toward earning a National Cancer Institute-Designated Cancer Center status. And across four budgets, Assemblyman Steve Englebright secured more than \$2.6 million to the center for its research activities, particularly the development of cutting edge clinical trials, during a multi-year application process to the National Institutes of Health.

With that NCI status, the hospital would prove a valuable resource to Long Islanders coping with cancer diagnoses, expanding access to care for Long Islanders. NCI designation would enable Stony Brook Medicine to hire additional researchers and clinical investigators to work in its research laboratories, spurring even more funding for breakthrough discoveries.

“With a population greater than 21 other states, Long Island needs convenient access to top-level research and clinical care rather than having its most vulnerable cancer patients travel prohibitive distances for treatment,” Dr. Yusuf Hannun, Stony Brook University Cancer Center director, said in a statement.

Stony Brook Cancer Center assembled an external advisory board of clinical and research cancer experts, including the director of the NCI-designated Roswell Park Cancer Center in Buffalo. According to the board’s review, Stony Brook “has one of the strongest research bases and can demonstrably illustrate that it is making enormous contributions to the oncology field.”

Stony Brook University’s cancer-focused research includes the Medical and Research Translation building, a 240,000-square-foot facility devoted to both basic and translational cancer research, biomedical informatics and clinical care. It also includes the Institute for Discovery and Innovation in Medicine and Engineering, a \$75 million, 70,000 square-foot facility, currently in the design phase. And it includes a partnership with Brookhaven National Laboratory. There are more than 30 new faculty members of the Stony Brook Cancer Center. The center received \$25 million in annual external funding for cancer research, obtained almost entirely from the NCI, other NIH institutes, and

National Science Foundation.

— ADINA GENN

## Garfunkel Wild launches cannabis practice group

Great Neck-based Garfunkel Wild launched a Cannabis Law Practice Group to help clients navigate the cannabis landscape and conflicting federal, state and local laws and regulations.

The group comprises attorneys representing every practice of the firm including partner Jim Dering who, prior to joining Garfunkel Wild, worked on the implementation of New York

State’s Medical Marijuana Program in his previous position as general counsel of the New York State Department of Health.

The practice group focuses on cannabis and CBD issues in states where it regularly practices including New York, New Jersey and Connecticut.

“We have been providing cannabis-related legal counsel to clients in the cannabis industry and elsewhere, as well as conducting webinars, podcasts and writing legal alerts on the topic, for many years,” Dering said in a written statement.

“The recent expansion of cannabis legislation — legalizing recreational marijuana — made it the right time to formally assemble and announce the group’s interdisciplinary capabilities.”

Andrew Blustein, chairman of Garfunkel Wild, said the cannabis practice group was formed to meet the legal needs of employers, healthcare professionals, entrepreneurs, cultivators, distributors, retailers, investors and others dealing with a broad range of regulatory and legal issues.

— DAVID WINZELBERG

Always there ...

“Berdon has always been there to help us think through the most difficult issues from structuring complex real estate deals to sensitive personal and estate matters.”

—World-Wide Holding Companies

**BEST of Accounting**  
CLIENT SATISFACTION  
2021

**BERDON** ACCOUNTANTS AND ADVISORS®

LISTEN. SOLVE. DO. >

BERDONLLP.COM |