



The City of Fitchburg
Massachusetts

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Stephen L. DiNatale

**PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Date: March 17th, 2020
Contact: Stephen DiNatale, Mayor
City of Fitchburg
Telephone: 978-829-1801

**City of Fitchburg Releases Small Business Grant Program, Works to Connect Businesses
Critical Resources**

The City of Fitchburg is committed to supporting our small business community through this difficult time. Though City Hall has closed to the public, our services remain open, and the City of Fitchburg is working diligently to support our small business community by improving online access to permitting documents, providing flexible resources to the small businesses, and supporting Fitchburg businesses with employee purchasing power.

Making Flexible Resources Available to the Business Community

Most importantly, the City will provide flexibility through its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program to meet the emergency needs of the business community:

Releasing a City of Fitchburg Emergency Small Business Grant

Through the CDBG program, the City of Fitchburg has made \$100k available for a grant program providing up to \$2,500 each for small businesses in the City of Fitchburg. Preference will be given to businesses who have existing loans with the Community Development Small Business Loan Program, businesses with 5 or fewer employees, and restaurant, bars, retail, and entertainment businesses. Businesses must demonstrate business loss as a direct result of the COVID-19 outbreak. For more information, contact Housing and Development Director Liz Murphy at lmurphy@fitchburgma.gov

The City is looking to expand the capacity of this program in the near future. If you are a community partner that is interested in participating, please contact Tom Skwierawski, Executive Director of Planning and Community Development, at tskwierawski@fitchburgma.gov.

Modifying Existing City Small Business Loans

The City will work with the small business community to make modifications to our existing loan fund to expand our impact further. We will be providing a 3 month loan deferral, and will be considering other term adjustments as the situation develops.

Connecting Businesses to Other Resources

City officials will also work to connect businesses with the local and state resources that are available to support the business community during this difficult time. These resources include:

North Central Massachusetts Chamber of Commerce Emergency Loan Fund

The North Central Chamber of Commerce/Development Corporation is launching an Emergency Loan program to provide quick approval with loans of up to \$20,000 to help small businesses. Loans will be awarded to qualifying local businesses that need access to capital and want to avoid high-interest credit cards or expensive and unregulated online lenders. If approved, the business is also eligible to receive business assistance from the NCMDC staff and consultants. To qualify, you must be an existing small business and be able to provide two years of tax returns, as well as demonstrate a direct financial impact of Coronavirus on your business. For more information, contact Sandie Cataldo at scataldo@northcentralmass.com or Brendan Hannen at bhannen@northcentralmass.com

Massachusetts Growth Capital Emergency Loan Fund

This resource provides emergency loans of up to \$75,000 are available through the Massachusetts Growth Capital Corporation. Terms and conditions are [available here](#).

Improving Access to Online Permitting Materials

Additionally, businesses and residents can visit [the City's "one-stop shop"](#) webpage for all their e-permitting needs. When possible, visitors are encouraged to utilize our View Permit e-permitting software, but this site also includes applications for download, and information on the resources highlighted above. You can find this under the "Business" tab located at the top of our home page, under the "E-Permitting and Emergency Resources" button.

Buying Campaigns to Show Fitchburg Pride

Lastly, given that City employees represent one of the largest workforces within the City, City officials have sent a request that municipal employees utilize their purchasing power to help support the small business community:

"Buy Fitchburg, Buy Local" Campaign

I have requested that every City employee do their part to support local businesses at every possible opportunity, such as takeout, or the purchase of gift cards. The City of Fitchburg challenges leaders in the private sector to follow suit, and encourages residents of the City to think about ways they can support their local business community, while also continuing to exercise Public Health protocols of social distancing.

Following [the Chamber's direction](#) please frequent takeout food locations locally, to show your support during this difficult time. The following page includes a list of takeout food operations throughout the City, some of which were not covered by the Takeout Blitz. This list is also available on <http://www.fitchburgma.gov/876/Takeout-Blitz>

Keeping Open Lines of Communication with the our Small Business Community

“We understand that this is not only a public health crisis, but an economic one,” said Mayor Stephen L. DiNatale. “My administration will continue to support our small business community, in whatever way possible, during this trying time. Small businesses are the lifeblood of our local economy and if we work together as a community, we will get through this and emerge stronger than ever.”

Information regarding both e-permitting and the emergency resources noted above are available at www.fitchburgma.gov and on the City’s [Facebook page](#). It will be updated with new resources as they become available. City officials will be contacting the business community throughout the week to ensure they are aware of the resources available, and the services offered on our website.

For more information on the online permitting process, and resources available for the small business community, please contact Tom Skwierawski, Executive Director of Planning and Community Development, at 978-829-1892.

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Local Food Establishments

Espresso Pizza: 584 Main St
El Bohio Restaurant: 362 Main St
Bion Greek Kitchen: 356 Main St.
Tryst Lounge: 320 Main St
Strong Style Coffee: 37 Boulder Dr
River Styx Brewing: 166 Boulder Dr #112
Zapata Mexican Cocina: 23 Lunenburg St
Finicky Fork Catering (& café): 199 Main St
TKO Round II (restaurant): 436 Mechanic St
Fitchburg Jade Chinese Restaurant: 345 Main St
Slattery's Restaurant: 106 Lunenburg St
The Pig In Flames : 94 Franklin Rd
Mill No. 3: 85 Westminster St
Dario's Ristorante: 187 River St
Tikki Tikki Chinese Restaurant: 335 Main St
The Family Café : 840 Water St
Crown Fried Chicken: 70 North St
University Pizza: 219 Highland St
Summer Street Café: 400 Summer St
Centre Pizza: 245 River Street
Fuzzy's Café: 100 Main St
5th Street Diner: 134 Harvard St/
50-50 Diner: 440 River St
River City Diner: 68 Airport Rd
Legends Bar & Grille: 68 Airport Rd
Mill City Pub: 19 Airport Rd
Cleghorn House of Pizza: 416 Franklin Rd
S.S. Lobster Ltd.: 691 River St
Park Hill Pizza: 96 Franklin Rd
Gourmet Donuts: 569 Electric Ave
La Reyna Bakery: 765 Water St
Zeda's Pizzeria: 65 Laurel St
Country Pizza: Ashby State Rd
Cozy Corner Café: 144 Lunenburg St
Dutch Kitchen Bake Shop: 20 John Fitch Hwy
Crazy Crab Cajun Seafood: 336 Summer St
Waite's Corner Luncheonette: 550 Westminster St
Singapore Restaurant & Lounge: 170 Whalon St
Gold Bowl: 22 Ashby State Rd
Janet's Chili Dog : 652 Water St
China Wonder: 375 John Fitch Hwy
King Buffet: 488 John Fitch Hwy
Mike's Pizza: 153 Lunenburg St
Hollis Hills Farm: 340 Marshall Rd
KiKi's Kitchen: 35 Airport Rd
Major's Café: 149 Lunenburg St

Franchise Food Establishments

Dunkin Donuts: Multiple Locations
Subway: Multiple Locations
Burger King: 439 John Fitch Hwy
D'Angelo's Grilled Sandwiches: 516 John Fitch Hwy
Little Caesars Pizza: 30 John Fitch Hwy
McDonald's: Multiple Locations
Taco Bell: 325 John Fitch Hwy
99 Restaurant: 275 Summer St
Boston Market: 160 Whalon St
Buffalo Wild Wings: 150 Whalon St
Five Guys: 1169 South St
Boston Donuts: Multiple Locations
Dippin' Donuts: 235 Lunenburg St
Domino's Pizza: 141 Water St