



**Press Statement
September 10, 2021**

The City of Lewiston is taking steps to support the sustainability of Lewiston's travel, tourism, and hospitality industry that was hugely impacted by COVID19.

In that regard, at the September 7, 2021, City Council meeting, elected officials voted to utilize \$500,000 of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds that were originally approved for infrastructure improvements. Based upon constituency feedback and the desire to support continued operations of Lewiston businesses, the City Council approved the fund transfers to establish the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Travel, Tourism, and Hospitality Industry Grant Program.

The two-year grant program has an annual individual grant capped at \$50,000 and \$100,000 over the two-year period. Any unobligated funds will return to ARPA infrastructure projects at program close in June 2024, namely a CSO storage tank at the Lewiston Auburn Water Pollution Control Authority and a redundant water transmission main.

Applicants may receive up to \$50,000 if he/she successfully demonstrates that the COVID impact produced a 75% loss in business revenue from the most recent non-COVID fiscal year. Additionally, an applicant must have applied for and received both rounds of PPP loans and any other stimulus relief funding available to them or furnish a brief explanation on the intent to apply for funding and why such funding was not available. Financial statements and a detailed description of debt terms, forbearance language, and amortization periods are also part of the grant award criteria.

Interested applicants may reach out to Lewiston's Brenton Corriveau for more information and the application; he can be reached at bcorriveau@lewistonmaine.gov or (207) 513-3000, X3215.

The City will utilize its normal due diligence, underwriting procedures, and Loan Qualification Committee approval process similar to what is in place for its commercial loan program.

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