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COVID recovery grants available for Skowhegan businesses

SKOWHEGAN—In an effort to support Skowhegan businesses in this time of need, Skowhegan officials announced Wednesday available grant funding for COVID-19 relief and recovery.

Grants will be administered through Main Street Skowhegan's TA (technical assistance) grant program, an initiative started earlier this year by the organization's Business Enhancement Committee. The committee kicked off the TA grant initiative in February with \$4,000 in funding donated by Skowhegan Savings Bank, Franklin Savings Bank, Franklin-Somerset Federal Credit Union, and New Dimensions Federal Credit Union.

New donations this week—\$1,000 from the Hight Family of Dealerships and \$5,000 from the Skowhegan Economic Development Corporation—have increased the available funding to \$10,000.

Recent donations to the TA grant program will make funding available to Skowhegan businesses that need immediate financial assistance as a result of COVID-19 pandemic-related closures or reduced income. Through a simple application process, locally owned Skowhegan businesses can request mini-grants ranging from \$500 to \$2,000 to fund need-based COVID-19 relief, technical assistance, or equipment.

"Supporting our community is a top priority for the Hight family," said Sam Hight, chair of Main Street Skowhegan's Business Enhancement Committee and a member of the Hight Family of Dealerships. "We are proud to donate to the TA grant program to help our fellow businesses in this time of need."

Since Main Street Skowhegan's TA grant program inception, the committee has assisted two local businesses with projects that will increase sales and help grow each business. Main Street Skowhegan awarded a grant to Crooked Face Creamery to help purchase a new upright freezer to meet the increasing demands of locally sourced and produced food. Bigelow Brewing was awarded funding to assist with redesigning their website and improving search engine optimization. Several other grant requests are currently under review by the committee.

"The time for supporting our local businesses is now," said Kristina Cannon, executive director of Main Street Skowhegan. "We are grateful to our funding partners for contributing, and we welcome donations from others who want to join this relief effort."

To apply for a TA grant or donate to the TA grant program, applicants should visit mainstreetskowhegan.org/ta. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis until funding is gone.

About Main Street Skowhegan

Main Street Skowhegan is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit focused on the ongoing revitalization of historic Skowhegan, Maine. Founded in 2005 by a group of citizens, Main Street is now driven by three full-time staff members, a passionate and engaged board of directors, and more than a hundred volunteers. Our mission is to celebrate Skowhegan's rich heritage while achieving our brightest future as a thriving economic, cultural, and recreational community where residents enjoy a high quality of life.

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