



## PRESS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**Date: September 1, 2020**

UNION COUNTY, PA: The Union County Board of Commissioners today approved 136 grants to small businesses and non-profit organizations through the Union County CARES Small Business/Non-profit Recovery Sustainability Fund. In total, \$1,671,013 will be distributed to the grant recipients to offset the impacts of COVID-19. The maximum individual grant award was capped at \$15,000.

“We are very pleased to have this opportunity to help our many small businesses and non-profit organizations that are working so hard throughout our county during these challenging times,” said Union County Commissioners Preston Boop, Jeff Reber and Stacy Richards. “Our goal was to have a simple application process and quick turnaround time with these grants in order to get the money distributed throughout the county as quickly as possible and we are on course to achieve that,” added Chairman Preston Boop.

“Nearly nine out of every ten applicants were approved for funding which is an extremely high success rate for a grant program. Union County businesses and non-profits deserve all of the help they can get in order to persevere under the current environment and I am thrilled that we can assist them in this way,” noted Commissioner Jeff Reber.

Of the applications funded the average number of years in business for awardees was 23 and 128 of the entities employ less than 25 employees. In addition 39 percent were minority owned, women owned or veteran owned entities. Commissioner Stacy Richards said “It’s refreshing to know that our grants will be helping a true cross section of our community in terms of business size and the ownership profile.”

The grants were made possible through federal CARES Act funds distributed by the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development. The Central PA Chamber of Commerce, Greater Susquehanna Valley Chamber of Commerce and Greater Susquehanna Valley United Way helped the county develop the grant program and objectively reviewed and scored the applications.

##