



City and Borough of Wrangell  
Press Release  
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Contact: Carol Rushmore

## **Wrangell Announces New and Modified COVID-19 Economic Relief Programs**

**Wrangell, Alaska (September 22, 2020)** – The City and Borough of Wrangell (City) has modified its existing economic relief programs for Wrangell businesses, commercial fishermen, deckhands and non-profits who have been impacted by the COVID-19 Pandemic. A new program has been added aimed at households that have suffered economic hardship due to impacts from COVID-19 Pandemic. The City has designated up to \$915,000 of the CARES Act funds received from the State to assistance programs which are intended to provide economic relief in the areas of most need. Each program will require a separate application be completed by each business, non-profit or resident. Applications with detailed information about requirements and eligibility are available at the City’s website: [www.wrangell.com](http://www.wrangell.com) or [www.wrangellcovid19.org](http://www.wrangellcovid19.org). All programs will be on a first-come, first-serve basis until appropriated funds are expended. The City’s goal is to keep the application process as simple as possible, while also meeting the justification required by the fund source. Please email questions to [wrangell@wrangell.com](mailto:wrangell@wrangell.com) and provide a phone number. Staff will respond by email or phone as quickly as possible (within 72 hours).

**General Household Economic Relief Assistance:** The purpose of this NEW program is to provide economic support up to \$500 to households suffering an economic hardship due to the COVID-19 public health emergency. An ‘economic hardship’ means, as a result of the COVID19 public health emergency, business or personal or household disposable income has decreased and/or normal business or personal or household expenses have increased, such that it has been impossible or difficult to make ends meet.

**General Small Business, Commercial Fisherman and Deckhand Emergency Relief:** This existing program is aimed at assisting local businesses that operate within Wrangell and resident commercial fishermen and deckhands/crew members directly impacted by COVID-19. Each eligible business, fisherman, or deckhand will receive \$2,000. This existing program’s eligibility criteria expanded and now also includes deckhands/crew members.

**Food Assistance:** The goal of this program is to provide up to \$3000 funding to existing local entities (businesses or non-profits) to provide food security with free meals and/or food to families, seniors, kids, and individuals that need assistance due to financial hardship and food insecurity caused by COVID-19. This program has opened for a second round of funding.

**Social Services:** The goal of this program is to provide up to \$3000 funding to existing local entities (businesses or non-profits) that provide needed social services, including services to address domestic violence, homelessness, single parent support, child welfare, childcare, emotional/mental/medical assistance, and public information dissemination, to families, seniors, kids, and individuals impacted by COVID-19. This program has opened for a second round of funding.

**Targeted Visitor Industry Relief:** This existing program is aimed at assisting Wrangell businesses most impacted by COVID-19 through either mandatory closure requirements, travel restrictions and/or cancellations by cruise ships. This program focuses on the visitor industry businesses that are the most critically impacted, including excursions, restaurants and bars, accommodations, and non-essential retail businesses. Each eligible business will receive \$6,000.

**Vessel Repair Haul-Out Lift Fee Assistance:** The goal of this existing program is to mitigate negative impacts of COVID-19 related travel restrictions and supply chain disruptions to the Marine Service Center (MSC) businesses which lost considerable revenues in March-May 2020. This program will provide a 50% reimbursement to a vessel owner toward the cost of a lift fee in the MSC from July 8 through November 30, 2020, or until the funds are depleted.

**Business or Non-Profit Support for Accounting or Professional Services:** This existing program is aimed at helping local entities in need of services to help apply for federal or state COVID-19 relief programs or provide necessary reporting documents. Local eligible entities will receive up to a \$200 reimbursement for the professional services firm providing these services.

**Vessel Repair Extended Stay Assistance:** This program has closed. The goal was to mitigate negative effects of COVID-19 related travel restrictions and supply chain disruptions by providing assistance for boat storage fees if a vessel owner was required to stay in the work zone yard 5 days longer than otherwise necessary due to impacts from COVID-19.

All programs are being offered on a first come, first served based on receipt of a completed application until funding runs out for the programs. There is no guarantee of funding availability through the November 1, 2020 deadline.