

June 17, 2020

President James, Councilman Hollander, and Councilman Kramer:

I wanted to communicate to you GLI's enthusiastic support for the city's [recent proposal](#) to utilize \$42 million in federal funds allocated through the CARES Act to support eviction prevention efforts and assist small businesses during these difficult economic times. This plan will provide vital assistance to the small businesses that serve as the backbone of our economy and help support workers and families throughout Louisville.

The proposed \$21 million grant program for small businesses will be a true lifeline for many employers. Despite the success of federal programs like the Paycheck Protection Program, GLI continues to hear from Louisville-based small businesses that are still struggling to access capital and make ends meet. This is especially true for employers who have had to pivot their business models and take on new costs associated with ensuring the health and safety of their employees and customers. These grants will be helpful and make a positive impact on our economy.

While nearly all business types are in need at the moment – including retail, food service, arts and entertainment, and recreation – GLI was particularly pleased to see specific mention of child care businesses in the proposal. Throughout the pandemic, our members have advocated aggressively for support for the child care industry, which will play a vital role in supporting our workforce and making the economic recovery a success. GLI also supports dedicating at least 50 percent of available funds to businesses in low-to-moderate income census tracts and agrees with the goal of allocating more than 15 percent of available funds to businesses owned by underrepresented groups.

In addition, GLI applauds the proposal to allocate another \$21 million in CARES funds to assist households with rent payments. Widespread evictions throughout our city would destabilize our workforce and have devastating ripple effects on our economy. As with the small business grant proposal, this proposal too would support Louisville's economic recovery.

GLI strongly encourages Metro Council's full support for optimizing Louisville's share of CARES funds to support businesses and households in need. We look forward to opportunities to partner with the city in ensuring the success of these forthcoming programs and communicating information, as it becomes available, to our members.

Sincerely,



Sarah Davasher-Wisdom
President & CEO
Greater Louisville Inc.