



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: May 20, 2021

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ANCA Awarded \$1.2M for Pandemic Response Program

U.S. Commerce Department's EDA and Mastercard provide grants supporting resilience planning for small businesses

SARANAC LAKE, N.Y. — The Adirondack North Country Association (ANCA) has received a combined grant award of \$1.268 million from the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration (EDA) and Mastercard to develop and implement small business assistance programs in the aftermath of the COVID-19 economic crisis.

ANCA will leverage the \$1 million EDA CARES Act Recovery Assistance grant to implement a new Center for Pandemic Response (CPR), which will provide technical support services that help small businesses across northern New York diversify income streams and decrease overhead costs. The Mastercard Impact Fund, administered by The Mastercard Center for Inclusive Growth, will provide \$250,000 to support the project.

"This initiative will have lasting economic impact for the North Country," said Danielle Delaini, ANCA's business transition program coordinator. "With individually tailored planning that focuses on diversification and cost savings, our region's small businesses will spur economic investment in their communities by creating and sustaining local jobs and supporting neighboring businesses. The plans they develop through CPR will help them better withstand future economic crises that come their way."

Dalaini said ANCA will work with regional economic development partners to implement the project, which they anticipate will support 305 businesses across New York's 11-county Adirondack North Country region in developing resilience plans. Over the next two years, the project will help retain approximately 1,425 jobs, create 210 jobs and preserve millions of dollars in wages.

"We are deeply grateful for the support of EDA, Mastercard and our elected officials who have supported this project and understand the importance of this work for North Country communities," Delaini said.

"In these trying and unprecedented times, the federal government should continue doing everything in its power to support our small businesses and put local economies on track to recovery. That is why I insisted Economic Development Administration funding for communities and businesses be included in the CARES Act that Congress passed to respond to COVID-19," said Senator Charles Schumer (D-NY). "This federal funding will help small businesses and entrepreneurs in the North Country weather this crisis and help the economy bounce back."

“Rebuilding our regional economies is dependent on organizations like the Adirondack North Country Association, and this funding will help them create hundreds of jobs and opportunities in northern New York. I will continue serving as a fierce advocate to provide the resources needed to rebuild a strong and equitable economy,” said Senator Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY). “The COVID-19 pandemic strained small businesses and entrepreneurs across New York State as costs surged and revenues dwindled. I am proud to have fought for and secured this CARES Act funding that will bring more than \$1 million in federal relief to help our local business leaders stay afloat, grow their businesses, and build economic resilience in our communities.”

In a press release announcing the award, Dennis Alvord, Acting Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development, said, “The Economic Development Administration plays an important role in helping communities across the nation implement strategies to mitigate economic hardships brought on by the coronavirus pandemic. These EDA investments assist businesses in the Adirondack North Country region with developing long-term recovery and resiliency plans.”

“We are committed to helping small businesses grow and build resilience in the face of recent economic upheaval,” said Sandy Fernandez, Vice President, North America, Mastercard Center for Inclusive Growth. “With these grants, small businesses will be able to better digitize their operations and contribute to the post-COVID economic recovery of communities across northern New York.”

The funding will allow ANCA to expand and integrate its existing focus areas of clean energy, food systems and the entrepreneurial economy to provide a cohesive, individualized service for regional businesses. Participating business owners will develop strategic plans to help them access new markets, expand e-commerce functionality, reduce supply chain inefficiencies, decrease energy costs and create succession plans.

Project partners include the Adirondack Economic Development Corporation, CITEC Business Solutions and the Cooperative Development Institute. ANCA will invite other organizations to collaborate through a RFP (request for proposals) process later this year.

“ANCA staff are grateful to have received this funding and are eager to begin implementing the project across the region,” said ANCA Executive Director Kate Fish. “Bolstered by our strong network of local business owners, development organizations and government partners, we will maximize the impact of this funding and build a stronger, more resilient economy in the Adirondack North Country.”

[ANCA](#) is an independent, nonprofit corporation with a transformational approach to building prosperity across northern New York. ANCA’s community-informed, results-driven strategies for local food producers, small business owners, aspiring entrepreneurs and municipal innovators offer targeted interventions that are designed to keep wealth and value in local communities.

Attached: one (1) PDF document

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