



Governor Evers Announces Grants for Small Business and Direct Aid to Farmers

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Governor Evers has made several announcements in the past several weeks regarding the allocation of the \$1.9 billion in federal CARES Act money that was granted to the State of Wisconsin.

The bulk of the federal money will be used to assist Wisconsin hospitals and communities prepare for a surge in COVID-19 cases over the next several months by funding testing efforts, local emergency operations, purchases of PPE and ventilators, contact tracing, local public health departments and health systems. But, a portion of the funding has also been allocated for direct relief for Wisconsin farmers and small businesses.

On May 18, 2020, Governor Tony Evers announced \$75 million in assistance for small businesses as part of the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation's "**We're All In**" initiative. This program will provide grants to help Wisconsin's small businesses recover and to support best practices and safety measures. The grants are for up to \$2,500 to small businesses with 20 or fewer full-time employees and that have not already received WEDC COVID-19 assistance. Details on this program will be available in the next several weeks and applications will be accepted starting in June. [Link to the news release.](#)

In addition, on May 20, 2020, Governor Evers announced the "**Wisconsin Farm Support Program**," which will allocate \$50 million of the federal money as direct payments to Wisconsin farmers. Our farmers have been severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, as we have seen severe supply chain interruptions and the loss of the food service market, but many farmers are not eligible for other COVID-19 federal aid programs or state unemployment payments. Eight farm organizations in April to draft a joint request to Governor Evers for relief for Wisconsin farmers and ask that a portion of the CARES Act funding be used to assist farms in this crisis. We appreciate the Governor's commitment to Wisconsin's farm economy through the allocation of this federal aid to our farmers. The Governor also allocated \$15 million for a "**Food Security Initiative**" to combat hunger in Wisconsin. This funding will be used to purchases of Wisconsin commodities by local hunger relief organizations. Details on eligibility requirements and the distribution mechanism are forthcoming.

[Link to the news release.](#)

[Link to statement from DATCP Interim Secretary Randy Romanski.](#)