

## New Grant Program Accepting Applications to Help Businesses and Nonprofits Hurt by COVID-19

Businesses and nonprofit organizations in North Carolina that have experienced interruption due to the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic could qualify for up to \$250,000 from a new state grant program, Governor Roy Cooper announced today. The Department of Commerce is now accepting applications for the Job Retention Grant Program (JRG) through the agency's website.

"The Job Retention Grant Program offers another way for employers hit hard by COVID-19 to gain some relief," said Governor Cooper. "This program aims to help employers keep employees on the payroll."

The JRG initiative is supported by \$15 million in federal COVID-19 funds, which the General Assembly appropriated for this use (S.L. 2020-80). Both for-profit and certain types of nonprofit employers may apply for grants through the program, which has a strict application deadline of September 1, 2020.

To qualify for a grant award, applicants must meet certain eligibility requirements, which include:

- The applicant cannot have participated in the federal Paycheck Protection Program, the federal Main Street Loan Program, or the state Rapid Recovery Loan Program.
- The applicant must have maintained at least 90 percent of the number of full-time employees in North Carolina at the end of June 2020 as it did as the end of February 2020.

- The applicant must have had a reduction in sales (in the case of a for-profit business) or receipts (for nonprofits) of more than 10 percent when comparing March-May 2020 to March-May 2019 levels.

Applicants are eligible for a grant up to 125 percent of two months of its 2019 average monthly payroll costs, up to a maximum of \$250,000. All applicants that apply and are eligible may expect to receive some level of assistance, but the actual amount of the grant will depend on the total number of eligible requests received by the program. If requests exceed the \$15 million that's available, then individual grant amounts will be lowered on a prorated basis.

The Department hopes to award grants by early October. All grantees will have to comply with federal and state reporting requirements as a condition of the grant.

More information about the Job Retention Grant Program, including access to the program's online application form, can be found at the Department of Commerce website at [nccommerce.com/jrg](http://nccommerce.com/jrg).

## About Peripheral Artery Disease (PAD)

PAD is similar to coronary artery disease (CAD). Peripheral artery disease is a narrowing of the peripheral arteries serving the legs, stomach, arms and head. ("Peripheral" in this case means away from the heart, in the outer regions of the body.) PAD most commonly affects arteries in the legs.

Both PAD and coronary artery disease (CAD) are caused by atherosclerosis. Atherosclerosis narrows and blocks arteries in critical regions of the body.

**Quick facts about PAD** The most common symptoms of PAD involving the lower extremities are cramping, pain or tiredness in the leg or hip muscles while walking or climbing stairs. Typically, this pain goes away with rest and returns when you walk again.

Be aware that:

- Many people mistake the symptoms of PAD for something else.
- PAD often goes undiagnosed by healthcare professionals.
- People with peripheral arterial disease have a higher risk of coronary artery disease, heart attack or stroke.
- Left untreated, PAD can lead to gangrene and amputation.

**Added risks for PAD** Other factors can increase your chances for peripheral artery disease, including:

- Your risk for peripheral artery disease increases with age.
- High blood pressure or high cholesterol puts you at risk for PAD.
- If you smoke, you have an especially high risk for PAD.
- If you have diabetes, you have an especially high risk for PAD.

**The good news** If you're at risk for peripheral artery disease or have been diagnosed with PAD, it's worth knowing that:

- PAD is easily diagnosed in a simple, painless way.
- You can take control: Follow your doctor's recommendations and strive to lead a heart-healthy lifestyle.
- Some cases of PAD can be managed with lifestyle changes and medication.

**Atherosclerosis and PAD** If you have atherosclerosis, that means that plaque has built up inside your artery walls. Plaque is made up of deposits of fats, cholesterol and other substances. Atherosclerosis in the peripheral arteries is the most common cause of PAD.

What happens is this: First, plaque builds up enough to narrow an artery, which chokes off blood flow. Next, if that plaque becomes brittle or inflamed, it may rupture, triggering a blood clot to form. A clot can further narrow the artery, or completely block it.

If that blockage remains in the peripheral arteries of the legs, it can cause pain, changes in skin color, difficulty walking and sores or ulcers. Total loss of circulation to the legs and feet can cause gangrene and the loss of a limb.

If the blockage occurs in a carotid artery, it can cause a stroke.

It's important to learn the facts about PAD. As with any disease, the more you understand, the more you'll be able to help your doctor make an early diagnosis. PAD has common symptoms, but many people with PAD never have any symptoms at all.

Learn the facts, talk to your doctor and take control of your cardiovascular health.

Go to the American Heart Association website ([www.heart.org](http://www.heart.org)) for more information, including an interactive PAD library, information on how plaque limits blood flow, an atherosclerosis and PAD animation and more.

Call Metrolina Surgical Specialists in Monroe for your PAD assessment. They offer endovascular intervention and vascular surgery. They are located at 907 Fitzgerald Street in Monroe. The telephone number is 704-226-0531, and the website is [www.MetrolinaSurgical.com](http://www.MetrolinaSurgical.com).

## State Sees first EEE Cases of the Year

Four horses have recently tested positive for Eastern Equine Encephalomyelitis in North Carolina. The horses were located in Bladen, Brunswick, Columbus and Durham counties. These are the first cases of EEE reported this year.

"In 2019, there were only two reported cases of EEE in horses in North Carolina," said Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler. "The fact that we have doubled the 2019 number already, points to a need to be extra vigilant and vaccinate your equine. Mosquito season in North Carolina has several more months to go."

EEE causes inflammation or swelling of the brain and spinal cord and is usually fatal. Symptoms include impaired vision, aimless wandering, head pressing, circling, inability to swallow, irregular staggering gait, paralysis, convulsions and death. Once a horse has been bitten by an infected mosquito, it may take three to 10 days for signs of the disease to appear.

"If your horses exhibit any symptoms of EEE, contact your veterinarian immediately," said State Veterinarian Doug Meckes. "It is imperative that horse owners keep their vaccines current, talk to their veterinarian about vaccinating equine as soon as possible against EEE and West Nile virus."

The vaccinations initially require two shots, 30 days apart, for horses, mules and donkeys that have no prior vaccination history. Meckes recommends a booster shot every six months in North Carolina because of the state's prolonged mosquito season.

Mosquitoes can breed in any puddle of water that lasts for more than four days, so removing any source of standing water can reduce the chance of exposing animals to WNV or EEE. Keeping horses in stalls at night, using insect screens and fans and turning off lights after dusk can also help reduce exposure to mosquitoes. Insect repellents can be effective if used according to manufacturers' instructions.

People, horses and birds can become infected from a bite by a mosquito carrying the diseases, but there is no evidence that horses can transmit the viruses to other horses, birds or people through direct contact.

While there is no vaccine to protect people from EEE, people can protect themselves with repellents and by judicious suppression of mosquito populations, especially in areas near freshwater hardwood swamps.

# Church News

## ONGOING

### New Location

Bethany Free Will Baptist Church. Directions: turn at Dollar General in Waesboro, take first dirt road on right, follow it under bridge to church. Pastor Richard Marsh 704-294-4313

### Virtual Services

At Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. Sundays 11-11:30am with Zoom: [www.zoom.com](http://www.zoom.com) or use Zoom app, click "join a meeting" and enter Meeting ID: 385 789 5966 Password: 699988. Or join via Zoom audio: 646-876-9923, same Meeting ID & Password. Questions & info 704-690-7577

\* All events are subject to change because of the COVID-19 situation. You may want to seek confirmation of events.

# Events

## AUGUST 19

### Bach's Lunch

Takeout only, 11:30am-1pm at the Drake Gallery, 108 South

Rutherford St in Wadesboro (next to the Ansonia Theatre). Menu is pimento cheese lunch with sides, dessert & drink. Please call now (704-694-4950) & leave your name, number & how many plates you want as this will help with planning. Walk-up plates will also be available

## AUGUST 27

### Chocolate Chip Cookie Day

At Grace Senior Center, 10am-12 noon. Goodie bag handout! Located at 199 Hwy 742 South, Wadesboro, just past IGA. 704-694-6616

## AUGUST 29

### Free Groceries for Families in Need

At Burnsville Recreation & Learning Center. 12 noon-2pm. Call 704-826-8737 for eligibility info & details. Located at 13349 Hwy 742 North in Burnsville, across from the Fire Department. [www.burnsvillele.org](http://www.burnsvillele.org)

### Community Outreach

Free household items & paper products by Lamb of God Church, 10am at 118 West Wade St in Wadesboro. 1st come, 1st served. Info 843-623-3777

## SEPTEMBER 2

### Free Groceries

For families in need Mobile Food Pantry at First Baptist Church, Lee Ave in Wadesboro. Register 8-10am. Call for details 704-694-2445

## SEPTEMBER 19

### Charity Motorcycle

**Ride to benefit Operation Christmas Child.** Registration 9am at Papa Joe's Restaurant, kickstands up 10:30am. \$15 single rider, \$20 double. Info 704-475-0487

## SEPTEMBER 22

### Drive-Thru Picnic

At Grace Senior Center, 10am-12 noon. Bagged lunch, includes hot dog with all the fixings, chips, cookie & drink. Located at 199 Hwy 742 South, Wadesboro, just past IGA. 704-694-6616

## OCTOBER 20

### Goodie Bag

**Handout** - Eat better, eat together at Grace Senior Center, 10am-12 noon. Located at 199 Hwy 742 South, Wadesboro, just past IGA. 704-694-6616

## ONGOING EVENTS

### Food Commodities

**Food Distributed Free** every Wednesday at 9am & 2nd Saturday of each month at 9am at Burnsville Recreation & Learning Ctr, Hwy 742N across from Burnsville Fire Dept. Info 704-826-8182

### Food Pantry

Free food every Wed, 9-11am at Burnsville Recreation & Learning Ctr. 704-826-8182

### Free Food Distributed by Anson Crisis Ministries

Every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday, 8am-1pm. It is located at 117 North Rutherford Street in uptown Wadesboro. Telephone is 704-694-2445

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# FREE BACK-TO-SCHOOL MEALS

## ANSON COUNTY SCHOOL NUTRITION

### Free Grab & Go Meals

### Lunch & Breakfast

### Children Ages 1-18

### Drive Thru Service

### CURBSIDE PICK UP ONLY

August 17 - August 31, 2020

Monday - Friday

11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Ansonville Elementary School  
Lilesville Elementary School  
Morven Elementary School  
Peachland-Polkton Elementary School  
Wadesboro Primary School  
Wadesboro Elementary School  
Anson Middle School  
Anson High School  
Anson Academy High School  
Anson Early College High School

The free meal program will end on August 31, 2020.

After August 31, meals will only be available for

Anson County students via curbside pick-up.

**Stay tuned...more information will be shared!**