



TOWN OF CARBONDALE

511 Colorado Avenue
Carbondale, Colorado 81623
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www.carbondalegov.org

3/24/2020

Carbondale Revolving Loan Fund set to offer 0% loans

To provide relief funding for businesses impacted by COVID-19

Carbondale, CO— 3/24/2020 — The Town of Carbondale has asked for and received approval from the USDA Rural Development to lower the interest rate on business loans through their revolving loan fund to 0%.

“With the economic uncertainty caused by COVID-19, I wondered if the Town’s revolving loan fund could be repurposed from being a start-up and expansion low interest loan fund to a distressed business gap funding option,” said Lani Kitching, Town Trustee and Member of the Carbondale Revolving Loan Fund (CRLF) Loan Review Committee Member. Town Finance Director and CRLF Coordinator Colin Laird, who administers the plan for the Town, made the pitch to the USDA Regional Office and got the approval.

Carbondale Revolving Loan Fund was set up by the Town in 2002 to provide funding to new or existing businesses that could not receive funding with other sources at a low interest rate (3% - 6%). Many local businesses have used the fund, such as Kula Yoga, Aloha, Mtn Cyclery, Silo and others. Even nonprofit organizations like YouthEntity and Solar Rollers have taken out up to \$25,000 loans to create or grow their business.

“It has worked has we hoped it would,” said Renae Gustine, Town Finance Director and Loan Review Committee Member. “But the fund is a 50/50 partnership with USDA, so we had to check if we could adapt the program given the unprecedented situation many businesses are in because of COVID-19. We wanted to do what we could to help local businesses weather this storm.”

The Carbondale Revolving Loan Fund is an option along with the tools the State of Colorado and Federal Government are putting together for business impacted by state mandated closures due the COVID-19 public health crisis. Given the current fund balance of \$130,000, the fund can only go so far.

“We don’t have the resources of the State and Federal government, but our application process is fairly simple and we can get a loan approved and funded pretty quickly,” said



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CRLF Coordinator Colin Laird, who is also the Director of the Third Street Center, “After all, we are all in this situation together, we may as well figure out ways to help each other out.”

Business can learn more about the application process on the Town of Carbondale’s website www.carbondalegov.org. Once there go to the Finance Department link and you will see a second link to the Revolving Loan Fund.

Questions can be directed to Colin Laird via email colin@thirdstreetcenter.net or phone 970-963-3221 x3

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For more information, press only:

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Websites:

<https://www.carbondalegov.org/departments/finance/index.php>

<http://www.thirdstreetcenter.net/the-center/carbondale-revolving-loan-fund/>