



## **Town of Hempstead Announces More than \$2.8 Million in New COVID-19 Relief Grants and Funding Initiatives**

*Five programs to support increased food and medical services*

Today, Hempstead Town Supervisor Don Clavin and the Hempstead Town Board members voted to approve more than \$2.8 million in funding for five new initiatives aimed at supporting local organizations impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The new programs, which were unanimously approved by the Town Board, will provide in-need residents with various food and medical programs. Funding for these programs has been made possible through the CARES Act that provided the Town of Hempstead with a \$133 million grant by the federal government to use for economic relief grants to help local businesses cover COVID-related expenses.

“I’d like to once again thank Senator Schumer for his part in securing the funding for the initiatives that continue to help the residents of America’s largest township through these unprecedented times,” stated Hempstead Town Supervisor Don Clavin. “We are grateful to be working so closely with community-based organizations that continue to utilize these resources in a creative and helpful manner to benefit residents, especially those who have been disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.”

With the newest round of proposal approvals, the Town will be collaborating with Northwell Health, United Way of Long Island, **Long Island Federally-Qualified Health Centers (LIFQHC)**, fire departments in different districts, and the Marion and Aaron Gural Jewish Community Center in Cedarhurst Village. This funding will either establish new programs or provide funding for unexpected expenses as a result of the pandemic.

### **New Initiatives:**

- Northwell Health will be implementing both rapid and PCR testing exclusively for first responders and essential workers who work and reside in the Town of Hempstead.
- The United Way of Long Island will be investing in air filtration units in an effort to help protect hundreds of senior citizens with underlying conditions during the pandemic.

### **Repayment Initiatives:**

- The Town is supporting the **Long Island Federally-Qualified Health Centers (LIFQHC)** in its initiative to provide COVID-19 rapid testing to all Hempstead residents, particularly in underserved communities.
- The Town will also provide financial support to the Oceanside, Hewlett Bay and Franklin Square & Munson Fire Departments for expenses related to their responses and efforts throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The Marion and Aaron Gural Jewish Community Center ("the JCC") in the Village of Cedarhurst will receive funding to reimburse the purchase and distribution of necessary food items to at-risk residents.

“The Town of Hempstead has made strides in helping families recover and overcome the COVID-19 pandemic,” said Senior Councilwoman Dorothy Goosby. “We are proud to continue supporting local initiatives that take care of our residents during these difficult times.”

“The Marion & Aaron Gural JCC has been dedicated to the Five Towns community for many years, and the Town of Hempstead is proud to support their efforts as well as continue to provide COVID-19 testing for the town’s first responders,” said Councilman Bruce Blakeman.

Added Councilman Anthony D’Esposito, “Since the beginning of the pandemic, the Town of Hempstead has worked tirelessly to protect residents and provide essential services. We are confident that this grant funding will go a long way to continue that mission.”

“By providing funding to local organizations, we are preparing our community to move forward,” said Councilman Dennis Dunne, Sr. “Not only are we equipping health institutions with needed resources, but we are also reimbursing certain groups for the work they provided without hesitation early on in the pandemic.”

“I am proud to stand with Supervisor Clavin and my Town Board colleagues in voting to provide financial aid through the CARES Act to these incredibly worthy institutions,” said Councilman Thomas Muscarella. “This support by the township will allow these community organizations to continue making positive impacts in our hometown.”

“The importance of community focused organizations cannot be understated, especially in the trying times we find ourselves in,” said Councilman Christopher Carini. “I am glad the Town of Hempstead is in a position to provide CARES Act funding to these local institutions that will permit them to continue operating and providing important services to township residents.”

For more information about the Town of Hempstead and its efforts to improve the quality of life for residents and businesses throughout the region, visit <https://hempsteadny.gov/>.