

**Announcement:**

Grants of up to \$1,000 are now available to provide interim relief to distressed businesses in the village of Chatham, N.Y., through the generosity of longtime resident Lael Locke. Locke has designated a donation of \$15,000 to the [Columbia County Business Continuity Fund](https://www.columbiaedc.com/columbia-county-business-continuity-grant-fund-copy/) to help defray costs related to operating or reopening, including implementation of required safety measures, rent, utilities, taxes, insurance, supplies, inventory, and marketing-related expenses.

Apply by June 15 at <https://www.columbiaedc.com/columbia-county-business-continuity-grant-fund-copy/>

Funds will be awarded to businesses in the village of Chatham in good financial standing prior to the pandemic. Criteria for eligibility include being independently owned, having fewer than 10 employees and less than \$1 million in annual revenue, and being primarily reliant on foot traffic through storefronts that help attract residents and visitors to the village.

“Chatham has been my home for almost 60 years. The village has repeatedly been voted the best place to shop in Columbia County,” said Locke. “If my gift can, in some small way, help us retain that title, I am pleased to be able to assist.”

A former Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation board member, Lael started the Our Town Fund in 1997, which made hundreds of grants to nonprofits in northern Columbia County before eventually becoming part of BTCF's Fund for Columbia County. Locke has lived in Chatham since 1963 and served as an elected official on the village board for 14 years.

Nonprofits, contractors, professional services and farms, in addition to businesses that were previously awarded grants from the [Columbia County Business Continuity Fund](https://www.columbiaedc.com/columbia-county-business-continuity-grant-fund-copy/), a fund of Columbia Economic Development Corporation and Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation, are not eligible to apply for this grant cycle.