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Pathmark Grants Materialize

Grants totalling \$72,000 will be given to community businesses in southeast Queens, thanks to a fund to help small businesses compete with larger chain groceries that has finally come together.

The Pathmark Fund, named for the supermarket chain that provides the money for the grants, is an opportunity for businesses to offset some of their expenses if they are operating in the area of impact of a Pathmark supermarket that was built in southeastern Queens.

Any small businesses within a three-mile radius of the Pathmark store are eligible to apply for Advertisement grants.

The funds are managed out of City Councilman James Sanders' office in Laurelton by him, along with fellow Councilmen Leroy Comrie and Thomas White Jr.

"I urge all who are doing business within this area to take advantage of this grant," Sanders said.

Money provided by the funds can't be used for stocking the stores, and is geared toward creating structural or facade improvements to the small businesses themselves. Items like awnings or illuminated signs can be purchased with the funds.

Kevin Jemmott, of the Cambria Heights Development Corp., has said the organization encourages businesses to use those grants as an opportunity to strengthen the look and feel of shopping in areas that don't necessarily have a reputation as commerce hubs.

"Using the Pathmark grant process, we have a block already where we have six or seven businesses working on a uniform project" he said.

— Matt Hampton