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Councilmembers Help Award \$635,000 in Small Business Building Improvement Grants

ALBANY, NY – Councilmembers today helped award \$635,000 in Small Business Building Improvement Grants to entrepreneurs across the City of Albany. Fueled by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, the BIG Program gave local businesses the opportunity to receive \$1,500–\$25,000 in grant funds for post-pandemic capital improvement projects. The application process was overseen by Capitalize Albany Corporation, Common Council leadership, the Mayor’s Office and City officials.

“We knew as we sat around that table that we had to help our small businesses,” **Majority Leader Ginnie Farrell** said at today’s ceremony in City Hall. “We’re able to come from a very dark time and have a lot of hope.”

“This is a significant accomplishment and indication of the potential for growth and success that exists here in our city,” **Councilmember Sergio Adams** said. “We look forward to seeing the positive impact that these grants will have.”

Awardee Lincoln Pharmacy accepted a presentational check for its share of the BIG Program funds.

“Small, family-owned businesses like Lincoln Pharmacy are the backbone of our city,” **Council President Corey Ellis** said. “Lincoln Pharmacy was owned by the Corman family first. When Walgreens came in, people thought Lincoln Pharmacy would not survive. To see how this next

family is keeping it as a small family pharmacy—this is what you want to fund when you're in local government. It does my heart well to see that we were able to help them with the ARPA funding."

"Our service is a labor of love," **Lincoln Pharmacy Manager and Pharmacist Zarina Jalal** said. "My family is incredibly grateful for the support."

The BIG Program awards represent a fraction of the \$25 million in ARPA funds that the City has committed to projects supporting Albany's recovery and future progress. Councilmembers were joined at today's ceremony by Mayor Kathy Sheehan, Assemblymember Patricia Fahy, Assemblymember John McDonald and Congressman Paul Tonko as well as by representatives from the offices of Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer and Senator Kirsten Gillibrand.

For more information on small-business grants, visit Capitalize Albany at <https://capitalizealbany.com/grants/>.

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