

To Whom It May Concern,

At this difficult time in the world going through the pandemic of Covid-19, many small businesses are struggling to keep the faith that we can make it through. I trusted that the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA-Disaster Assistance) program were put in place to help us however, when I received a DENIAL letter from the processing and Disbursement Center, I am afraid and devastated not knowing if I will lose all that I have invested and worked for.

My name is Adriane and I am an African American female small business owner. Please allow me to share my story... Most of my life I have had a passion for entertaining and decorating. Our home was the location that family and friends would gather for holidays and celebrations. It was second nature to put on events at my church or any location available. "All I needed was a reason or excuse to display my God given talents". I've always wanted to take my skills to higher heights but lacked the necessary funding and I was happy with my life as a wife and mother just enjoying the many opportunities from time to time.

In 2013, my only son retired from the U.S. Navy, died in an accident. Two years later in 2015, I was in my 15th year working at Publix Supermarket, where I did everything from cashiering, being a pricing coordinator to my current position, stocking shelves in the grocery department. In April of that year my husband passed away of a heart attack at the age of 50. With my daughter by my side, I made the decision to follow my passion and invest in my future. I decided to use my husband's insurance premium proceeds and start an intimate special event center.

The last five years has been bitter and sweet. It was exciting when I purchased a small house on three acres of land and did a complete renovation and restoration. The many months were challenging going through the zoning process and dealing with contractors and building permits. I also attended Emory University (Continuing Education) where I received a certificate in Event Planning. I continued to work full time at Publix Supermarket and loved being a caregiver to an older brother that suffered a stroke and both my supportive and loving parents. In 2018 both parents passed away within six weeks of each other. With Gods help, I continued to push and became more determined than ever to get my business open.

Last year in August I finally obtained my business licenses. It took most of my allocated funds but with Gods Blessings and the support my Board of Advisors we slowly started to grow. March of this year the bookings at the event center were growing and business was picking up. My last event was March 14, 2020, Due to the coronavirus I had to close my doors.

I stuck to the plan laid before me and I'm proud to report that I have no high overhead and excessive debt. I have utilized credit cards to fund my business monthly expenses. My monthly budget is \$1600. Before Covid-19 this was achievable. However as my doors are currently closed I am unable to gain any profits. Please except this as a request for funds to help me sustain my business through this pandemic. I need 12K to catch up on all outstanding bills plus an additional 20K to help sustain my business throughout the next 12 months

In summary, any assistance that you can provide or resources that you can make available will be greatly appreciated.