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New Hampshire Economy

COVID-19 Relief Fund for the Self Employed Launches, Leaves Out Some

New Hampshire Public Radio | By Shehzil Zahid

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Susan Ladmer

A painting that Susan Ladmer hopes to sell as a self-employed antiques dealer.

Applications are now open for the **Self Employed Livelihood Fund Program**, or S.E.L.F. Governor Chris Sununu set up the fund under the federal CARES Act to provide economic relief to people who are self-employed. The maximum award amount a



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Applicants have until July 17, 2020 at 4 p.m. to submit their applications.

The program has **restrictions on eligibility**, which may prevent some who need the money from applying.

Susan Ladmer is 76 and lives in Peterborough. She's self-employed selling antiques. Before the pandemic, she worked from her home and the New Hampshire Antique Co-op in Milford. But she says because of her age, she has been terrified to leave her house and expose herself to the virus, which has kept her from working.

Ladmer says she applied for and received a Main Street Relief Fund grant of \$995, which she said is not enough to support her housing and business costs. It also automatically disqualifies her from applying to the self-employment fund.

"It's a choice between spending every penny I have, and pennies I don't have," said Ladmer. "I think the whole set up of the money they're handing out is not fair, but the fact that they're handing any in my direction I'm grateful for."

Other restrictions that may prevent many from applying include having one or more employees, seasonal or otherwise, or being in operation for less than a year. Hospitals, health care and child care providers, farmers and nonprofits are also ineligible.

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Map released: Thurs. August 28, 2025

Data valid: August 26, 2025 at 8 a.m. EDT

Intensity

- None
- D0 (Abnormally Dry)
- D1 (Moderate Drought)
- D2 (Severe Drought)
- D3 (Extreme Drought)
- D4 (Exceptional Drought)
- No Data

Authors

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“You could walk across the river,” said Marty Parichand, who runs paddling trips on rivers near Franklin.

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Exeter's new metal production company delays opening, shifts production

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Phoenix Tailings says they plan to have all operating permits by this fall. They aim to produce more heavy rare earth metals than originally planned, to make up for limited exports from China.



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The company is proposing remediation options that include monitoring pollution and limiting the use of the site moving forward, instead of actively cleaning up the PFAS chemicals present at high levels. State regulators are pushing for different options.



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A rare earth metal company plans to open in Exeter. Their promise? No emissions.

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So-called "rare earth elements" like Neodymium and Dysprosium are important parts of the clean energy supply chain, but they're mostly produced in China. Phoenix Tailings says their technology can make production safer and bring it to the U.S.



[NH News](#)

Two NH startups chosen to receive funding and support for ocean-focused technology

[Mara Hoplamazian, September 16, 2024](#)

One of the companies, HydroPhos, was started by University of New Hampshire students.

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