



Local Lenders Bravafi Are Helping Homeowners In Times Of Crisis In St. Petersburg, Florida

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Bravafi, a company offering custom financial products in St. Petersburg, Florida, is helping homeowners, renters, and small businesses that were affected due to the coronavirus pandemic get some much-needed financial assistance.

Located in Pinellas County, St. Petersburg is the fifth-most populous city in Florida and the second-largest city in the Tampa Bay Area. The coronavirus pandemic affected every facet of life in the city. Just like the rest of the country, it too saw its fair share of hardships. Pinellas County registered a grand total of 135 thousand coronavirus cases since the start of the pandemic and reported around 2700 deaths. The county reported a 66.8 percent vaccination rate as of November 2021, placing it at the sixth position in the state of Florida.

The city responded to the pandemic by kickstarting programs such as Race To Safe, an initiative by the local government to get the city back on its tracks and on to the road to recovery. Race To Safe was implemented with an aim to reduce Pinellas County's COVID-19 positivity rate and to transform St. Petersburg into Florida's most COVID-safe community.

The coronavirus pandemic affected the city's tourism and scheduled events all throughout 2020. The city hosts a Pride Parade and organizes a variety of other events to celebrate Pride Month every year. The 2020 parade was canceled with celebrations resuming in 2021. The Grand Prix of St. Petersburg, an IndyCar Series race that was inaugurated in 2005, was postponed in 2020 and was rescheduled as the final race of the season, rather than the first race.

Apart from affecting the city's cultural landscape, the effects of the pandemic were felt across all industries with retail and hospitality being the ones that were hit the hardest. During the State of St. Pete Economy virtual presentation held in January 2021, city officials shared that the city had lost around 4200 jobs since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. The number of jobs that the city lost equates to around a 3.5% decrease which was minimal compared to the 16% loss of jobs that was recorded statewide. City officials also announced during the presentation that around 500 businesses had shuttered as they failed to adjust to the new normal of reduced foot traffic, scarce mobility, and reduced consumer spending.

To combat the economic downturn, local authorities implemented various programs to help the city's residents survive the tough times and bounce back from the negative financial effects of the pandemic. The city implemented The Mortgage & Utility Payment Assistance Grant Program to enable local partners to offer monetary assistance to homeowners. The city also implemented an Emergency Rental Assistance Program that provides up to 18 months of financial support, covering missed rent and utility payments as well as future costs for renters in Pinellas County. The Pinellas CARE financial assistance program helped more than 11,000 individuals, families, and businesses through direct one-time financial assistance to pay for basic expenses such as rent and utilities.

The city administration continued to support businesses by providing grants and loans such as the Pinellas Community Foundation Tampa Bay Resiliency Fund which made nonprofit 501(c) organizations and public agencies eligible to receive assistance. The #InThisTogether COVID Recovery & Resiliency Initiative was implemented as a comprehensive system of support for entrepreneurs whose businesses were decimated by the shutdown. The #Family Care Microgrant Program was created exclusively for licensed home-based childcare providers who live and operate their businesses within the South St. Petersburg Community Redevelopment Area (CRA) and were hit hard by the pandemic.

Bravafi is doing its part in serving the affected communities by offering personalized financial solutions to homeowners, renters, and small businesses facing financial hardships. A spokesperson for Bravafi talks about the situation in St. Petersburg by saying, "Everyone is having a hard time recovering since the start of COVID. Both residents and business owners all across our area are feeling the impact."

Readers can contact Bravafi in St. Petersburg at the phone number (727) 297-3035 to learn more about its services.

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For more information about Bravafi - St. Petersburg, contact the company here: Bravafi - St. Petersburg (727) 297-3035
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Bravafi - St. Petersburg

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