

Small Business Relief Grants

For the latest updates please visit mn.gov/deed. Program information will be posted by end of Thursday.

General Overview

- This program appropriates dollars \$60 million from the Federal Coronavirus Relief fund made available to the State of Minnesota through the CARES act.
- This program will make \$10K grants to Minnesotan owned and operated businesses that can demonstrate financial hardship as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak.
- Grant funds received by individual businesses shall be used for working capital to support payroll expenses, rent, mortgage payments, utility bills, and other similar expenses that occur or have occurred since March 1, 2020, in the regular course of business.
- A total of \$60 million in awards will be selected by the State through a computer-generated randomized selection process.
- Awards will be administered by 17 local nonprofit agencies throughout the state.
- In making awards there are minimum set asides for various targeted groups and categories of businesses.
 - 50% of funds will be available for businesses based in Greater Minnesota
 - 50% of funds will be available for businesses based in the 7 country metro.
 - \$18,000,000 for businesses with six-full time workers or less
 - \$10,000,000 for minority businesses enterprises
 - \$2,500,000 for businesses that are majority owned and operated by veterans
 - \$2,500,000 for businesses that are majority owned and operated by women
 - \$2,500,000 for tenants of indoor retail and food markets with an ethnic cultural emphasis.
 - In making awards priority shall be given to businesses that were restricted from operating by executive order on May 18, 2020, such that the business could not operate at least at 51 percent of normal capacity.

Application and Administration

- Eligible business will apply directly to department of employment and economic development through an online application form.
- Awards will be selected through a computer-generated randomized selection process overseen and observed by the Minnesota Lottery.
- Awards will be administered by qualified local and regionally based non-profit agencies.
- Nonprofit administrators will be assigned awardees based on geography, capacity, and language or cultural competency preferences of awardees.
- The organizations that will be administer awards in the 7 county metropolitan area are the following:
 - African Development Center
 - African Economic Development Solutions
 - Central Minnesota Development Company
 - First Children's Finance
 - Hmong American Partnership

- Latino Economic Development Center
- Metropolitan Consortium of Community Developers
- Metropolitan Economic Development Association
- Neighborhood Development Center
- Northside Economic Opportunity Network
- WomenVenture
- The organizations that will be administering awards in Greater Minnesota are the following:
 - West Central Initiative
 - Northwest Minnesota Foundation
 - Northland Foundation
 - Southern Minnesota Initiative
 - The Initiative Foundation
 - Southwest Initiative Foundation

Randomized Selection Process

- The selection process will use computer-generated randomization to select business that will receive awards.
- This methods and procedures for this process will be reviewed ahead of time by the MN lottery and the selection process will be observed directly by MN lottery staff.
- The methods and procedures for selection will be made available to the public along with any official letters certifying the fairness and accuracy of the process.