

Proposed Small Business Solano COVID Assistance Grants
to be administered by the Workforce Development Board of Solano County

Program Summary

In order to support small businesses and employers facing financial impacts and layoffs from the novel-coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19), the County of Solano, in partnership with the Workforce Development Board (WDB) of Solano County and the Solano Small Business Development Center, will establish the *Small Business Solano COVID Assistance Grants* initiative. The fund will provide micro-grants to small businesses experiencing economic stresses in order to prevent layoffs or closures during COVID-19 and allowing small employers to effectively pivot operations in response to COVID-19.

Eligibility Guidelines

Eligible applicants include for-profit businesses who:

- Are based in Solano County
- Have 50 employees or less
- Are in good standing with the State of California and the County of Solano
- Can demonstrate a need for funding due to the impacts of COVID-19

Awards will be given based on whether the above eligibility is met, the demonstrated need of the business due to COVID-19, and the quality of the application. Priority will be given to businesses that have less than 20 employees. Staff will consider whether businesses have received small business grants from other locally funded COVID-19 business investment programs in award decisions. The WDB and SBDC, in partnership with cities and chambers, will provide technical assistance and targeted outreach to minority-owned businesses, industries that have been significantly impacted due to COVID, and communities that have received minimal small business investment to ensure equity in distribution of funds.

Grant Details

With a \$2 million investment in Solano's small businesses and employers, the WDB anticipates the ability to provide micro-grants to approximately 400 businesses. The anticipated average grant is \$4,500 with an anticipated range of grants awarded in the amount from \$500 - \$15,000. Grants will be reimbursement-based on costs that meet allowable expenditures between the periods of March 1, 2020 and December 31, 2020.

Due to federal funding, selected employers must attest to Certifications and Assurances and complete the contract process before funds may be dispersed. Businesses will be required to submit brief summaries and proof of expenses before reimbursements are issued. Entities receiving an award may be subject to local, state, or federal monitoring.

Examples of permissible activities will include, but are not limited to:

- Purchasing computer equipment or software that allows remote work capabilities;
- Paying for services or tools to convert to online or outdoor sales or delivery;
- Purchasing cleaning or sanitation supplies/services that reduce exposure and transmission per reopening guidelines;
- New marketing strategies to engage clientele;
- Machinery or equipment needed to reduce exposure or pivot product sales;
- Activities that address supply chain challenges or to acquire new bids; and/or
- Other creative approaches and strategies to reduce or eliminate the need for business closure.

Funds will not be allowed to be used to pay for employee wages or benefits, nor for rent.

Proposed Timeline

- August 25, 2020 – September 4, 2020 – Plan finalization with the County
- September 7, 2020 – September 14, 2020 – Application and outreach development
- September 15, 2020 – Open date for applications
- September 30, 2020 – Closure date for best consideration of application
- October 1, 2020 – December 31, 2020 – grant implementation