DC: Small Business Grant Program

Description of Program and Relief

As part of the COVID-19 Response Emergency Amendment Act of 2020, the Council of the District of Columbia has granted Mayor Bowser the power to issue grants or loans to eligible small businesses, provided that the eligible small business submits an application and demonstrates financial distress caused by circumstances resulting from the public health emergency. Funds issued pursuant to this authority may only be expended on employee wages and benefits, operating costs (including taxes and debt servicing), and/or repayment of loans obtained from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). Mayor Bowser may issue the funds directly to eligible small businesses or utilize a third-party grant-managing entity for the purposes of distribution.

Government or Lead Agency

Business Development Unit of the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development

Dates Available

Starting March 24, 2020

Eligibility Requirements/Restrictions

A business is an “eligible small business” if it is a small business enterprise (SBE) as defined by the Small and Certified Business Enterprise Development and Assistance Act of 2005 (click here for more information), a non-profit entity, or an independent contractor or self-employed individual that has been determined ineligible for Unemployment Insurance.

To qualify as an SBE, a business must (1) have its principal office of business in the District of Columbia and its high-level managers must perform their managerial functions in the District; (2) demonstrate that more than 50% of its owners or employees are residents of the District or more than 50% of its assets or gross receipts are from or located in the District; and (3) be subject to the licensing or tax laws of the District. In addition, the business must be independently owned, operated, and controlled, and either satisfy the definitions of a “small business concern” by the SBA (or its governing statute) or have average annual gross receipts under certain industry-specific limitations. For a list of such limitations click here.

Non-profits (registered as such with the DCRA), as well as independent contractors (those paying self-employment taxes) are also eligible.
Additionally, to be eligible the business must be located in Washington, D.C., with an up to date license, and at least 25% revenue loss due to COVID-19.

**Application Deadlines (If Applicable)**

N/A

**Contact for More Information**

To contact the Business Development Unit of the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development, call (202) 727-6365 or click here.

**List of Additional Information**

For more information click here

Click here for more information on Small Business Microgrant

For additional resources for small businesses click here