

GENERAL FRAMEWORK

Dallas County Emergency Business Assistance Program II

PURPOSE: The program is designed to rapidly provide financial assistance to “traditional” small businesses that have been adversely affected by the current pandemic.

Help re-start small businesses that have closed during the pandemic and support those who have experienced economic downfall during the pandemic.

EMPHASIS/TARGET POPULATION: Small businesses with no more than 100 employees, including small businesses that have closed due to covid financial burden & minority owned businesses.

Priority: Woman, Veterans, and socially or economically disadvantaged businesses. Including businesses that are self-employed such as independent contractors that have closed due to Covid-19 or financial burden.

JUSTIFICATION: Across the U.S., small businesses that form the economic backbone of their communities now face immediate – and oftentimes, crushing – financial pressure due to COVID-19. Many forced to shut down temporarily are at serious risk of never reopening. Even those that can still operate remotely face major revenue shortfalls. With little or no reserves to pay their expenses, many will have no choice but to lay off workers and close their doors forever.

Hundreds of Dallas County minority owned small businesses have had to close due to the pandemic and economic hardships. It has been estimated that only about one-half of America’s small businesses were able to apply for federal assistance before that first round of funding was committed, and that 80% of them still do not know if their application was approved. With 53% of the nation’s jobs coming from businesses with less than 100 employees and with many of these jobs being disproportionately held by low/moderate income people with already limited resources, much of the local economy is at great risk.

TOTAL ALLOCATION: The total proposed cost of this proposal will start with \$5 million and will be monitored by staff with the intent of increasing amount based on community needs. The amount will be charged to the COVID-19 fund and project established for this event. The program will be charged to the fund and project established for this event and funding will come from direct relief assistance provided by the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds as provided by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARP - Fund 464).

ASSISTANCE TO BE PROVIDED: A maximum amount of \$15,000 in the form of a grant will be provided under this program. The amount provided to a firm will either be equivalent to: (1) three months of

lease payments, utilities, the renting of existing equipment, and the payment of existing business-related loans for equipment, vehicles, reimbursement for expenses to mitigate COVID-19 in the workplace, and/or real estate + \$3,000 of restart-up capital.

INITIAL EXPECTATIONS: It is anticipated that once the program becomes operational, its initial allocation will be committed within 120 days.

APPLICATION/ALLOCATION PROCESS: Applications will only be taken on-line and by phone (M-F). Fully completed applications will be processed on a first come-first serve. These initial allocations may be revised based on actual demand.

PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION: Program will be administered by County staff.

ELIGIBILITY AREA: For eligible businesses located within Dallas County, but not within the City of Dallas as that city also has a similar program.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

- Be officially registered with the State, physically located, and operating within Dallas County (excluding the City of Dallas);
- Been in existence March 1, 2020;
- Be current in the payment of all Dallas County and local taxes;
- Have had no more than 100 employees as of March 1, 2020;
- Have annual gross income of less than \$1 million; and
- Have experienced a loss of at least 25% in income since March 1, 2020 because of the pandemic.
- Have closed during the pandemic due to Covid-19 and income related loss.
- **Tax-exempt businesses and age-restricted businesses are not eligible under this program**

Meeting this criteria does not obligate the County to provide assistance to any firm. Also, employees of Dallas County are not eligible for assistance nor are franchises, non-profits, entities whose primary revenue is derived from rental/income-producing properties, persons/entities who are a party to a lawsuit against the County or who have been a party to a contract with the County that has been terminated in the past thirteen months because of insufficient performance. Owners of multiple businesses will only be eligible for one award.

METRICS: Program staff will provide assistance to eligible recipients within two weeks of a completed application. Grant award recipients must provide financial information 6 months after they have received funds. Including profit statements, payroll, taxes , etc.

REPORTING: Program staff will provide monthly reports including total applications, total awards, recipient's business name, and fund balance remaining.

SPECIAL PROVISIONS: Because of the program's mission to rapidly provide assistance, the program will have the following special provisions:

- The County Administrator will have the authority to revise any of the program's policies, allocations, rules, and terms provided he informs the Commissioners Court within twenty-four hours of the proposed change. He does not, however, have the authority to unilaterally provide additional funding to the program. Should the County Administrator revise a component of this program and sufficiently informs the Court, the Court still retains the right to formally rescind, reverse, alter, or adopt the revision.