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CITY COUNCIL APPROVES \$4.75 MILLION GRANT PROGRAM TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL RELIEF TO SMALL BUSINESSES RECOVERING FROM COVID-19

City will award one-time grants of up to \$10,000 to qualified Huntington Beach small businesses with fewer than 30 employees

On June 15, City Council approved the COVID-19 Small Business Relief Program to deliver grants of up to \$10,000 to Huntington Beach businesses with 30 or fewer employees. The City will fast track the Program to provide immediate relief to local businesses that have experienced hardship due to COVID-19. Businesses must apply between June 22 to June 26, and grants will be awarded based on eligibility requirements and availability of funds. The City has partnered with the Orange County Small Business Development Center (OC SBDC) to administer this Program, which is entirely funded with \$4.75 million of one-time federal CARES Act funds distributed to the City by the Orange County Board of Supervisors' Chairwoman Michelle Steel.

"We'd like to thank Chairwoman Steel for directly allocating a share of her District's CARES Act funds to Huntington Beach and for trusting that cities know how best to help our local businesses during COVID-19," Mayor Lyn Semeta said. "The goal for these funds is to provide a lifeline to Huntington Beach businesses, helping them not only to survive, but also become more resilient in this new economy."

A limited number of grants will be awarded to qualified small businesses, based on their number of full time or equivalent employees (including the owner). Grants may be used towards rent, lease, or mortgage payments, payroll, utilities, accounts payable, personal protective equipment, and other COVID-19 related operational or safety expenses.

Number of Full Time Employees	Grant Amount
1-10	Up to \$5,000
11-20	Up to \$7,500
21-30	Up to \$10,000

Eligibility Requirements

Small businesses that meet the following criteria may apply for a grant:

- Independently owned and operated
- Located in Huntington Beach in a commercial or industrial space
- Legal business in good standing with a Huntington Beach business license for 1+ years
- Business with 30 full-time or equivalent employees or less
- Business with \$15 million annual gross revenue or less per yer, over the past 3 years

Per Federal guidelines, applicants must also meet at least **ONE** of the following criteria:

- Deemed non-essential and forced to close during COVID-19
- Sales down more than 25% over the previous 3 months
- Must have laid off at least 1 part-time or full-time employee
- One or more employee contracted COVID-19 while at work

Additional eligibility requirements are posted at www.HBready.com/biz-grants.

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How to Apply

Starting June 22 at 8:00 a.m., applications will be made available at www.HBready.com/biz-grants or at Huntington Beach City Hall (First Floor). Applications must be submitted by June 26 at 5:00 p.m. and will be independently verified for eligibility by SBDC. Should the request for grants be greater than the amount of funding available, SBDC will conduct a lottery to randomly select qualified small businesses to receive grants. We anticipate awarding the grants in early July.

The City is also hosting an informational webinar on June 17 at 4:00 p.m. for small businesses who wish to learn more about the COVID-19 Small Business Relief Program and application process. To attend, please register using the link below:

June 17 at 4:00 p.m.

https://fullerton.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_wYfuhbqfSO-VVSEPd4hkbQ

For questions about the City's COVID-19 Small Business Relief Program and application process, please contact the City of Huntington Beach's Office of Business Development at: biz-grants@surfcity-hb.org or (714) 375-5186.

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