

Cook County CARES

Business Relief During COVID 19 – Round 2

The federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act established a \$150 billion Coronavirus Relief Fund for distribution to state and local government. Minnesota was allocated \$853 million, from which Cook County will receive \$730,087.00. This funding must be used to support services and grants to businesses, hospitals and individuals impacted by the pandemic. Of the Cook County allocation, \$200,000.00 will be used for grants to Cook County businesses to reimburse expenditures in response to COVID–19.

Cook County/Grand Marais EDA, Cook County Chamber of Commerce, and Northeast Minnesota Small Business Development Center will administer the grant program.

Guidelines to apply for a grant

- For-and-Non-Profit businesses located in Cook County are eligible to apply.
- Cook County Public Health and Human Services is hosting a separate program for programmatic expenses for non-profit organizations providing social services.
- Preference will be given to those businesses that have applied for and not received COVID-19 grants or loans from federal and state governments.
- Grant requests must be between \$500.00 and \$2,500.00.
- Expenses must be in response to COVID-19. Business expenses including, but not limited to, such items as computers, software and other hi-tech goods, linens, protective gear, cleaning equipment, alterations to building structure and grounds, Plexiglass barriers, and new outdoor seating, as examples.
- Applications must include copies of invoices or receipts for expenditures that have already been incurred.
- If these expenditures are planned for future purchase, include estimates or quotes and timeline for purchase. If applications are approved for planned purchases, funds will be released when invoices and receipts are submitted as proof of purchase. **Invoices and receipts must be submitted by November 1, 2020 to receive reimbursement. This is a firm deadline. NO exceptions.**
- Respond, in order, to the questions as they are listed on the Application Form.
- **Businesses that were awarded funds in Round 1 may apply for Round 2 but those who have not yet received funding will be prioritized in Round 2.**

Non-eligible Expenses

- Lost Revenue
- Expenses for which you have received other reimbursement (“Double-Dipping” is not allowed)
- Property taxes
- Payroll Expense

Scoring of Applications

Members of the Cook County CARES Task Force will review and score Applications. Points will be given according to the following criteria.

Up to 10 points	Applied for but did not receive other federal or state COVID-19 grants or loans
Up to 5 points	Application is complete
<u>Up to 5 points</u>	Invoices or receipts attached to Application
Up to 20 points	Maximum points available

Grant Program Timeline

Grant program announced and open for applications	Sept 12, 2020
Applications must be received by EDA by 5:00 PM	Sept 25, 2020
Grant awards announced	October 2, 2020
All invoices and receipts must be submitted	November 1, 2020
All funds must be expended by the EDA	November 15, 2020

Application must be received at director@prosperitynorth.com or PO Box 597 Grand Marais MN 55604 by 5 PM on September 25, 2020

Contact for Questions

EDA Executive Director Mary Somnis director@prosperitynorth.com 218-387-3112



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