

# STATE OF MINNESOTA BUSINESS RELIEF GRANT

## GUIDELINES

The State of Minnesota has provided a grant of \$256,250 to Cook County to provide Business Relief Grants. The grant program is administered by Cook County Government, the Cook County/Grand Marais EDA, NE MN Small Business Development Center, and Cook County Chamber of Commerce.

Grants are available up to \$7500.00.

The Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development has directed counties to use the funds to make grants to individual business and nonprofits using these guidelines:

1. Are located in the applicable county in the state of Minnesota or on adjacent tribal land.
2. Have no current tax liens on file with the secretary of state as of the time of application for a grant under this section.
3. Was impacted by an executive order related to the Covid-19 pandemic.
4. A county must determine grant recipients and the grant amount awarded per grant.
5. Each county may use the greater of \$6,250 or 2.5% of the amount received under this program for administration costs incurred from making grants under this program. A county may contract with a third party to administer the grant program on behalf of the county.
6. Grant funds must be used by the eligible business or nonprofit for operation expenses incurred during the Covid-19 pandemic. Acceptable uses include but are not limited to: Property taxes , insurance costs, legal fees, payroll, rent, utilities, marketing/advertising, licensing fees, accounting fees, routine maintenance, travel/vehicle expenses, office supplies, repairs to the existing building and equipment.
7. A county may award a grant to a business that is owned by a tribal government and located on tribal land if the business has voluntarily complied with Executive Orders No. 20-99.
8. Nonprofits, nonprofit arts organizations, nonprofit museums and nonprofit fitness centers that earn revenue similar to businesses, including but not limited to ticket sales and membership fees, are eligible for grants.
9. The county will periodically report expenditures from this funding source required by the State.
10. Grants under this program must be awarded by March 15, 2021.

**SCORING**

Up to 10 points

Business has not received other relief funds or reimbursements

Up to 10 points

Negative impact of Covid on the business, based on percent of revenue lost in 2020 as compared to 2019

5 points

Grant funds will be used to cover operations expenses, in compliance with Guideline # 6 above.

**TIMELINE**

Grant program open for applications

Friday January 8, 2021

Applications must be received by EDA at Noon

Friday January 22, 2021

Grant awards announced

Friday February 5, 2021

All funds must be awarded by

Monday March 15, 2021

