



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

AGENDA SECTION	BUSINESS ITEMS
MEETING DATE	03/02/2026

ITEM:	2026 Economic Impact Relief Discussion.		
<i>Presenting Item:</i> CD Staff			
DEPARTMENT: Community Development		BY/DATE: CD Staff, 02/27/2026	
CORE CITY STRATEGIES: <i>(please indicate areas that apply by adding an "X" in front of the selected text below)</i>			
<input type="checkbox"/> Community that Grows with Purpose and Equity		<input type="checkbox"/> Engaged, Effective and Forward-Thinking	
<input type="checkbox"/> High Quality Public Spaces		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resilient and Prosperous Economy	
<input type="checkbox"/> Safe, Accessible and Built for Everyone		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Inclusive and Connected Community	

BACKGROUND

At the EDA’s February meeting, the Commission discussed providing financial relief to the community to help defray the economic impacts of the Metro Surge federal immigration enforcement actions. As a result of this discussion, the Commission directed Community Development staff to assess how the EDA might provide direct relief to businesses. Prior to the February meeting, staff had already briefly discussed the topic with the EDA’s legal counsel. Based on those earlier conversations with counsel, staff suggested during the meeting that if the EDA wanted to use its own funds for such a relief initiative, a deferred loan program might be the most feasible option.

Following the direction given by the Commission during the meeting, staff conducted further research into this topic. This research included statutory analysis with the EDA’s legal counsel and the City Attorney, tracking the City of Minneapolis’ efforts to dedicate funds to business relief, tracking State legislative discussions about relief, and preparing and distributing an English/Spanish business economic impact survey to gather firsthand testimony from local businesses. To date, twenty-three survey responses have been received. A summary of those responses is included as Attachment 1.

- At this juncture, staff believe there are three possible paths for providing local financial relief to businesses:
- a. Using City-level levied funds from the EDA’s Community Revitalization program, for a program to be administered by the EDA;
 - b. Requesting Anoka County HRA-level levied funds from the County, for a program to be administered by the City;
 - c. Identifying an independent source of funds in the City’s resources and amending the 2026 City budget to direct these funds to local economic relief, for a program to be administered by the City.

Community Development staff will speak in detail about these three options during the meeting.

In addition to the economic impact relief measures, staff also received an email from one of the EDA Commissioners concerning emergency rental relief efforts by the City of Richfield and requesting staff look

into how this type of initiative might be established in Columbia Heights. Staff will speak more about this item during tonight's meeting.

ATTACHMENT(S)

1. Business Economic Impact Survey: Results Summary as of 02/26/2026