



Mercer Island COVID-19 Relief for Small Businesses & Nonprofits

GRANT PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Mercer Island COVID-19 Relief for Small Businesses Grant Program is intended to assist organizations that have been significantly impacted by the COVID-19 Pandemic, including those organizations that were required to modify or close operations in order to comply with the guidelines outlined in Governor Inslee's Safe Start Washington Plan and other COVID-19 related mandates. With this grant program, we hope Island businesses and nonprofits can remain open, retain/hire employees, and stay in business to continue serving the Mercer Island community. The program is funded entirely by CARES Act federal stimulus funds provided by the U.S. Department of Treasury to the State of Washington. Governor Inslee awarded local governments \$300 million of the State's CARES funding in early May and allocated an additional \$125 million to local governments on August 31, 2020, of which \$367,050 has been awarded to the City of Mercer Island. \$97,050 of that sum will be used to defray eligible City expenses related to its response to the COVID-19 Pandemic. The remaining \$270,000 will be used for grants to Mercer Island small businesses, subject to City Council approval.

Grant Program Details

- Grants will be awarded in a single amount that is expected be no less than \$5,000 to each recipient. The final award amount will be determined based on available funding and number of eligible applicants.
- Grant recipients will be selected from a pool of eligible applications via a lottery system. All eligible applications will be sorted into three prioritization pools as described below. A committee comprised of City staff and City Council members will review the lottery selection and recommend grant awards to City Council for approval at its November 2, 2020, regular meeting.
- Eligible expenses are those that will have occurred from March 1, 2020, to November 30, 2020, must be directly related to the COVID-19 Pandemic, and **have not** previously been paid for by other COVID-19 relief grant/loan programs such as the Paycheck Protection Program.
- Once awarded, grant recipients will be required to enter a Subrecipient Agreement with the City to enable the City to fulfill its reporting requirements for how the funds were spent.

Eligibility Criteria

To qualify for a grant, an organization must:

- Be a small business (as defined by federal statutes) or 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, other than regional/national chain businesses and home-based businesses;
- Have a customer-facing physical location within Mercer Island city limits;
- Have been in operation as of January 1, 2020;
- Have an active City of Mercer Island Business license and be in good standing with the City of Mercer Island and the State of Washington;
- Demonstrate hardship due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, such as revenue loss, requirement to purchase PPE and other equipment, etc.; and
- Be able to explain how funding can be used in the immediate term to stabilize or sustain your organization.