



City of Milpitas

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The City of Milpitas Approves Microenterprise Grants to Local Businesses

Milpitas, CA – August 6, 2020 – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The City of Milpitas plans to launch the Milpitas Microenterprise Grant Program to assist nearly four dozen local businesses and employees with financial assistance. The City Council approved the program on August 4, 2020 which will provide \$5,000 grants to microenterprise businesses (5 or fewer employees) located in Milpitas that have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The City Council established the Small Business Assistance Subcommittee to explore small business relief programs for the Milpitas business community. Subcommittee Chair and Councilmember Carmen Montano, a long-time small business advocate, believes “the microenterprise grant program is a goodwill gesture that strives for business resiliency and recovery during this COVID-19 pandemic.”

To be eligible, businesses must meet the following grant program eligibility requirements:

- Have operated in Milpitas prior to March 16, 2017
- Operate out of a physical commercial storefront within the city limits of Milpitas
- Be classified as a retail, restaurant, service sector or “mom and pop” business
- Demonstrate no history of loan delinquency or default since March 16, 2013
- Demonstrate good standing with the City of Milpitas and California Labor Commissioner’s Office

Grants are limited to microenterprises who do not exceed \$2 million in net adjusted income for calendar years 2018 and 2019. Grants may be used for rent or mortgage, payroll, and operating expenses for products or services in Milpitas. All applications meeting program eligibility requirements will be approved and entered into a lottery system, where the lottery system will be used to select 38 grant recipients.

“The COVID-19 pandemic requires short-term actions that will have long-term results. I believe in public and private partnerships that amplify local investment like our small business grant program. Economic conditions continue to evolve, and we are ready to support our business partners with vital resources and assistance. We must do whatever we can to save our small businesses who are the backbone of our community” says Small Business Assistance Subcommittee member and Councilmember Karina Dominguez.

The Milpitas Microenterprise Grant Program is funded through Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds provided by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The grant program will utilize \$200,000 in CDBG funding in partnership with [Enterprise Foundation](#) acting as the City of Milpitas’ fiscal agent and administrator. Enterprise Foundation will utilize its Silicon Valley Small Business Development Center to provide technical assistance in marketing, employee guidance and overall business management to reduce costs and improve efficiencies.

Subcommittee Chair and Councilmember Carmen Montano believes that “this microenterprise grant program is an investment in our local business community, which provides a lifeline to businesses that need financial assistance to stay viable.”

The Milpitas Microenterprise Grant Program details are currently being finalized. Grant program details will be shared with the business community soon. Forthcoming grant program information will include application open period, application submittal deadline, lottery date and time, and a website.

For more COVID-19 information and updates from the City of Milpitas, visit the City’s [COVID-19 webpage](#). Milpitas-based businesses seeking government and financing resources, as well as more information on the Milpitas Microenterprise Grant Program, the Office of Economic Development’s Virtual Business Assistance Center, or to sign up to receive Milpitas economic recovery updates, visit the City’s [Office of Economic Development’s COVID-19 Business Resource webpage](#).

As a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, Enterprise Foundation was designed to help businesses in underserved communities with economic development opportunities. The organization is responsible for developing the microenterprise grant program, administering and managing the CDBG funded grant program, and disbursement of CDBG grants to microenterprises.

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Stay informed. Information is changing frequently:

City of Milpitas Coronavirus Webpage: [City of Milpitas Coronavirus Updates](#)

Public Health Website: <http://sccphd.org/coronavirus>

Public Health Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/sccpublichealth/>

Public Health Instagram: @scc_publichealth

Public Health Twitter: @HealthySCC

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