



County of Tulare Board of Supervisors

Board of Supervisors • County Administrative Office

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TULARE COUNTY LAUNCHES \$7.5 MILLION IN SMALL BUSINESS GRANT FUNDING

VISALIA, CA – County officials publicized the launch of \$7.5 million in small business grant funding at a press conference today. Tulare County intends to provide this support to small businesses in the form of grants up to \$5,000 for reimbursement of eligible COVID-19 operating expenses and to cover future expenses related to implementing COVID-19 health and safety measures within the business.

The Workforce Investment Board of Tulare County (WIB) has been tapped to administer the Tulare County Small Business Grant Program. County officials estimate that up to 300 businesses per district could benefit from this funding as the \$7.5 million is being distributed evenly between county supervisorial districts.

“We are happy to be able to provide this resource to businesses within our community,” said Pete Vander Poel, Chairman of the Tulare County Board of Supervisors. “The businesses that are going to be benefiting from this are businesses who have not been served by any of the other relief programs that have come in response to this disaster. We really are trying to assist those businesses who have slipped through the cracks.”

Eligible businesses include for-profit and non-profit businesses with 20 full-time employees or less, as well as independent contractors. Applicants must attest to a loss of net revenue as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the business for which the applicant is seeking funding is the primary source of income, be physically located in Tulare County with a demonstrated economic need, and prove they have been in operation prior to March 2020.

Grant funding may be used to cover businesses expenses incurred between March 19-September 30, 2020, such as:

- Rent
- Utilities
- Cleaning and disinfectant supplies
- Personal protective equipment
- Social distancing re-configuration
- Costs associated with limiting cash-handling.

Executive Director of the WIB, Adam Peck, notes “This is a win for the Tulare County business community as well as community members. We appreciate working with the CAO and the action of the Board of Supervisors, which shows a real commitment to the physical and economic health of our communities.”

Businesses not eligible to apply are those that have received disaster relief funding such as Paycheck Protection Program, SBA Economic Disaster Relief Loan, or a loan from an incorporated city in Tulare County.

Application documents will be available on August 1, 2020, on the WIB website. Interested applicants are encouraged to visit www.tularewib.org to sign up for notifications regarding this program.

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