

# Pinellas CARES

# Small Business Grants

April 28, 2020

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Our Vision: To Be the Standard for Public Service in America.



# Pinellas CARES Small Business Grants



## Purpose

**Pinellas County has initially identified up to \$35 million in emergency relief funds to support the small businesses hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic.**

**Funds are available as part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act federal stimulus package.**

**This program is intended to help offset the significant, temporary loss of revenue to qualified businesses during this pandemic, and to assist businesses in retaining and paying employees.**



## Description

The program will offer one-time \$5,000 grants to qualifying small businesses to cover expenses such as employee wages, vendor bills and rent. The emergency relief is targeted specifically to help local brick and mortar businesses cover immediate financial needs.

Funds can only be used to reimburse the costs of business interruption due to the COVID-19 public health emergency, provided those costs are not paid by insurance or by another federal program.



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- **Businesses that have already applied or received funding from municipal grant programs are still eligible for this program.**
- **Owners with more than one eligible business may submit an application for each legal entity.**
- **Businesses may still qualify for other existing funding programs. Visit [www.pced.org/covid19loans](http://www.pced.org/covid19loans) for a list of federal and state programs assisting businesses impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.**



## Eligibility Criteria

- **Business occupies commercial space in Pinellas County**
- **Has 1 to 25 Full-Time Equivalent employees, including owner**
- **Operating since at least 10/1/19 and still open 2/29/20**
- **Expected to return to full operations after crisis**



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## Eligible Business Types

- **Public Food Service Establishments (Chapters 500 & 509 F.S.)**
- **Bars, pubs and nightclubs (Governor's Order 20-68)**
- **Short-term lodging and vacation rental management (collect and remit Tourist Development Taxes)**
- **Non-essential businesses (Section 5, "Safer at Home")**
- **Places of assembly (Section 2, "Safer at Home")**



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## Ineligible Businesses

- **Publicly traded companies**
- **Home-based businesses**
- **Non-profit corporations**
- **Firms with code enforcement liens**
- **Active sentence for financial mismanagement**



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## Application Process

- **Submit application using digital online portal**
- **Document business location, status, and employee count**
- **Demonstrate recent business income and expenses**
- **Digitally sign and attest that all information is truthful**
- **Process should take 10-15 minutes if applicant has all necessary documentation at hand.**





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## Timeline

- **April 28 to May 3**      **Program outreach and education**
- **May 4 to June 1**      **Application portal open for submissions**

**Review and approval of typical application should take 1 hour**

**Payment issued by check within 10 days of approval**

