SMALL BUSINESS RELIEF PROGRAM

A sigh of relief for small business.

APRIL 2020









SMALL BUSINESS RELIEF PROGRAM

Three million dollars in CARES Act funding was unanimously approved by the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors for the Small Business Relief Program, a micro-grant program created to support small businesses through the economic hardship caused by the COVID-19 national health crisis. An additional \$150,000, enough to support 15 additional businesses, was donated by local business owners through the Stanislaus Community Foundation's Resilient Stanislaus Fund. County funding along with the additional community contribution brought the total available funding for the program to \$3,150,000.

Stanislaus County Workforce Development implemented the program and awarded micro-grants up to \$10,000 to small businesses with up to 50 employees– with additional emphasis on providing aid to small businesses that employ 25 or fewer employees. Valley First Credit Union assisted with application review and distributed grant dollars to the 344 businesses receiving awards. The grant program was designed to provided important bridge funding to COVID-19 affected businesses that would lessen the impact of operational costs and help businesses retain their employees until Federal and State assistance became available.

The Small Business Relief program has a unique, long-term focus on securing the sustainability of the awarded businesses. Along with the grant dollars, Stanislaus County Workforce Development will work alongside the small businesses that receive grants to help create sustainability plans and explore additional opportunities to provide services. This continued long-term support is designed to help to ensure the success of the business through this pandemic and beyond.

Program Criteria

- In business for at least one year
- Up to 50 full-time employees
- Current County or City Business License/Permit
- Proof of financial hardship due to COVID-19
- No illegal activity at local, State or Federal levels

Approved Use of Grant Funding

- Rent/Lease
- Utilities
- Operational Costs
- Payroll

Applications and required documentation was submitted securely online at www.stanworkforce.com

Businesses not eligible for funding included: lending and investment institutions, insurance companies, golf courses, race tracks, or gambling facilities, nonprofit entities, home based businesses and chain stores.

Timeline

Board of Supervisors Program Approval Online Application Period Grant Notifications/Denials Sent Grant Funding Initiated April 7, 2020 April 13, 2020 - April 21, 2020 April 24, 2020 May 1, 2020

Collaborative Outreach

During the condensed marketing period for the program, traditional marketing channels (news channels, radio, social media, email) were used heavily to inform the business community about the program and encourage businesses to apply online.

Simultaneously, a more targeted communication approach was implemented, utilizing a network of strategic community partners *(shown below)*. Each partner in the network informed their audience through their established channels. This partnership extended the reach of program messaging beyond standard channels with the goal of reaching businesses most impacted by COVID-19 and in the most need for funding.



SMALL BUSINESS RELIEF PROGRAM

Awarded

Businesses

55 Total **Applications** 44 Independent Contractors

207 Incomplete/Ineligible/Declined 100%

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97.4%

94%

\$3,130,668

\$10,106,068 Projected 30-day Business Need (self-identified)

Total Dollars Awarded

\$3.15 M

Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors C.A.R.E.S. Act Funding

Stanislaus Community Foundation's Resilient Stanislaus Fund

\$381,000,000

Total Revenue Dollars Generated by Awarded Businesses

(Approximate total 2019 revenue, self-identified by businesses)

Total Business Revenue

2500 Full-Time Employees*

of Individuals Employed by Awarded Businesses in 2020 (Approximate full-time equivalent* employees, self-identified by businesses)

GENEROUS BUSINESS OWNERS DECLINED AWARD

Rent & Lease

I received a PPP loan yesterday and feel that any money I may have gotten should go to a business that has not been able to get other assistance.
- Small Business Relief Program Business Applicant

Use of Funding (Top 5 intended use of grant funding, self-identified by awarded businesses)



Utilities



Payroll







Program Snapshot by District

	District 1	District 2	District 3	District 4	District 5
Number of Businesses Awarded	41	71	52	137	43
# Full-Time Employees (Employed by Awarded Businesses)	224	554	441	1044	319
Total Dollars Awarded	\$373,435	\$650,834	\$477,896	\$1,259,953	\$368,550
Projected 30-Day Business Need (Awarded Businesses)	\$959,495	\$2,083,313	\$1,360,569	\$4,216,218	\$1,486,473



