

**Date:** June 9, 2020**Media Contact:** Julie Patterson
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City of Aurora launching grant program for businesses, nonprofits

AURORA, Colo. – The city of Aurora and the Aurora City Council, in cooperation with the Arapahoe County CARES Program and the Adams County CARES Program, are launching a \$6 million grant program for small to mid-sized businesses and eligible nonprofits in Aurora.

The application process will open Monday, June 15, for the Aurora Economic Recovery Grant Program, which will provide economic assistance to businesses and nonprofits that demonstrate financial stress or disrupted operations due to the public health crisis.

Of the \$6 million in funding, \$5 million will be distributed to businesses and \$1 million to nonprofits. The goal is to provide assistance to businesses and nonprofits that are trying to reopen and/or modify their business plans or facilities to serve customers in a safe way.

Eligible businesses must be located within the city of Aurora, established prior to Jan. 1, 2020, have generated less than \$5 million in gross revenue in 2019, have 100 or fewer employees, have an Aurora business license and be in good standing, among other requirements.

Eligible nonprofits must have a headquarters or main office in Aurora, be registered with the Colorado Secretary of State as a nonprofit, have an Aurora business license and demonstrate that programs target those impacted by COVID-19 and new public health guidelines, among other requirements.

Grant funding of up to \$15,000 may be used for accounts payable, inventory, utilities, personal protective equipment, funds for additional or new infrastructure related to COVID-19 and touchless payment systems, among other things. It may not duplicate needs funded by other programs or grants received by the business/nonprofit. Grant funds will be provided on a reimbursement basis with appropriate documentation.

Applications may be submitted starting June 15. The deadline to submit is 11:59 p.m. June 22. A city committee will review the applications and select the recipients.

The Aurora-South Metro Small Business Development Center will offer a pre-application webinar at noon June 12 and at 9 a.m. June 15 in English and Spanish and June 16 at noon (Spanish) and 4:30 p.m. (English). To sign up for the webinar, visit Aurora-SouthMetroSBDC.com.

To apply or find out more, visit AuroraGov.org/AER. To ask questions, email AER@auroragov.org.

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