



NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Laura Kershner, Business Services Specialist, Monterey County Workforce Development Board
(831) 796-3341, kershnerl@co.monterey.ca.us

\$840,000 available for small business relief through the Monterey County Workforce Development Board

GRANTS OF UP TO \$10,000 AVAILABLE FOR ELIGIBLE SMALL BUSINESSES – ROUND 3 APPLICATION OPENS MAY 17

Salinas, CA – Friday, May 7, 2021 – The Monterey County Workforce Development Board (MCWDB) will administer a third round of grants through the **Monterey County CARES Small Business Relief Program (SBRP)** in order to assist more small businesses throughout Monterey County that have continued to suffer financial losses due to the COVID-19 crisis. In fall 2020, the Board of Supervisors of the County of Monterey demonstrated a strong commitment to supporting small businesses by allocating County CARES Act funds and Cannabis Tax Assignment funds for three rounds of grants. In the first two rounds, the MCWDB awarded grants to almost 250 Monterey County businesses.

In Round 3 of the SBRP, **\$840,000 will be distributed to 84 or more eligible businesses** in the form of grants of up to \$10,000, which are paid to awardees on a reimbursement basis. Eligible businesses must be owned and operated in Monterey County, have between two and fifty (2–50) full-time equivalent employees, were in operation on or before October 1, 2020, and have experienced economic hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Applicants must describe both their need for financial relief and their plans to use the grant funding to stay open and keep their workers employed. Awardees may use their grant funds for operating expenses (payroll, rent/lease payments, and basic utilities) and/or COVID-19-related expenses, which may include personal protective equipment (PPE) or other equipment or supplies needed to operate during this challenging time.

Priority will be given to businesses operating in unincorporated areas of Monterey County and those who have not received any COVID-19-related financial assistance previously. Priority will also be given to businesses in the following industry sectors: Hospitality (Accommodations, Food Services, and Drinking Places) and Arts/Entertainment/Recreation. As in prior rounds, non-profit organizations are not eligible. Business owners who received grants in Rounds 1 and 2 of the SBRP are eligible to apply again in Round 3 but will be considered lower priority and only awarded if funding is available.

The application will be available on the website beginning May 17, 2021, and must be submitted online, in-person, or by mail by May 30, 2021. Applicants should carefully review the SBRP Guidance to ensure grant eligibility before applying. The MCWDB will host a series of informational webinars on May 21, 2021 (in English at 8 a.m. and in Spanish at 9:00 a.m.) to provide detailed information about eligibility requirements and instructions on how to apply. There will also be pop-ups at public libraries throughout the county where staff will be available to provide assistance to grant applicants; the pop-up schedule will be posted on the website.

For more information, including the SBRP Guidance and links to register for the informational webinars, go to the Monterey County CARES SBRP site at <https://www.montereycountywdb.org/monterey-county-cares/> or contact the Monterey County Workforce Development Board by email at mcsbg@co.monterey.ca.us.

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