

Fairfax County Announces Small Business and Nonprofit Relief Grant Program

Applications Accepted In June

The Fairfax County [Board of Supervisors](#) voted today to create the Fairfax Relief Initiative to Support Employers (Fairfax RISE). [Fairfax RISE is a new \\$25 million grant program](#) to assist small businesses and nonprofits affected by COVID-19. The program will be funded using federal CARES Act funds provided to the County.

“I am very excited about this program – the first of its kind in Fairfax County. Our hope is that these grants will help small businesses and nonprofits emerge from these difficult times, retain employees, and be prepared to grow in the future,” said Fairfax County Chairman Jeffrey C. McKay. “We want to support the many small businesses and nonprofits that are crucial to the Fairfax County community and economy.”

The program’s primary purpose is to provide immediate relief to small businesses and nonprofits impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Fairfax County hopes to help small businesses and organizations remain in business through the COVID-19 emergency and address gaps that may exist among complementary programs.

Fairfax RISE will offer grants to qualified businesses or nonprofits that will not have to be repaid. It also specifically establishes a minimum allocation of 30% of the program’s total dollars — or \$7.5 million — towards awards for minority-, veteran-, and women- owned businesses.

Not only have these kinds of businesses historically faced difficulty obtaining financing, but they also make a major contribution to the county’s economy. Minority-owned companies with employees account for 32% percent of businesses in Fairfax County, and collectively, all minority, women and veteran-owned businesses employ 80,000 people in the county with total annual revenues of \$14.4 billion.

The grant application process is expected to begin in early June 2020. To be eligible, applicants must be established and have one or more location(s) in Fairfax County, including the principal place of business. Fairfax County includes businesses and nonprofit organizations located in the Towns of Herndon, Vienna, and Clifton. Additionally, awardees must have less than 50 total employees across all locations, have been in operation over 1 year; and, with the exception of nonprofits, have a valid Business, Professional and Occupational Licenses (BPOL).

The amount of Fairfax RISE awards will be made based upon the number of full-time equivalent employees according to the following structure:

- Employees, 1 - 10: \$10,000
- Employees, 11 – 25: \$15,000
- Employees, 26 – 49: \$20,000

The grant can be used for:

- Employee compensation (including wages and benefits)
- Working capital
- Equipment

- Inventory
- Rent
- Other business critical operating expenses

Funding must be used for an eligible expense to mitigate business interruptions for the grant awardee business. No grant funds can be used to pay debts to close the business or start a new business.

The \$25 million Small Business and Nonprofit Relief Grant Program is in addition to two other recently announced Fairfax County small business and non-profit programs to address the COVID-19 economic crisis. This includes the \$2.5 million Small Business COVID Recovery Microloan and the \$25 million Safety-Net Non-Profit Grant Program.

The Department of Economic Initiatives will oversee and monitor the Fairfax RISE grant program. For more information visit the [Fairfax County website](#) or contact the Department of Economic Initiatives at Economicinitiatives@fairfaxcounty.gov or call 703-324-5171.

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