

# Meridian Municipal Small Business Grant Program Criteria

## 1.0 PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Meridian City Council has designated \$1 million from the City's CARES Act funding to provide grants to assist small businesses impacted by COVID-19. Qualifying businesses and organizations can receive up to \$15,000 in the form of reimbursements for eligible COVID-19 related expenses. Grants will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis.

Grant funds will reimburse qualified businesses and organizations for eligible expenses incurred between June 20 and December 30, 2020 not previously reimbursed by other State and Federal CARES Act programs or insurance.

## 2.0 BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Business/Organization must meet all of the following criteria:

1. Have an official EIN number
2. Idaho domiciled business
3. In good standing and not federally debarred from receiving funds
4. Have a qualified business interruption or expense caused by COVID-19 related incidents or decisions, including but not limited to local closure orders, need for personal protective equipment, social distancing requirements, increased costs, disrupted supply network, etc.
5. Has not received funds for the current purpose from other COVID-19 grant programs or insurance
6. Does not exist for the purpose of advancing partisan political activities or the business does not directly lobby federal or state officials, defined as having had a registered lobbyist at any point during 2020
7. Has 500 or fewer employees as of March 27, 2020
8. Operates and has a business address in Meridian city limits, as reflected in the registry of the Idaho Secretary of State
9. Compliant in all respects with all COVID-19 related orders, laws, ordinances, and regulations

## 2.1 ELIGIBLE USE OF FUNDS

Grants funds may reimburse qualifying businesses/organizations for COVID-19 related expenditures incurred and paid between June 20, and December 30, 2020. Eligible expenses may include:

1. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Employee Testing
2. Inventory
3. Equipment
4. Rent
5. Utilities

## 2.2 INELIGIBLE USE OF FUNDS

1. Expenses incurred prior to June 20, 2020 or after December 30, 2020
2. Purposes for which an entity has received funding from any other emergency COVID-19 grant program
3. Payroll or benefits expenses including workforce bonuses, hazard pay and overtime
4. Repayment of non-business debt, such as personal credit cards, for purchases not associated with the business
5. Personal expenses such as buying a new family car, making home mortgage payments or funding repairs or improvements to a participant's home
6. Utility, rent or mortgage payments for home-based businesses

7. Installation of equipment (including construction, renovations, alterations, and repairs not limited to painting or decorating)
8. Direct financing to political activities or paying off taxes or fines
9. Purchase personal items or support other businesses in which the applicant may have an interest
10. Damages or loss of business covered by insurance
11. Reimbursement to donors for donated items or services
12. Severance pay
13. Legal settlements

### **3.0 APPLICATION PROCESS**

Applicants must complete the City of Meridian online application and [Form IDA-20](#). All application data, eligible expense documentation, and the completed IDA-20 form must be submitted through the City's online Neighborly grant management system. Final documentation must be received by January 15, 2021.

Applications will be processed and considered in the order in which they are received, and grants will be awarded to qualified businesses/organizations with demonstrated COVID-19 related eligible expenditures on a first come, first served basis.

The City will evaluate applications based on eligibility and adherence with Federal, State and City program guidelines.

The City will submit qualifying applications through the Idaho State, Local, and Tribal Community Support Municipal Small Business Grant Portal. Denials of applications will be based on the parameters and qualifications as stated in the Idaho Rebounds – Municipal Small Business Grant Program Description and Guidance, and the U.S. Treasury's Coronavirus Relief Fund Guidance for State, Territorial, Local, and Tribal Governments.

Records submitted for the purposes of applying for or receiving grant funds are public records subject to disclosure by the City of Meridian and/or State of Idaho pursuant to those agencies' respective obligations to comply with the Idaho Public Records Act. All personal and business financial information will be kept confidential to the extent permitted by law. Other information, including the name of the business/organization and the amount of grant funds awarded will be identified on the [transparent.idaho.gov](http://transparent.idaho.gov) website and on the City of Meridian's Economic Development webpage, and may be disclosed upon request in accordance with the Idaho Public Records Act.

### **3.1 DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS, REPAYMENT OF INELIGIBLE EXPENSES**

Funds will be disbursed within 30 days of application approval by the City of Meridian and the State of Idaho. Approved businesses/organizations will be required to complete and submit a [Grantee Agreement](#) and [IRS W-9 form](#) prior to release of funds. Note that the City will issue a 1099 in early 2021 for the full grant amount.

Any expenditure determined to be ineligible must be repaid to the City within 30 days of written notification.

### **3.2 SUBSEQUENT FUTURE APPLICATIONS**

After November 1, 2020 previously approved and awarded applicants may apply for subsequent reimbursements, up to a cumulative maximum of \$15,000, if there are remaining funds available. Applicants will be required to execute an amended Grantee Agreement indicating continued compliance with all program criteria.