



# BAKERSFIELD

THE SOUND OF *Something Better*

## MEDIA ADVISORY

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **CITY OF BAKERSFIELD LAUNCHES NEW BUSINESS ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM**

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The City of Bakersfield is pleased to announce a new Business Assistance Grant program with the goal of helping local small businesses and sole proprietors impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and related State-implemented closures.

This new program makes \$3 million in City Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act funds immediately available to local businesses in need.

Businesses located within the City limits will be eligible for grants in \$5,000 increments up to \$20,000. The amount each business would be eligible for is based on the business' total full-time employees. Only businesses with 25 or fewer full-time employees and revenues of \$5 million or less in 2019 are eligible.

Interested business owners can find more eligibility information and apply for the grant at <http://www.bakersfieldcity.us/BCARES>. The funding is available on a first come, first served basis. The grant guidelines are also provided in a separate, supplemental document.

"The City of Bakersfield wants to be as business-friendly and supportive as possible in these difficult times," said Christian Clegg, Bakersfield City Manager. "These allocations are important to making sure our small business sector will survive this unprecedented impact and get back to business-as-usual quickly."

Beyond this new Business Assistance Grant Program, the City plans to allocate CARES funding for forgivable business loans, grants for non-profit organizations, public-private partnerships providing job training and technical assistance to local businesses, and relief specific to the travel and tourism industry.

The City of Bakersfield recognizes the importance of local government partnerships and is working with the County of Kern to appropriately utilize each agency's assets

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to best support local businesses. In order to make support available to local organizations as quickly as possible, if approved by the City Council, the City plans to commit \$3 million to the Kern Small Business Relief Program and \$2 million to the County's Nonprofit COVID-19 Economic Support Grant Program. Both allocations will be earmarked for businesses and non-profits located within the City limits only.

Of the \$33.5 million in CARES Act funding the City has received from the State of California, nearly half has been allocated to support local businesses, non-profits and other organizations to support the local community.

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## CITY OF BAKERSFIELD BUSINESS ASSISTANCE GRANTS PROGRAM GUIDELINES

### Grant Eligibility Requirements:

1. Applicant must have a business physically located within Bakersfield's city limits.
2. Applicant must be independently owned and operated and have a current Business Tax Certificate issued by the City of Bakersfield
3. Applicant must be a for profit small business as defined by the following:
  - a. Have between one and not more than twenty-five full time equivalent (FTE) employees. An FTE employee works an average of 40 hours a week so to determine a business' FTE count, just add the average hours worked per employee and divide that by 40. The owner operator of a business is considered one FTE.
  - b. Annual revenues are less that \$5,000,000 for the calendar year 2019.
  - c. Demonstrate and certify that business has been operating for at least one full year prior to March 1, 2020.
4. Applicant must certify that business has experienced at least a 25% reduction in revenue since March 1, 2020 and that grant proceeds will be used for allowable expenses under the Federal CARES Act guidelines
5. Applicant business cannot have any unremedied City Code violations

<b>GRANT AWARD WILL BE BASED ON THE NUMBER FTE EMPLOYEES</b>	
1 to 5 FTEs	\$ 5,000
6 to 10 FTEs	\$ 10,000
11 to 17 FTEs	\$ 15,000
18 to 25 FTEs	\$ 20,000

6. Applicants who have not have received Federal CARES Act funding through the Federal Payroll Protection Program (PPP) or the County of Kern's Small Business Relief Program (KSBRP) will be given preference. The inclusion of those businesses who have received PPP or KSBRP funds will be considered if funding is available.
7. The allocation of grants will be on a first come first served basis. To be considered, the application must be complete with all required documentation included. It will not be officially placed in the queue for funding until reviewed by program staff. Emails will be sent to applicants with grant request is accepted and placed in the queue.

### Documentation Required:

- Copies of Income tax returns for 2018 and 2019.
- Copies of quarter payroll tax filings for the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> quarters of 2020 showing number of employees. If small business is owner operated and has no employees then tax returns are sufficient.
- Copy of current Business Tax Certificate.