



# BAKERSFIELD

THE SOUND OF *Something Better*

## MEDIA ADVISORY

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**Monday, Nov. 2, 2020**

**CONTACT: Joe Conroy**  
**Public Information Officer**  
**661-326-3074**  
[JConroy@bakersfieldcity.us](mailto:JConroy@bakersfieldcity.us)

### **CITY EXPANDS B-CARES GRANT PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY BUSINESSES THAT PREVIOUSLY RECEIVED FUNDING NOW ALSO ELIGIBLE**

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Effective immediately, the City of Bakersfield is expanding its B-CARES grant program eligibility requirements. The change makes businesses that previously received federal or county funding eligible for the B-CARES grants.

Previously, B-CARES applications from businesses that had already received either federal Paycheck Protection Program or Kern Recovers funding were not processed, but were retained for this anticipated eligibility expansion. The City will begin processing those applications immediately and any that follow moving forward. Any business that has already submitted an application will **not** need to submit a new one.

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.

On September 21, the City of Bakersfield launched the B-CARES grant program, making \$3 million in City Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act funds available to local businesses in need.

The City must expend the full \$3 million set aside for this program by the end of December 2020, or any remaining funds must be returned to the State.

Businesses that are located within the City limits and meet the program's eligibility requirements will receive 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.

For questions about the program, the application process or application status please email [bcares@bakersfieldcity.us](mailto:bcares@bakersfieldcity.us).

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City Manager's Office  
1600 Truxtun Avenue, Bakersfield, CA 93301  
661-326-3751 FAX: 661-324-1850



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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.