

DEPARTMENT OF SMALL AND LOCAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY

WARD 6 DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA MAIN STREETS SUPPORT GRANT PROGRAM

Fiscal Year 2025

This Notice of Funding Availability (“NOFA”), in combination with the corresponding Request for Applications (“RFA”) that will be released once the program application opens, constitutes the full set of instructions to assist applicants with completing eligibility applications for the Fiscal Year (“FY”) Ward 6 District of Columbia (“DC,” “D.C.,” or the “District”) Main Streets (“DCMS”) Support Grant Program. **Applicants are encouraged to read both documents in their entirety before applying.**

The DCMS Program, administered by the District’s Department of Small and Local Business Development (“DSLBD” or the “Department”), provides funding and support to non-profits across DC in support of small businesses and place-based economic development. As such, DSLBD is pleased to announce that it will begin soliciting applications for its FY25 Ward 6 DCMS Support Grant Program on March 24, 2025 at 2:00 p.m. Eastern Time (“ET”).

Through the FY25 Ward 6 DCMS Support Grant, \$350,000 in additional funding will be allocated to non-profits supporting businesses, neighbors, and community members along the DCMS Corridors in Ward 6. These DCMS Corridors include:

- [Barracks Row Main Street](#) and [boundaries](#)
- [Eastern Market Main Street](#) and [boundaries](#)
- [H Street Main Street](#) and [boundaries](#)

Grant opportunities will be available via two funding pools from \$350,000 in total available funding.

Funding Pool	Estimated Number of Grants	Examples of Proposed Projects:
\$100,000	Five (5) to ten (10) grants between \$5,000-\$20,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Vacant storefront activation• Events• Arts and cultural programming
\$250,000	One (1) to three (3) grants between \$75,000-\$250,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Direct-to-business subgrants for entities along the Ward 6 DCMS Corridor• Leveraging capital to address vacancies• Bridge funding supporting permitted buildouts• Efforts improving business, resident, or visitor experiences in the Ward 6 DCMS Corridor

Who can Apply?

Only DC-incorporated non-profit organizations are eligible to apply. Applicants may apply to either or both funding pools but must submit a unique proposal and budget for each application. Applicants can win awards from both funding pools. However, DSLBD's eligibility and grant award decisions will be based on each funding pool's specific selection criteria.

In addition, applicants must demonstrate the following by April 14, 2025:

- Current DC Office of Tax and Revenue (“OTR”) Certificate of Clean Hands (“CCH”)
- Active DC Business and/or Occupational and Professional License(s)
- Federal Employee Identification Number (“FEIN”)
- Active Corporate Registration File Number listed with the Department of Licensing Consumer Protection (“DLCP”)
- Good Standing with the District, as determined by DLCP
- Signed Affidavit attesting to compliance with applicable program conditions

Full eligibility requirements will be further outlined in the RFA that will be posted on DSLBD's website upon the opening of the grant application.

How do I Apply?

The online application will open on March 24, 2025 at 2:00 p.m. ET and close on April 14, 2025 at 2:00 p.m. ET. Application instructions are included in the corresponding RFA. The RFA will be made publicly available on March 24, 2025 at <https://dslbd.dc.gov/service/current-grant-opportunities>. Applications will only be accepted through the online application system listed in the RFA.

How can the Funds be Used?

Grant funding may be used for costs incurred in furtherance of the grant program, including the non-profit indirect rate, wages, sub-contractor payments, equipment, supplies, events, direct-to-business subgrants, and programmatic activities and other expenses deemed reasonable by the Department in its sole discretion. All expenditures funded by this grant must occur during the “Period of Performance,” which is the date of the corresponding grant agreement's execution through September 30, 2025. Additional uses and restrictions will be outlined in the RFA.

How will Awardees be Selected?

DSLBD will select grant recipients through a competitive application process.

1. After a complete application is submitted, DSLBD will review the application to verify eligibility. Applications that do not meet eligibility requirements, or do not contain complete, truthful, or verifiable documents, information, or attestations will not be evaluated for further review.
2. Upon a finding of eligibility, the Department will forward the application to an independent review panel, which will evaluate and score each applicant's experience, capacity, service delivery plan, and budget. The RFA will provide more details on panelists' evaluation criteria.

3. A DSLBD program team will compile the review panel's recommendations for the Director of DSLBD, who will make the final determination of grant awards.
4. Grant awardees will be announced in early May 2025.

Questions?

DSLBD will hold a virtual information session concerning the grant program. DSLBD will share additional details about this information session on its Eventbrite page on or around March 24, 2025, at: <https://bit.ly/eventbriteslbd>. Applicants are highly encouraged to attend.

Any questions asked outside of this information session must be submitted via email and in writing to DSLBD at DC.MainStreets@dc.gov. DSLBD will begin answering questions after the grant program opens on March 24, 2025. DSLBD will not respond to questions over the phone.

Reservation of Rights

DSLBD reserves the right to issue addenda, modifications, and/or amendments to the NOFA and/or corresponding RFA after their issuance, or to rescind the NOFA and/or RFA at any time.

Shortened Notice Period

To ensure the efficient distribution of business development resources to Ward 6 through this grant program, and that awardees have sufficient time to execute proposed projects with these resources by the end of FY25, this NOFA will be subject to a shortened notice period on the DC Register.