



Frequently Asked Questions

1. Will the Pennsylvania Avenue boundaries be changed, as per the community's request?

The updated boundaries are as follows:

Pennsylvania Avenue East: Pennsylvania Avenue SE from Sousa Bridge to Southern Avenue

2. What is the actual cash grant?

- a. \$175,000. Grantees will also receive \$25,000 worth of training and strategy development assistance.

3. Is there any precedent of DC Main Streets programs serving noncontiguous commercial districts?

- a. Yes, a few organizations serve noncontiguous commercial districts. Each Main Street program they serve receives a grant for the district it serves.

4. What is the Grant Period?

- a. The Period of Performance is October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021.

5. How are applications evaluations when they serve different numbers of businesses?

- a. All grantees are expected to serve 100% of the businesses within the service area.

6. Do all applicants have to be nonprofits?

- a. No, the lead applicant must meet all the eligibility requirements, but co-applicants can be any type of organization.

7. Should I be awarded the grant, how are the funds disbursed?

- a. The grant is awarded in five disbursements. The first four are advances, pending the grantee meeting reporting requirements. The first three disbursements are each worth 25% of the grant award, the fourth disbursement is 15% and the fifth is 10%. The fifth disbursement is a reimbursement.



8. Can I use a fiscal agent?

- a. No. The primary applicant in the application is both fiscally responsible for the grant and should also be the primary actor for programmatic activities.

9. Does my co-applicant need to meet the eligibility requirements?

- a. No. Only the primary applicant will be vetted for eligibility requirements.

10. What happens if I have any questions regarding my eligibility?

- a. Email elizabeth.anderson1@dc.gov for any questions you may have.

11. Is there a minimum that applicants need to demonstrate they have raised?

- a. No. However, strong applicants will demonstrate fundraising capacity.

12. Does this grant provide direct business assistance?

- a. Yes, \$60,000 must be spent on direct assistance and sub grants to business owners.

13. Is there a minimum that applicants need to include for fundraising goals?

- a. No. However, strong applicants will accurately indicate the fundraising goals to meet the deliverables in their applications.

14. What is the difference between a pledge letter and a letter of support?

- a. A pledge letter is a letter that commits funds to the organization (i.e. "I pledge \$200 to this organization to carry out its Main Street activities"). A letter of support is a letter that conveys support for an organization receiving the Main Street grant or a commitment to volunteer with the organization.

15. Does my organization need to be located in within the boundaries suggested in the RFA?

- a. No. Your organization may be located anywhere in the District. However, should you be awarded the grant, you must provide services to businesses within the corridor boundaries.



16. Can I change the boundaries?

- a. Yes. The RFA says that you may make a case in your application to change the suggested boundaries. However, the boundaries are ultimately decided by the Director of DSLBD.

17. Can I have letters of support sent directly to you?

- a. No. We can only accept application materials through the Quickbase. We do not accept materials via mail or email.

18. *Note: The deadline for Upper Georgia Avenue has been extended to September 14, 2020 at 12 noon. The updated RFA is available at <https://dslbd.dc.gov/service/current-grant-opportunities>.*