

NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY

Dream Grants *for* Ward 7 & 8 Microbusinesses

Updated July 29, 2020



The Department of Small and Local Business Development (DSLBD) is excited to announce that we will be soliciting applications for the 2021 Ward 7 and 8 Microbusiness Dream Grants starting August 15, 2020.

The grants are to provide business development support for the growth of microbusinesses in Wards 7 and 8. These microbusinesses must be appropriately licensed, have fewer than five (5) full-time employees, the business must be located in Ward 7 or 8, and Ward 7 or 8 residents must have ownership of 50% or more of the business.

DSLBD intends to award between 20 and 25 grants, of up \$10,000 each, from the \$200,000 in total available funding for 2021.

How do I apply?

Full guidance and instructions will be available in the Request for Applications (RFA) that will be released on or before August 15, 2020, on the DSLBD website: <https://dslbd.dc.gov> under current grant opportunities <https://bit.ly/dslbdgrantopportunities>.

Deadline

The deadline to apply online is **September 30, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.** Applications will only be accepted through the online application system.

Who can apply?

Appropriately licensed microbusinesses with fewer than five (5) full-time employees located in Ward 7 or 8 for which residents of the Wards comprise 50% or more of the ownership of the business are eligible. Applicants will be asked to verify Ward 7 or 8 residency and that the business is located in Ward 7 or 8. See the Request for Applications for additional eligibility requirements.

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How can the funds be used?

The grant funds can be used for business sustainability or expansion efforts for expenses made by the business between the dates of October 1, 2020 through August 30, 2021. Additional allowed uses and restrictions will be outlined in the RFA.

How will awardees be selected?

Grant recipients will be selected through a competitive application process. All applications from eligible applicants received on or before the deadline will be forwarded to an independent review panel to be evaluated.

A program team will review the recommendations. The Director of DLSBD will make the final determination of grant awards. Grantees will be selected by October 30, 2020.

Questions?

We encourage interested applicants to attend a *Dream Grant Information Session* and will offer one or more *Grant Paperwork Bootcamps*. Please refer to the DSLBD Eventbrite at http://bit.ly/dslbd_events for the most accurate information about the date, time, and location of these meetings.

Questions may be sent to the Innovation & Equitable Development Team at the Department of Small and Local Business Development at Inno.ED@dc.gov. All questions must be submitted in writing.

Reservations

DSLBD reserves the right to issue addenda and/or amendments subsequent to the issuance of this Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) or RFA, or to rescind the NOFA or RFA at any time.

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