

Councilmember _____ introduced the following resolution and moved for its adoption:

RESOLUTION #20-231

RESOLUTION MODIFYING CARES ACT SMALL BUSINESS GRANT PROGRAM TO ALLOW FOR ADDITIONAL GRANT AWARDS

WHEREAS, the Covid-19 pandemic has negatively impacted many City of Ramsey Business; and

WHEREAS, the City received an allocation of over Two Million in Cares Act Dollars to provide assistance at the local level for businesses, residents and government expenses related to Covid-19; and

WHEREAS, the City of Ramsey has adopted and implemented Phase 1 of the Covid – 19 Business Assistance Program which included: Liquor License Renewal Program, Ad Reimbursement program and business spotlight which was targeted at businesses affected be EO 20-04 and EO 20-08; and

WHEREAS, the City Council adopted Resolution #20-154 Approving a \$215,000 Cares Act allocation to support the City of Ramsey Small Business Grant Program which included 20 \$10,000 grant awards and \$15,000 for administration / underwriting of the program; and

WHEREAS, on September 22, 2020, City of Ramsey Small Business Grant Program had 36 applicants and was oversubscribed by 11 eligible businesses based on preliminary application screening; and

WHEREAS, the City of Ramsey adopted Resolution #20-220 approving an additional \$115,000 from the City of Ramsey CARES Act allocation to fund all eligible applications received; and;

WHEREAS, during underwriting period for the City of Ramsey Small Business Grant Program, Anoka County changed their criteria to allow for grants to be received from both City of Ramsey and Anoka County; and

WHEREAS, there are five Ramsey businesses that have applied for Anoka County and Ramsey Cares Act Small Business Grant Program as of 10/6/20; and

WHEREAS, there are eight Ramsey businesses have applied for the Anoka County Cares Act Small Business Grant Program as of 10/6/20 and have not could be funded through either program;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RAMSEY, ANOKA COUNTY, STATE OF MINNESOTA, as follows:

- 1) That the City Council hereby approves up to an additional \$80,000 allocation from the CARES Act to fund \$70,000 in grants and \$10,000 for administration and underwriting of the City of Ramsey Small Business Relief Grant Program. The total CARES Act allocation for this program is up to \$410,000
- 2) The City modifies its Small Business Relief Grant Program Policy, Criteria and application to allow for multiple grants award from the City of Ramsey and Anoka County.
- 3) The City allows the eight businesses that only applied for the Anoka County Grant Program (identified on Exhibit A as “Anoka County Applicant Only”) to apply for the City of Ramsey grant program from 8am on October 14, 2020 – to 5:00 p.m. on October 16, 2020. (8 businesses)
- 4) The City Awards grants to Ramsey businesses (identified as “Grant Awards” on Exhibit A) and authorizes the City to execute Grant Agreements and to issue checks to businesses awarded grants. (14 businesses)
- 5) To continue processing and underwriting eligible business grant applications (identified as “Pending” on Exhibit A) to be considered for grant awards on October 27, 2020. (16 businesses)

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly seconded by Councilmember _____, and upon vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof:

and the following voted against the same:

and the following abstained:

and the following were absent:

whereupon said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted by the Ramsey City Council this 13th day of October, 2020.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk

The City of Ramsey Small Business Relief Grant Program Amended October 13, 2020

The City of Ramsey will offer a small business relief grant program to support local businesses impacted by COVID-19. Grants will be awarded in an amount not to exceed \$10,000. Applications will be accepted electronically during a 14 day time frame beginning August 24, 2020 at which time the City will evaluate the applications. Grants will be awarded to businesses that have proven hardship due to Covid-19 and have incurred, or will incur additional related expenses. There is a limited amount of funds for this program and in the event that the City receives more eligible applications than grant funds available, awards will be selected randomly based on the criteria below.

Grant Amount:

Grants will not exceed \$10,000 to cover eligible expenses incurred as a result of the COVID pandemic after March 1, 2020 (see list of eligible use of grant funds below). Recipient must submit a list of COVID related expenditures during the application review process. Grant funds awarded must be spent by October 31, 2020 and the expenses documented by the City by November 15, 2020.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Applicant must be locally owned and operated with a physical establishment in The City of Ramsey. If there is a parent company or a second location outside of The City of Ramsey, only the entity located in The City of Ramsey will be eligible.
- Applicant must be able to demonstrate financial hardship as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak.
- Applicant entity must be majority owned by a permanent resident or corporation of Minnesota.
- Applicant must be in good standing with the Minnesota Secretary of State and the Minnesota Department of Revenue as of January 1, 2020. If there is an issue pending with the Minnesota Secretary of State, Applicant may still apply for the grant, but will need to demonstrate the issue has been satisfactorily resolved in order to be eligible and receive grant funds.
- If required, Applicant must be licensed.
- Applicant must be compliant with city ordinances, current with city utilities and charges, and in good standing.
- Applicant must be current on property taxes as of January 1, 2020.
- Applicant must employ 30 FTE or less employees as of January 1, 2020.
- Applicant must have been in operation from January 1, 2019 through the application date.
 - The City of Ramsey will not disqualify an applicant if there was an ownership change and the business remained in operation prior to application.
- Applicant must disclose all federal, state or local grant or loan applications for which applicant has applied which has been received or remains pending at the time of application.

Ineligible Businesses

- Do not have a physical address within the City of Ramsey
- Applicants who have previously received federal, state or local grants for the same expenses
- Multi-state chains are generally ineligible except for locally owned franchisees.
- Businesses that primarily derive income from gambling or adult/use entertainment.
- Home-based businesses are generally ineligible except for in-home licensed childcare providers.
- Businesses that derive income from passive investments; property rentals or property management; billboards; or lobbying.
- Have no current or historical financial statements.
- Non-profit organizations

Examples of Eligible Usage of Grant Funds

1. Commercial lease or mortgage payments.
2. Accounts payable (AP) if the AP is a COVID-19 related expense incurred since March 1, 2020.
3. Payroll, unless the business received Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) funds or pandemic unemployment insurance (UI) to assist with payroll expenses incurred after March 1, 2020.
4. Reopening costs or safety improvement costs expended since March 1, 2020 (i.e. outdoor seating, plexiglass, cleaning products, re-staffing costs, etc.)
5. Operating utilities or fees for those facilities interrupted or forced to shut down incurred after March 1, 2020.
6. Payment of taxes or government utilities or fees are **ineligible**.

October 13, 2020 Modifications to Grant Program

- **City of Ramsey grant applicants may receive multiple grants from the City of Ramsey, Anoka County, State of Minnesota or the Federal Government.**
- **A Special Application window will be open from 8am on October 14, 2020 – 5pm October 16, 2020 for eight businesses identified on Exhibit A as “Anoka County Applicant Only”**

The categories outlined above are intended to be general guidance. Final grant decisions will be made by the City Council and / or its designee after a thorough review of all application factors. After the initial application review and/or funding round, the City of Ramsey reserves the right to amend any criteria for eligibility as needed to best address the impact of the current pandemic.

