



GUIDELINES

Recover Manatee: Safety First Small Business Grant Program

General Information

Manatee County businesses have been significantly impacted by COVID-19. As part of our Business Recovery efforts, the need was identified to assist small businesses with the reopening process following the Governor's Phased Reopening Plan. The purpose of this grant is to provide assistance to small businesses that were severely impacted by the Governor's Executive Orders (Safer at Home Act) to implement safety measures to re-open safely for their employees and customers.

To be eligible for this grant, a business must meet the eligibility guidelines as set forth below and can then file an application with the Redevelopment & Economic Opportunity Department (REO), Economic Development Division. The applicant will describe their reopening plan and which of the eligible uses of funds they intend to utilize.

Availability of grant funds may be limited to specific geographic locations depending on grant funding sources.

Eligibility Guidelines

This recovery grant is designed to assist Manatee County's small businesses that have been severely impacted by the Governor's Safer at Home Act reopen safely for their employees and their customers.

These include:

- Retail
- Personal Services
- Medical/Dental Practice
- Restaurant/Bar/Cafe
- Hospitality/Tourism
- Childcare Services
- Others (that have been severely impacted by the Governor's Safe at Home Act)

Businesses that meet the following criteria are eligible to apply:

1. Has recorded losses related to the Governor's Safer at Home Act;
2. Up to 15 full-time equivalent employees (FTE);
3. Located in Manatee County (locations dependent on funding sources);
4. Not operating as a non-profit, or not-for-profit;
5. Does not have code and/or regulation violations that have resulted in outstanding fines or liens;
6. Does not have unpaid County tax or County utility bill;

7. Has not received any awards from the SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) and/or Paycheck Protection Program (PPP);
8. Is registered with the State of Florida, or can provide DOR filing, or can provide IRS Form 941;
9. Not home-based, unless a home-based childcare business;

Amount of Grant

Eligible businesses will receive up to Five-Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) in grant funds.

Eligible Uses of Grant Funds

To assist Manatee small businesses in their recovery efforts, and in keeping with state statutes and County Authority as described in the May 14, 2020 Memorandum from the Office of the County Attorney, the following uses are deemed eligible:

1. Re-opening sanitation and safety supplies, including personal protective equipment (PPE);
2. Signage;
3. Marketing;
4. Outdoor seating;
5. Inventory and materials;
6. Equipment and supplies;
7. Software.

Reporting Requirements

To ensure a successful grant program, compliant with state statutes and County regulations, the following comprise the minimum set of reporting and documentation required from the applicants:

1. Completed application form;
2. Completed IRS form W-9;
3. Signed Agreement;
4. Affidavit of no pending fine, lien, or unpaid County dues;
5. Documentation of business operation in Manatee County;
6. Partial use of funds report;
7. Final use of funds report.

Recover Manatee Background

The Redevelopment and Economic Opportunity Department (REO) was created in October 2016 to focus County efforts on the redevelopment and revitalization of urban areas of the County and to create greater economic opportunities for residents and businesses with our housing, community and economic development projects and programs. The department's economic development activities encourage business growth, good jobs, and community prosperity. With the onset of Covid-19, the department's business recovery activities and programs are branded under "Recover Manatee." The overarching goal is to restart economic activity, which includes diversifying the local economy as part of a longer-term recovery process.