



COVID-19 Special Edition - No. 43  
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*Lakeville, Minnesota - Positioned to Thrive*

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This special edition of the Thrive! Business Newsletter is intended to provide information related to COVID-19 and a summary of the most up-to-date information your business needs to succeed in the wake of this pandemic.

These special edition newsletters will be distributed until they are no longer necessary.



### ***Minnesota Main Street COVID Relief Grants to Begin Accepting Applications September 20***

The Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) will begin accepting applications for the Main Street COVID Relief Grants Program on September 20. This program was approved by the Minnesota State Legislature and signed by Governor Walz on June 30, 2021.

A total of \$64,200,000 is available in grants for Minnesotan owned and operated businesses that can demonstrate financial hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Businesses that are majority-owned by military veterans, women, and Black, Indigenous, and people of color individuals; employ 6 people or fewer; and/or did not receive previous assistance from other state relief programs will be prioritized in the selection process. Funding will be distributed in a 50/50 split between the Twin Cities metro area and Greater Minnesota.

Applicants that qualify and are selected will receive a grant amount between \$10,000 and \$25,000 based on the number of full-time equivalent (FTEs) employees on staff. To be eligible, businesses must operate in Minnesota and be majority owned by a resident of Minnesota. Additional eligibility requirements and application information can be found at DEED's [Main Street COVID Relief Grants Program page](#).

Previous relief programs include the Small Business Emergency Loan program, the Small Business Relief Grant Program, the Movie Theater and Convention Center Relief Grant program, and the County Relief Grant program.

DEED will be holding informational sessions on Microsoft Teams:

- [Tuesday, September 14th at 11:00 a.m.](#)
- [Monday, September 20th at 10:00 a.m.](#)

Contact [MSCRG.DEED@state.mn.us](mailto:MSCRG.DEED@state.mn.us) with questions or visit the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) section.

Applications will be reviewed and awards will be disbursed and administered by qualified local and regionally based nonprofit organizations. Grant funds received by individual businesses shall be used for working capital to support payroll expenses, rent, mortgage payments, utility bills, and other similar expenses that occur or have occurred since March 12, 2020, in the regular course of business.

**The application portal will open September 20, 2021 and will accept applications for 10 days after opening. Applications will close on September 29 at 11:59 p.m.** Grant applications will be selected for consideration through a computer-generated, randomized selection process.

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