



\$64 million in Minnesota Main Street COVID Relief Grants available for businesses: portal opens September 20th, online information sessions this week

The Northland Foundation is spreading the word to Northeast Minnesota businesses about a new opportunity to apply for \$10,000 - \$25,000 grants

Northeast MN, 9.16.2021 - The Northland Foundation is partnering with the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) to help Northeast Minnesota businesses learn about and apply for [Main Street COVID Relief Grants](#). The DEED portal to apply will open September 20 and close September 29.

Applicants that qualify and are selected will receive a grant amount between \$10,000 and \$25,000 depending on the number of full-time equivalent (FTEs) employees on staff. Grants may 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.

A total of \$64.2 million is available – half of that in Greater Minnesota – for Minnesotan owned and operated businesses that can demonstrate financial hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Other requirements include:

- Operate in Minnesota and be majority owned by a resident of Minnesota.
- Be a private for-profit business or non-profit organization (that earns revenue in ways similar to a business) with primary operations located in the state of Minnesota since at least January 1, 2020.
- Be a currently operating business with plans to continue into 2022.
- Be at least 50% owned by one or more resident(s) of Minnesota.
- Employ the equivalent of 200 full-time workers or fewer.
- Total sales or revenue of at least \$10,000 for the 2020 or 2019 tax year.

- 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.

All the eligibility requirements and application information, including Frequently Asked Questions, can be found on the DEED website: <https://mn.gov/deed/business/financing-business/deed-programs/emergency-programs/main-street/>

INFORMATIONAL RESOURCES

A [Northland Small Business Development Center](#) workshop presented on 9/15:

- **View the recording:** https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KtL_gD7Zdes

DEED online information sessions:

- A **recording of the DEED Sept. 14th training** and slides from the training are available on the Webinars section of [the DEED website for this grant program](#).
- Another information live, online session is set for [Monday, Sept. 20 at 10:00 a.m.](#)

FOR QUESTIONS OR MORE ASSISTANCE

Anyone who has other questions or may need help preparing to apply is encouraged to take the following steps.

- Visit the [DEED website and FAQs tab](#). Check FAQs for updates. There is also a tab with information in **English, Hmong, Vietnamese, Spanish, and Somali**.
- If after reviewing the FAQ and webinar recordings, if interested individuals still have questions, they may **email the State** at MSCRG.DEED@state.mn.us.
- For-profit small businesses located within Northeast MN that would like **one-on-one assistance** with the grant application or evaluating eligibility may [Request Services at Northland SBDC](#) or contact their consultant if already a Northland SBDC client. Sign up as soon as possible to allow time for a local consultant to be assigned.
- Email the Northland Foundation at grants@northlandfdn.org.