

ECONOMIC RESPONSE GRANTS

February 2026 Grant Round:

Grant Guidelines and Application Preview Worksheet

Grant Guidelines

Small businesses in Minnesota that have experienced operational disruptions in recent weeks may now apply for financial support through the Economic Response Fund.

This fund will provide short-term stabilization grants to help businesses address urgent needs caused by reduced revenue, workforce disruptions, temporary closures, or safety and security concerns. Grants are intended to support businesses over a 30- to 60-day period.

This fund is seeded by contributions from Minnesota companies and individuals and will distribute \$4 million in the coming weeks.

Funding decisions will be made by seven nonprofit organizations with deep experience providing small business support in communities statewide.

Grants will be made on a rolling basis until all available funds are distributed.

What the Fund Will Support

Funding will support small businesses in the Twin Cities and statewide, with an emphasis on communities experiencing the most significant disruptions. We recognize that the need far exceeds the resources available through this fund and will work to distribute funding equitably across business categories and affected communities.

Eligible businesses may receive grants ranging from \$2,500 to \$10,000, depending on demonstrated need and available funding. These funds are grants, not loans, and do not need to be repaid.

Grant funds may be used for business-related expenses, including:

- Payroll or contractor payments
- Rent or mortgage for business space

- Utilities
- Inventory replacement
- Security, repairs, or safety-related costs
- Covering short-term revenue loss
- Insurance deductibles
- Legal or translation help
- Temporary relocation

Funds may not be used for political activities or personal expenses.

Who Is Eligible to Apply?

These grants are designed to support small businesses that have experienced reduced customers or revenue, workforce disruptions, temporary closures, or concerns with safety and security.

Funding is available for businesses that are currently operating as well as those that are temporarily or permanently closed due to disruptions.

Businesses with a maximum of 40 employees are eligible to apply.

This funding opportunity is not open to nonprofit organizations, local governments, or individual employees applying on their own behalf.

Documentation Requirements for Chosen Applicants

If your business is selected for funding, you will need to provide a W-9. In addition, you will need to provide proof that your business has been operating. The organization reviewing your application may require you to submit *at least one* of the following:

- Basic business information:
 - Filed 2024 or 2025 business tax returns
 - Latest 941
 - Certificate of Good Standing from the Minnesota Secretary of State
- Documentation showing your business has been operating:
 - Links or screenshots showing public or social media messages about the business's limited hours or closures, and/or any related media coverage
 - Rent or lease receipts
- Profit and loss statements:

- January–December 2024
- January–December 2025

If you are asked for a profit and loss statement and this period is not available, please submit your most recent statement.

- Bank statements:
 - December 2025 and January 2026
- Point of sale (POS) and sales reports:
 - December 2024 and January 2025
 - December 2025 and January 2026

You do not need to provide proof of immigration enforcement activity at your business. A clear description of how your business was affected is sufficient.

This program does NOT collect information on the immigration status of applicants and does not impact immigration status. *We will not request your Social Security Number to apply. If needed, your ITIN or alternative identification will be requested.*

Application Review and Decision-Making

Applications will be evaluated based on:

- Evidence of business disruption
- Whether the requested funds will stabilize the business
- Reasonableness of the funding request

Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis in weekly cycles. Early submission does not guarantee funding. Decisions will typically be made within 2-3 weeks of application submission, with funds distributed as quickly as possible.

Grant decisions will be made by the seven community organizations listed below. All seven have deep experience in small business support. These organizations, not the Minneapolis Foundation, will contact grant applicants directly to communicate funding decisions.

- African Development Center
- Lake Street Council
- Latino Economic Development Center
- LISC-Twin Cities
- Neighborhood Development Center
- PFund Foundation
- West Bank Business Association

Use of Funds and Reporting

After the grant period, businesses will be required to submit a brief narrative report that answers the following:

- 1) Is the business still open?
- 2) How many jobs were retained?
- 3) What are your biggest remaining challenges?

Businesses should also retain basic records (such as receipts, invoices, or payroll logs) for up to a year that show how grant funds were used.

Grant funds may be considered taxable income. Applicants are encouraged to consult a tax professional.

Application Process

All applicants must complete this online application, which takes about 10 minutes:

<https://theminneapolisfoundation.my.site.com/Portal/s/>

To get started, you will need to register in the Minneapolis Foundation's online application portal. Once logged in, you will need to affiliate yourself with your business. To do this, select "Change Current Organization" and enter your business information.

Community partners and navigators will be available to assist you with completing your application.

This funding opportunity will remain open until all available funds have been distributed.

Questions and Support

In the next few days, we'll post a short video here walking you through how to create an account in our application portal.

For additional assistance, contact a partner organization in your region:

- African Development Center
 - Businesses owned by African immigrants and refugees statewide
 - manshur@adcmnnesota.org or 612-877-8264

- Lake Street Council
 - Businesses on or near Lake Street corridor
 - Business@LakeStreetCouncil.org or 612-222-8545
- Latino Economic Development Center
 - Latino-owned businesses statewide
 - emergencyfund@ledcmn.org or 612-724-5332
- LISC MN
 - Businesses statewide
 - MNEconomicResponseFund@lisc.org
- Neighborhood Development Center
 - Twin Cities metro area
 - ndcemergencyrelief@ndc-mn.org or 651-379-8103
- PFund Foundation
 - LGBTQ+-owned businesses statewide
 - Mercedes@pfundfoundation.org or 612-870-1806
- West Bank Business Association
 - Businesses in the West Bank neighborhood of Minneapolis
 - info@thewestbank.org or 612-293-8265

Application Preview Worksheet

SECTION 1 — Business Information

1. Business Name:

2. Business Address (location affected):

3. City:

4. State:

5. Zip

6. Website:

7. Geographic Classification (select one):

- Urban
- Rural
- Suburban

8. Region: _____

If you're not sure what region you're in, check out this map:

https://www.minneapolisfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/Minnesota_Counties-Economic-Response-Grants.pdf

9. County: _____

10. Neighborhood/Corridor: _____

11. Years since business opened:

- Less than 1 year
- 1-3 years
- 3-10 years
- 10+ years

12. Type of business (select one):

- Restaurant / Food
- Retail
- Personal Services (salon, repair, etc.)
- Childcare
- Health / Wellness

- Cultural / Artisan
- Other: _____

13. Please provide a brief description of the type of business and your primary products or services (500 characters maximum):

14. Do you have a physical location? Yes/No

SECTION 2 — Owner Information

15. Owner First Name:

Owner Last Name:

16. Preferred language:

- English
- Spanish
- Somali
- Hmong
- Oromo
- Other: _____

17. Business Phone:

18. Cell Phone or WhatsApp:

19. Email (if available):

20. Race/ethnicity of business owner(s). *This question is optional; answering helps ensure equitable distribution of resources.*

Select all that apply:

- Asian
- Black or African American
- Hispanic, Latine, or Latino/a/x
- Indigenous, Native American, or American Indian
- Middle Eastern or North African
- Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander

- White
- Another race or ethnicity: _____
- Prefer not to say

21. Identity of business owner(s). *This question is optional; answering helps ensure equitable distribution of resources.*

Select all that apply:

- Immigrant-owned
- Woman-owned
- Veteran-owned
- LGBTQIA+-owned
- Disability-owned
- Justice-impacted owner (i.e., the owner has been involved in the court system in ways that created barriers to employment, housing, or economic opportunity)
- Youth-owned (under 30)
- None of the above
- Prefer not to say

22. Are you the owner of the business that is applying?

If no, please answer the following:

Applicant Contact First Name:

Applicant Contact Last Name:

Title:

Email:

Phone Number:

Mobile Number:

SECTION 3 — Business Size

23. Number of employees (including owner) before the disruption (select one):

- 1
- 2–5
- 6–10

- 11-25
- 26-40

24. What is the amount of your business's monthly rent or mortgage payment?

25. What was your business's gross annual revenue for 2025?

26. What was your business's profit for 2025?

27. What was your revenue during the three-month period of November 2025 through January 2026?

SECTION 4 — Impact of the Disruption

28. What is the current operating status of your business (select one)?

- Fully open
- Open with reduced hours or services
- Temporarily closed due to recent disruption
- Temporarily closed but planning to reopen
- Permanently closed

29. How has your business been disrupted in the last 30-60 days? Select up to three.

- Sudden drop in customers
- Forced closure
- Property damage
- Staff unable to work
- Supply problems
- Safety concerns in area
- Other: _____

30. Estimated loss of revenue (select one):

- Less than 25%
- 25-50%
- More than 50%

31. In a few sentences, describe how your business has been disrupted in the last 30-60 days (1,500 characters maximum):

32. In the past six months, has your business received financial support from grants, fundraising efforts, government programs, or other relief sources? Yes/No

If yes, please list the source(s) and approximate amount(s). *Receiving other assistance does not affect your eligibility for this grant, but helps us better understand your overall need. (1,000 characters maximum)*

SECTION 5 — Use of Funds

33. What will this grant help cover? Select up to three.

- Payroll or contractor payments
- Rent or mortgage for business space
- Utilities
- Inventory replacement
- Security, repairs, or safety-related costs
- Covering short-term revenue loss
- Insurance deductible
- Legal or translation help
- Temporary relocation
- Other: _____

SECTION 6 — Verification

34. If awarded a grant, you will need to provide proof of operation. What proof will you be able to provide? Check all that you could provide.

- Filed 2024 or 2025 business tax returns
- Latest 941
- Certificate of Good Standing from the Minnesota Secretary of State

- Links or screenshots showing public or social media messages about the business’s limited hours or closures, and/or any related media coverage
- Rent or lease receipts
- Profit and loss statements (*If you are asked for a profit and loss statement and this period is not available, please submit the business’s most recent profit and loss statement*):
 - January–December 2024
 - January–December 2025
- Bank statements:
 - December 2025 and January 2026
- Point of sale (POS) and sales reports:
 - December 2024 and January 2025
 - December 2025 and January 2026
- Utility bill
- Social media page
- Photo of storefront
- Other: _____

35. Provide the name of the community partners and navigators who assisted you with the application: _____

36. SECTION 7 — Certification

- I certify this information is true to the best of my knowledge.
- I understand this is a one-time emergency grant.
- I agree to a short follow-up check-in in 60–90 days.

Signature (type name): _____

Date: _____