



NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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***Monterey County Workforce Development Board to administer up to \$425,000 in CARES Act funding for small business relief on behalf of the County Board of Supervisors***

**GRANTS OF UP TO \$10,000 AVAILABLE FOR SMALL BUSINESSES – APPLICATION OPENS NOVEMBER 2**

**Salinas, CA – Tuesday, October 20, 2020** -- The Monterey County Workforce Development Board (MCWDB) will administer the ***Monterey County CARES Small Business Relief Program (SBRP)*** on behalf of the County Board of Supervisors in order to make grant funding available to small businesses throughout Monterey County that have suffered financial losses due to COVID-19. The funding is made possible through the CARES Act (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act) established by Congress following the coronavirus pandemic that struck the United States in March 2020.

Grants of up to \$10,000 will be awarded to 40-50 small businesses that are operated and headquartered in Monterey County, have no more than 50 full-time equivalent employees, and have experienced economic hardship since the shelter-in-place order effective March 18, 2020. Businesses located in unincorporated areas, in industry sectors disproportionately impacted by the crisis, or who have not previously received COVID-19-related financial assistance will be given priority, however these are not requirements. Grant funds awarded to qualified businesses may be used for reimbursement of payroll and rent/lease expenses incurred during the period of economic impact and equipment/supplies purchased in order to reopen or continue operating safely (such as Personal Protective Equipment or outdoor dining equipment).

Applicants should review the [SBRP Fact Sheet](#) for more information to ensure eligibility before completing the online application, which will be available on the MCWDB website <https://www.montereycountywdb.org/monterey-county-cares/> from November 2 – 15, 2020. The MCWDB will host a series of informational webinars October 27 through October 29 to provide detailed information about eligibility requirements and instructions on how to complete the application (see webinar details below). Small business applicants will be notified of their awards by November 20, 2020.

For more information, go the <https://www.montereycountywdb.org/> or contact the Monterey County Workforce Development Board by email at [mcsbg@co.monterey.ca.us](mailto:mcsbg@co.monterey.ca.us)

**Monterey County Small Business Relief Program Informational Webinars:**

**Tuesday, October 27, 2020**

12:00 p.m. (English) – [Register Here](#)

**Wednesday, October 28, 2020**

10:00 a.m. (English) – [Register Here](#)

6:00 p.m. (Spanish) – [Register Here](#)

**Thursday, October 29, 2020**

10:00 a.m. (Spanish) – [Register Here](#)

6:00 p.m. (English) – [Register Here](#)