

ASHLAND BUSINESS RENT ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM

The goal of the grant program is to provide rent assistance for small businesses with a physical presence/location in the Town of Ashland who rent or lease their primary business space and can demonstrate they are in one of the eligible categories listed below and that they have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Funding Source: The funding source for this program is a Community Development Block Grant from the Department of Housing and Community Development

Total Funding: \$320,000

Grant Amount: Grants covering up to six months of rent payments, up to \$10,000 maximum per eligible business.

Eligible Uses: Eligible uses of funds include:

- Monthly rent or lease payments
 - Grant may be awarded retroactively to cover rent or lease payments due from March 13, 2020, to present
- CDBG funds cannot be used for expenses previously covered by CARES funding.

Application

Submission: Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis beginning on January 20, 2021. Funds must be expended by December 8, 2021.

Applicant

Eligibility: As required by DHCD-CDBG guidelines applicants must:

- Be in one of the following categories:
 - Tourism related business
 - Accommodations (i.e. hotel, motel, bed & breakfast)
 - Restaurants/Food service
 - Professional services
 - Cultural & Education services
 - Arts
 - Recreation
 - Retail
 - Health Practitioners
 - Personal Care
- Provide a copy of a signed lease agreement

- Currently rent or lease a space used for business within the Town of Ashland corporate limits, and have done so since January 1, 2020
- Own a local small business (includes locally owned franchises of national companies)
- Be a for-profit entity
- Not be located in a residence or residential zoned property
- Have no more than 20 active FTEs
- Be current on all Town taxes, including Business Licenses
- Provide a current registration with the State Corporation Commission to include providing a DUNS number
- Attend/watch one technical assistance session provided by Dominion Energy Innovation Center.
- Execute a grant agreement (if a grant award is made); certify and attest that the business was negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic including, but not limited to, the restrictions placed on businesses by the Commonwealth of Virginia beginning March 13, 2020; and the grant award is used to pay rent or lease expenses. Copy of payment or transfer of payment will be required.

To apply:

Complete the program's application form and submit it along with the required documents to planning@ashlandva.gov. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

For more information contact: Joe Topham at jtopham@ashlandva.gov or (804) 798-1073.