



Ruthanne Fuller
Mayor

City of Newton, Massachusetts
Department of Planning and Development
1000 Commonwealth Avenue Newton, Massachusetts 02459

Telephone
(617) 796-1120
Telefax
(617) 796-1142
TDD/TTY
(617) 796-1089
www.newtonma.gov

Barney Heath
Director

MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable City Council Members

From: Barney Heath, Director of Planning & Development
Devra Bailin, Director of Economic Development
Amanda Berman, Director of Housing & Community Development

Date: April 1, 2021

Subject: Newton COVID-19 Small Business Recovery Grant Round 2 Awards

cc: Jonathan Yeo, Chief Operating Officer

On January 15, 2021 the Mayor announced that the City would be utilizing approximately another \$300,000 of federal CDBG-CV3 Cares Act money to assist in the economic recovery for Newton's small business brick and mortar establishments. Like Round 1 of the Program which launched last Spring, businesses were invited to submit grant applications for either microenterprise grants of \$10,000 (5 or fewer employees, including the business owner) or small business grants of \$15,000 (5+ to 20 employees). These awards for emergency funding can help pay for commercial rent or mortgage, wages, loss of inventory, and other demonstrated costs.

A total of 76 applications were received by the application deadline on February 8th. These applicants were scored against a first level of review based upon a specific set of criteria, including:

- keeping bricks and mortar businesses in our vibrant commercial centers;
- helping Low and Moderate Income (LMI) business owners stay afloat;
- maintaining jobs that may be held by LMI individuals;
- assisting businesses in many different areas of the City (both geographically and by business sector);
- promoting diversity in the workplace both with respect to business ownership and employees; and
- businesses' health and likelihood of success through and after the pandemic.

Following this initial scoring, a total of 41 businesses moved to the next phase of review.

These businesses were then ranked by two members of the City's Economic Development Commission based upon the strength of the business's post-pandemic recovery plan and involvement within the Newton community. The top scoring businesses were then asked to submit back-up documentation to prove their

program eligibility. This thorough, three-part review system resulted in a final awardee list of 27 businesses, 20 microenterprises and 7 small businesses.

Similar to the Program's Round 1, the awardees are representative of the overall pool of applicants and consciously weighted toward giving a boost to those brick and mortar personal service and food establishments that make our village centers so desirable for our residents.

We anticipate being able to provide these grants in the next few weeks. A listing of the awardees can be found [here](#).