

## NATICK COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Dear Business Owner,

Applications are now being accepted for the Natick Micro-enterprise Assistance Grant Program, which provides **grants** to qualifying microenterprises in NATICK adversely impacted by COVID-19. Natick has received over **\$300,000** in federal CDBG-CV funds from the 2020 CARES Act to address emergency needs arising from the Coronavirus pandemic through micro-enterprise assistance. The Town is partnering with the Commonwealth's MassDevelopment and Massachusetts Growth Capital Corporation to administer the grant process.

Individual grants up to \$10,000 are available for eligible micro-enterprise businesses. A micro-enterprise is defined as a for-profit commercial enterprise that has 5 or fewer full-time equivalent employees, including 1 or more of whom owns the enterprise. Funds may be used for working capital to cover business costs, such as rent, staffing, utilities and personal protection equipment (PPE). Microenterprise Assistance grant funds may not be used for major equipment purchases, purchase of real property, construction activities, business expansion, or lobbying.

Massachusetts Growth Capital Corporation (MGCC) will serve as the Program Administrator.

**Applications are available [here](https://massgcc.submittable.com/submit) (https://massgcc.submittable.com/submit) and are due by September 25<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM.** Businesses interested in applying must complete and submit the application electronically through MGCC's online application portal. Hard copies or electronic copies submitted in any other way, such as mailed in or emailed, will not be considered.

Businesses interested in applying must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- Business must have a physical establishment in one of the following cities/towns: Ashland, Beverly, Burlington, Canton, Concord, Dedham, Essex, Lexington, Manchester by the Sea, Marlborough, Melrose, Milton, Natick, North Reading, Norwood, Randolph, Reading, Sharon, Southborough, Stoneham, Watertown, Winchester or Woburn.
- Business must be a microenterprise (a commercial enterprise that has 5 or fewer full-time equivalent employees, 1 or more of whom owns the enterprise, as of today).
- Business owner(s) must qualify under the Low-Moderate Income (LMI) Limited Clientele national objective criteria. All owners of the business must earn an annual income equal to or less than 80% of the Area Median Income (AMI) based on family size.
- Business must be a for-profit entity (sole proprietorship, partnerships, corporations, or LLCs).
- Business must provide goods or services to multiple clients or customers.
- Business must be able to document a loss of income equal to or greater than requested assistance due to COVID-19.
- Business must be currently in operation and have been established prior to 01/01/2019.
- Business must be in good standing with the state and city/town:
  - Business must be current on all taxes due through 3/1/2020; and
  - Have active and valid state licenses/registrations, if applicable; and
  - Not a party to litigation involving the Commonwealth or municipality you operate in.
- Ineligible businesses:
  - Real estate rentals/sales businesses;
  - Businesses owned by persons under age 18;

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- Businesses that are chains;
- Liquor stores;
- Weapons/firearms dealers;
- Lobbyists; or
- Cannabis-related businesses.

For questions, please contact ***Ted Fields, Senior Planner, Natick Community and Economic Development Department, t: 508-647-6428, e: [tfields@natickma.org](mailto:tfields@natickma.org)***