Zero-interest loans for Del Norte County small businesses impacted by COVID-19

To help small businesses with the impacts of COVID-19, the City of Crescent City, County of Del Norte and valuable community partners are working with Arcata Economic Development Corporation (AEDC) Small Business Lending Center to be able to offer up to a total of $140,000 in zero interest loans through the new Small Business Stabilization Program. The program will provide secured loans of up to $5,000 per business, with the first loan payment being deferred until 90 days after the local emergency is terminated or September 1st, 2020 whichever is later.

This program is made possible by the Hess Foundation, and we want to give credit to Gill Hess for his visionary leadership that has made this possible. Additional support by South Fork Big Flat Fund, Baird and Jane Rumiano Fund, Caldwell Clan Fund and Nick and Lisa Rail Fund.

Del Norte County small businesses can begin applying for these loans at noon, Wednesday, April 1st, 2020.

The Del Norte County Economic Resiliency Task Force (ERTF), comprised of City, County and invaluable community partners, believes it is of utmost importance to keep our community safe and healthy. We understand the financial impacts to both our residents and businesses in these efforts. It is imperative that our local businesses know we are all in this together, and we are trying to assist them in every way possible through these unexpected hardships and together we will get through this. - ERTF is a recognized Task Force of County Emergency Operations Center (EOC)

To qualify the business must have a demonstrated hardship due to COVID-19. Funds may be used to cover the day-to-day operating expenses of the business such as payroll or rent.

Other eligibility requirements include:

- For-profit, independently owned local business
- Businesses with fewer than 5 employees
- Physical establishment within the County of Del Norte
- Current City business license (if applicable) and in operation as of March 1, 2020
• Have a demonstrated hardship due to COVID-19, such as a loss in revenue
• Funds shall be used for operational needs such as lease/mortgage payments, payroll, materials, supplies and services
• Comply with the City’s non-discrimination policy
• One time loan per business
• Be in good standing with the City of Crescent City and County of Del Norte as of February 1, 2020 (e.g., current on utility bills, no liens or judgments, etc.)

***AEDC will have the ability to make adjustments on eligibility and loan amounts on a case by case basis.

Loans will be awarded on a first-come, first-serve basis for qualified applicants. The application period will be open until funds are exhausted.

Approval Process:
• Applications will be submitted to ERTF and AEDC’s Small Business Lending Center for review.
• Applicants will assigned a free business advisor to develop short-term prioritization and a strategic plan prior to approval. *Please be ready with important business documents.
• Approval process may take up to 5 business days. Funding anticipated to be released within one week of final approval.

Submitting Your Application:
Submit your application and required documentation by email to hwendt@crescentcity.org Beginning at noon on Wednesday, April, 1, 2020. No early applications will be accepted.

Please submit the following required documentation along with your application. If selected, the loan applicant may be required to provide additional documentation including most recent tax returns, 941s, etc.
1. Current Business License
2. W-9
3. Completed AEDC’s Small Business Lending Center - Employment and Credit Authorization form

*Optional and Encouraged:
• A copy of 2018 or 2019 Tax Return or Schedule C form or Accountants letter confirming filing
• A current year-to-date profit-and-loss statement

Contact us with questions:
Economic Resiliency Team - Hwendt@crescentcity.org

Businesses can learn more and apply at https://www.preparedelnorte.com/covid-19-business-support