



Michigan Small Business Relief Grant

Michigan Small Business Relief Grants will provide up to \$10 million in grant funding to one or more local economic development organizations or nonprofit economic development organizations to provide grants up to \$10,000 to support certain small businesses statewide that have realized a significant financial hardship as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak. Amounts per lead local economic development partner will be determined based on potential impact per region. Southwest Michigan First has been allotted \$800,000.

Announcement of Program

The Michigan Small Business Relief Grant program was announced in March 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Relief grants could be used for working capital to support payroll expenses, rent, mortgage payments, utility expenses, or other similar expenses that occur in the ordinary course of business.

The application process is now closed.

Eligible Businesses

- The company is in an industry outlined in Executive Order 2020-9, or any subsequent Executive Order of similar intent ("EO"), or demonstrates it is otherwise affected by the COVID-19 outbreak, that meets one or more of the following: provides support to impacted employees, is located in a downtown district or high impact corridor or has 50 employees or less, or is a company that provides services to companies outlined in the EO and requires additional employees to support to companies or employees impacted by EO;
- The company has 50 employees or less;
- The company needs working capital to support payroll expenses, rent, mortgage payments, utility expenses, or other similar expenses that occur in the ordinary course of business; and
- The company is able to demonstrate an income loss as a result of the EO, or the COVID-19

144 Grant Recipients Announced on April 3, 2020

Southwest Michigan First, the regional economic development catalyst based in Kalamazoo, Michigan, announced 144 small business grant recipients are receiving allocations as part of the state's Michigan Small Business Relief Program. Grants may be used by recipients for working capital to support payroll expenses, rent, mortgage payments, utility expenses or other similar expenses that occur in the ordinary course of business.

This funding is made possible by the Michigan Economic Development Corporation releasing \$10 million in small business grants from the Michigan Strategic Fund (MSF) to regional economic development agencies for businesses facing drastic reductions in cash flow and the continued support of their workforce due to the COVID-19 outbreak. The seven-county Southwest Michigan region received \$800,000 to be administered among businesses located throughout Berrien, Branch, Calhoun, Cass, Kalamazoo, St. Joseph and Van Buren counties. Funding allocations were based on the concentration of eligible small businesses within each county. The average grant award was \$5,555.

Update: On May 6, 2020, the Michigan Economic Development Corporation issued a press release on the comprehensive state allocation of grants. [Read more.](#)