



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 16, 2020

The City has finished its distribution of the Grant Relief Opportunity (GRO) Program to its business community. As a result, over \$500,000 was provided to assist our businesses during this pandemic.

We had a broad range of the type of businesses that applied, including restaurants, business services, salons, etc. While each need was different, it was important that the City reviewed and responded equitably. The majority of the applications received were for relief related to Governor Inslee's Stay Home Stay Healthy Order (with a maximum of \$25,000). The City also had two businesses apply for the adaptation/remodel grant (with a maximum of \$10,000), to improve their businesses to be more accommodating to the social distancing requirements.

As we review our process and approach, we are encouraged at the initial feedback from our community. The following months will be crucial for many in our community, and the GRO program is the City's way to help absorb these impacts.

Councilmember Jeremy Nutting is quoted as saying, "As the Chair of the City Council Economic Development Committee, working with my colleagues on the committee, Mayor Matt Pina and Councilmember Traci Buxton, I am pleased to announce that to date we have awarded 24 General Fund Relief Grants in the amount of \$501,000 and 2 Adaptation/Remodel Grants in the amount of \$15,028. This is another way the City is working to help enhance economic activity in our Community."

In addition to the Business Assistance Program, the City was able to provide a refrigeration unit, approximately \$20,000, and paying for the energy for the year and crackers from Partners Crackers to the Food Bank; the acquisition of \$20,000 worth of masks for our community for any second, or third wave for first responders from Outdoor Research; and African Community Housing Development to help protect against rent eviction are all ways that we have creatively sought to support our community with the resources available.

City Manager Michael Matthias would like to "commend the efforts of our staff, especially Eric Lane, Economic Relief & Resource Coordinator/Land Use Planner II, Rochelle Sems, Management Analyst and Shannon Kirchberg, Emergency Preparedness Manager."

We are excited to announce the following GRO recipients below:

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| <i>Ages in Stages Childcare</i> | <i>Harper Studios, Inc.</i> | <i>Progressive Mind Body Therapeutics</i> |
| <i>Anderson Group</i> | <i>ITNOT Safety Training, LLC</i> | <i>Salon Eclipse</i> |
| <i>Arturo's Mexican Restaurant</i> | <i>Marina Market & Deli</i> | <i>Salon Michelle</i> |
| <i>Chips Away Stull L.L.C</i> | <i>Northwest Financial Services Ltd</i> | <i>Therese Allen & Co.</i> |
| <i>Clients ARM LLC</i> | <i>Nu 2 U Thrift Store</i> | <i>via Marina Wood Fired Pizza and Italian Cafe</i> |
| <i>DM Harborside, LLC DBA Quarterdeck</i> | <i>Pauline's Nail Spa</i> | <i>Viva Mexico, Inc.</i> |
| <i>EC Computer</i> | <i>Polonez Automotive Co.</i> | <i>Waterland Arcade</i> |
| <i>Greek Delights dba Spyros Gyros Etc.</i> | <i>Print Place</i> | <i>Winston Auto Repair</i> |



"Today was an amazing day for us at Northwest Financial Services LTD, we were issued a grant by the City of Des Moines to help sustain our business during this crazy time. We are so appreciative. Thank you City of Des Moines!! We love our city!!"

Northwest Financial Services, LTD



"Appreciate the support from the City on that program!"
Ken Rogers, Quarterdeck

"Awesome! I love it! Thank you so much for your support I'm still speechless. Please send my regards to all city employees."

Thank you"

Pauline



"I was truly blown away at receiving the grant and we are so appreciative of the city's support. As tough as things have been over this past year, having the confidence and support from our city leaders is encouraging and inspiring. We are so excited to be here and our clients & friends have piqued interest in our town with intrigue and surprise with what it has to offer. I see great things coming to town in the future and we are so excited to be a part of it."

Best to you and many thanks to our city leaders for supporting us as we navigate through these challenging times. Every chance we get, we are keeping our dollars local and supporting fellow small businesses and this grant will help us spread it even further.

With sincerest gratitude"

Doreen Harper

