



CARES Pandemic Relief (CPR) Grant Program

Frequently Asked Questions for Business Applicants

Eligibility

Are any businesses NOT eligible to apply?

Yes. The following businesses are NOT eligible for this grant program:

- Lending institutions
- Law firms
- Accounting firms
- Utility companies
- Chain convenience stores
- Insurance agencies
- Financial advisors
- Passive investments

Are any nonprofits NOT eligible to apply?

Yes. The following nonprofits are NOT eligible for this grant program:

- Religious organizations for religious purposes are not eligible.
- Lobbying groups and political organizations.
- Organizations that restrict activity based on ethnicity, gender, orientation or ability.

I'm a home-based childcare provider. Do I qualify in light of the physical, commercial location requirement?

Yes. Home-based childcare providers qualify as long they fit all other eligibility requirements as listed on the application.

I received a Paycheck Protection Program loan or an Economic Injury Disaster Loan. Am I still eligible for a CPR grant?

Yes. However, the CPR requested funds must not be used for expenses already covered by other grant programs. They must be used for separate and unique purposes.

I applied for and received a CARES Act grant from another local unit of government (City, Township). Can I still apply to the EDC?

No. You may only receive funds through one local unit of government.

What if my nonprofit serves locations other than Douglas County?

Nonprofits may have a larger service area, but the requested resources in this application must be focused on work/care/services in Douglas County.

Use of Funds

What can the grant funds be used for?

Grant funds shall be used for expenses that have occurred since March 1, 2020. Refer to the first page of the business or nonprofit applications for examples of eligible expenses. If you have specific questions about the use of funds, please contact an AAEDC staff member.

Can the grant funds be used to pay back taxes including property taxes? No.

Is there a specific date range for eligible expenses?

Yes. All expenses must be incurred between March 1, 2020 and December 30, 2020.

Is there a deadline for using the funds?

Grant recipients must use all awarded funds by December 30, 2020 and must report on the status of awarded funds within 60 days of disbursement.

What will I need as proof of the use of funds?

Grant recipients will be required to submit a form showing itemized expenses. Receipts are required for expenses over \$250.

What if I do not have financial information showing a loss for the first half of 2020 due to the nature of my request (i.e. an event/activity that happens later in the year)?

If the stated months within the application do not show your loss or impact of loss, please provide additional information.

Application Process

When and how do I apply?

The application form can be accessed on the [AAEDC](#) website and will be accepted through September 4, 2020. Applications may be submitted electronically to aaedc@alexmn.org or to the AAEDC Office located at 324 Broadway Suite 101, Alexandria, MN

How soon should I apply?

Eligible businesses and nonprofits are encouraged to apply as soon as you are able. Applications will be reviewed and awarded on a first-come first-serve basis as submitted between August 10th and the applicant deadlines. A limited pool of resources is available and there is a short timeline for disbursing funds.

How will grant recipients be selected?

Applications will be evaluated based on answers to established criteria within each application and accompanying documentation. Per the authorizing resolution, applications will be considered and acted on by the AAEDC's Finance Committee and the Douglas County Board of Commissioners.

When will I know if my application has been received and/or approved and grant awarded?

You will receive an email from an AAEDC representative verifying receipt of your application. Grant applications recommended for approval by the AAEDC's Finance Committee will be submitted to the Douglas County Board of Commissioners for final approval at each board meeting. Applicants will be notified of the status of their request within a reasonable time following review/action by the AAEDC Finance Committee and County Board of Commissioners.

Will information from my application be made public?

The status of the data supplied for CARES Act funding will be governed by [MN Statute 13.591](#).

What happens if I am awarded a grant?

Awarded grant funds will be disbursed in full within a reasonable time following approved action by the County Board of Commissioners.

Additional Questions

I still have questions or need help filling out my application. Where can I get help?

You can contact Nicole Fernholz at nfernholz@alexmn.org or 320-491-1680; or Abby Strom at astrom@alexmn.org or 320-763-4545.