

Program FAQ was successfully updated.

# City of Escondido County CARES Act Business Grant Program

**Deadline:** August 28, 2020 at 11:59 PM PDT (Midnight)

## Program FAQ

Create an FAQ page for your Applicants and/or Evaluators.

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## Applicant FAQ

### When will decisions on the grants be made?

Applications will be evaluated on a weekly basis. Our expectations are to have determinations made within 15 business days of completion of your application?

### How will I get the grant?

You should expect a letter indicating that you have been award a grant and the amount to be granted to the mailing address you will provide on your application. You should expect a check 1 to 2 weeks after you receive your letter.

### Can I apply for more than one business location?

No. If the locations are under the same corporate structure you should not apply for more than 1 grant.



### **Will my grant be judged differently if I apply for only one of the three approved uses?**

No. We will evaluate your application as to the hardships that you have suffered from the COVID-19 shutdown orders. We are asking for details on how you will use the grant to comply with federal guidelines and to help us make determinations if we evaluate two equally impacted business and need to make decisions as the grant funds run out.

### **Is there an advantage in getting my application in early?**

There are some advantages. This program is NOT first come, first served. We expect to evaluate applications on a rolling basis. Applications that come in later will be evaluated in relationship to all applications received up to that point. While we expect the grant funds to last for some period of time, we would encourage Escondido businesses to be prompt in applying for the program so your application can be evaluated and you can get help in dealing with COVID 19 impacts.

### **Why is San Diego North EDCC involved? What is your role?**

The SDNEDC was selected through an open competition to assist the City with standing up a system and process to help deal with an expected large number of grant applications. The organization assembled a team to develop an application portal and to help streamline grant application evaluation. However, all decisions about awarding funds, the criteria to evaluate the applications and final determination of awards rests solely with the City of Escondido.

### **I have a building mortgage instead of rent, can I apply for the “rent” portion of the grant?**

Yes. Include your mortgage payment (Principal & Interest) in the field for Rent.

- Attach a recent mortgage statement/bill where we ask for the lease. That will help document your mortgage expense.
- In the box where we ask about COVID19 impacts just explain that you are a business (or sole proprietor) who has a loan on your building and to which the business pays rent to you to make the payment.
- We also would encourage that if the business has made expenses to improve social distancing or increase patron safety or extraordinary cleaning efforts and supplies that you apply under the "capital expenditures and equipment" portion of the grant. These can be, as the instructions note, either "prospective" (you plan on making them and/or the grant could help you make them) or "retrospective" (you made them and have the receipts/documentation to show these expenses)

**We now engage contractors in our business. Your application only requests info on employees. Can we request that you allow us to submit our information for the Grant Program?**

Yes. Your business is welcome to submit an application for the City grant program for commercial rent and capital costs/supplies (like social distance shields or other supply or construction costs to meet the COVID-19 requirements). You may include any employees on your direct payroll as well, if you have any. If not, then you would just check the boxes for one or two of the remaining two categories - commercial rent and/or capital costs/supplies.

**I saw that there are funds available for businesses to set up patio seating, covered canopies, and other improvements for businesses on Grand. Is this the same program or a different program?**

The Downtown Business Association (DBA) pledged a total of \$10,000 to support downtown businesses with patio seating, chairs, and umbrellas. In addition, the DBA is covering the \$100 application fee for downtown businesses to the Alcohol Beverage Control for the outside catering permit application. If you have a downtown business and need assistance, contact the DBA here: <https://www.downtownesccondido.com/>

**Is there a time frame that the full amount of the money needs to be spent by?**

All documentation of the awarded grant funds that were spent need to be submitted on or before September 18, 2020, therefore, the money needs to be spent prior to this date.

**Can I pay my rent for my brick and mortar store in advance?**

Yes.

**What is the deadline for this grant?**

August 28, 2020 is the last date that applications will be accepted.

**What address will my check be mailed to?**

If funds are awarded, a physical check will be mailed to this address. If this field is blank, the physical check will be mailed to the address above. To see what address you typed into that space you can access your application at: <https://app.smarterselect.com/programs/66956>



### **On the approval documents, what is “Single audit of 2CFR part 200.501 ET SEQ”?**

2CFR 200.501 ET SEQ is a Federal Government Code. Basically it means that since the City of Escondido got these funds from the Federal Government through the CARES Act, the City of Escondido will be audited and therefore the City will be auditing the recipients of the grants. That is why we requested the bulk of the information during the application process and will request bank statements, payroll reports, and receipts in September during the grant closeout.

### **Can I use the grant proceeds to pay for utilities?**

Grant proceeds may not be used to pay for utilities. San Diego Gas and Electric has a Utility Assistance department and offers an Economic Development Rate program for businesses. More information can be found at <https://www.sdge.com/edr>.

### **I just started my company after the COVID-19 restrictions started, will I be eligible for the grant?**

There are no restrictions on the length of time in business. However, without historical data, it is likely that your business will show little to no adverse economic impact caused by COVID-19 while other businesses that were established prior to COVID-19 may show a greater economic impact.

### **I just started my company prior to the COVID-19 restrictions, will I be eligible for the grant?**

There are no restrictions on the length of time in business. We encourage you to apply. There will be information you are unable to provide, such as prior tax returns. The lack of information does not make you ineligible, but the economic impact caused by COVID-19 may not be able to be demonstrated without historical data.

### **Our rent is not a fixed amount as it varies based on revenue, hourly use, or other factors. How can we calculate 2 month's rent?**

We recommend using 1/12 of the rent amount that is showing on your 2019 tax return as the monthly rent amount. When the system requests that you upload a copy of your lease agreement, upload a note that references your variable rent rate so that the evaluators can easily discern your situation.



**The file I am trying to upload is more than 10MB and the application system will not allow me to upload it.**

You can email your files to [EscondidoBusinessGrants@SDNEDC.org](mailto:EscondidoBusinessGrants@SDNEDC.org). Please be sure to let us know the name of the business the files belong with.

**If I have additional questions, how do I contact someone?**

Please feel free to email us at [EscondidoBusinessGrants@sdnedc.org](mailto:EscondidoBusinessGrants@sdnedc.org).

## Evaluator FAQ

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