

2020 Fast Grants Frequently Asked Questions

What is the purpose of this grant program? The intent is to provide grants for immediate financial assistance to businesses, prioritized for businesses that haven't been able to obtain US Small Business Administration or and Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development funding.

Is this a grant or a low-interest loan? These are direct grants of \$10,000 from the 1200 Fund to small businesses located within Duluth city limits. The intent is to provide grants for immediate financial assistance to businesses, prioritized for businesses that haven't been able to obtain SBA and DEED funding.

What is the 1200 Fund? The 1200 Fund, Inc. is a private non-profit organization dedicated to economic development and job growth in the City of Duluth. The 1200 Fund was originally established in the 1980s with a mission "to create 1,200 new jobs in Duluth."

Who can apply? Business that are within the city of Duluth that employ between two (2) and fifty (50) employees, and who had gross revenues of \$5,000,000 or less annually. Part time employees shall be included.

What information do I need to include with my application? Grantees must demonstrate that they were in operation within Duluth city limits prior to January 1, 2020, that revenue has been impacted by Covid-19, and that they were forced to close or significantly scale back operations under Governor Walz' executive orders. In addition, grantees must be able to identify funding needs to support continued operations or reopening. Finally, grantees must clarify if they are for-profit organization or a not-for-profit organization. Providing additional information, such as the past year's Profit/Loss statement, or selected financial information about the business' finances, will assist in the review process.

How are grants distributed? Grants will be reviewed as they are received between April 20, 2020 through April 26, 2020. Subsequent funding rounds will be evaluated and announced based on continued funding availability and program interest. The 1200 Fund anticipates high demand for 2020 Fast Grants funds, so it is possible that not all eligible grant applicants will be awarded funds.

When will funds be disturbed? Grants will be issued as quickly as possible after approval by the 1200 Fund Board. All applicants selected for 2020 Fast Grants will be required to enter into a grant agreement with the 1200 Fund, which can be completed electronically.

Are there any reporting requirements after the grant is received? Grant recipients must report back to the 1200 Fund as to how funds are expended, and what business and employment goals were achieved through 1200 Fund support.

Applications will be accepted at 1200fund@duluthmn.gov. Alternative formats are available. Please call us at 218-730-5310 or email us at 1200fund@duluthmn.gov to request an alternative format.

More information is available at <http://1200fund.com>.