



QC Small Business Grant Program

March 17, 2021

PROGRAM GOALS

- On July 1, 2020 Council approved Resolution 1361-20 directing staff to implement the Small Business Grant Program allocating \$500,000 for the initial launch of the program.
- The program was designed to assist for-profit Queen Creek-based small businesses that were suffering negative impacts and additional expenses related to COVID-19.
- Provide a public health benefit.
- Keep the application process simple.
- Avoided duplication of the Maricopa and Pinal County programs and/or federal assistance programs.



GRANT PROGRAM

- Grants were provided to for-profit, brick-and-mortar and home based businesses located within the municipal limits of the Town for activities/expenses that protect or enhance public health, safety, or well-being.
- Town reimbursed small businesses for expenses related to enhanced sanitation, employee safety, and customer safety (PPE expenses).



Grant Program

- Grant money was distributed based on the number of Full-Time Equivalent Employees or independent contractors (FTE) the business employed.
- For each FTE, the grant program provided \$500 to be used to offset the expenses in connection with enhanced sanitation, employee safety, and customer safety
- Maximum eligible award per business - \$12,500



Grant Program

- Applications for the grant program became available online on Monday July 20th and the program was promoted via social media, press release, direct emails and phone calls, and in the Economic Development newsletter.
- As of February 20, 2021 staff has received 125 applications totaling \$520,385. Staff has approved and funded all of the \$500,000, leaving three applications unfunded and one application for \$12,500 partially funded at \$11,615.



GRANT PROGRAM



Summary data:

Total Unique Applications Received	125
Total Amount Funded	\$500,000
Total Amount of Money Requested	\$520,385.00
Average Amount Requested	\$4,163.08
Home-based businesses	32
Brick and mortar businesses	93

Options for Consideration:

1. Extend the Small Business Grant Program until the end of the fiscal year and fund all eligible applications that are received between now and June 30, 2021.
2. Extend the Small Business Grant Program, increase the funding limit for the Small Business Grant Program by an agreed upon amount (staff recommends \$150,000) and end the program when the total amount of funds are awarded.
3. End the program now, but fund the last three applications received and fully fund the partially funded application bringing the total amount for this program to \$520,385.
4. End the program now at the \$500,000 total amount funded.



Questions???



Testimonials from Grant awardees



“It has been a hard fought battle, since the beginning of March and it continues to be. Knowing that people like you and our community have our back helps us to get up in the morning to face another day.”



“I really appreciate the support of the Town of Queen Creek during this pandemic. So happy to be doing business here!”



“Every bit helps during these challenging times and we could not be more grateful. We have loved doing business in the Queen Creek market for the last 12 years and we look forward to the next 20 years.”



OTHER AVAILABLE GRANT PROGRAMS

- Maricopa County
- PPP
- EIDL



AZCARES FUND

- On May 27th, Governor Ducey announced a **\$441 million distribution** to counties, cities, and towns that did not receive a direct appropriation.
- Queen Creek's share of these funds is **\$5,842,506**.
- Eligible expenses include **public health and safety regular salary and employee-related-expense costs** incurred between March 1, 2020 and December 30, 2020.
 - includes sheriff's deputies, police officers, 9-1-1, fire, and EMS (these can include contracted resources)
- Gubernatorial intent is to provide support for public safety to free up General Fund dollars for other necessary expenditures.

