

EMERGENCY HOUSING AND UTILITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Program Overview

The COVID-19 City of Hesperia Emergency Housing and Utility Assistance Program (EHUAP) will provide emergency rental, mortgage, and utility assistance grants, up to \$6,000, to income-eligible households economically impacted during the COVID-19 pandemic through job loss, furlough or reduction in hours or pay, residing in the City of Hesperia.

EHUAP grants are rental, mortgage, or utility payments made on behalf of income-eligible households to pay for past, current or future rent for a maximum period of three (3) months as a result of the economic downturn during the COVID-19 pandemic. Assistance will not be paid directly to households; rather, the financial assistance will be paid directly to the bona fide mortgage company, landlord/property management agent and/or utility company.

Grants will be awarded to qualified applicants on a “first come, first served” basis until funds run out. The City of Hesperia will release the application for this program on January 19, 2021.

Program Eligibility

Eligible households must meet all of the following criteria:

- Reside in the City of Hesperia (does not include unincorporated areas).
- Annual household income does not exceed the State of California, Housing and Community Development Department established "Moderate-Income" limits or U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development federal limits. Household income eligibility is based on the following factors:
 - The total number of persons residing in the household; and,
 - The total amount of the annual household income.
- Economically impacted during the COVID-19 pandemic period beginning April 1, 2020- to present.
- Current, written residential lease agreement, mortgage agreement, or utility agreement.

Income Eligibility

To determine program eligibility, all sources of annual income for each household member over the age of 18 and the exact amounts earned from each income source must be accurately documented. The primary applicant(s) are also required to certify by signature that the information provided regarding household members is correct.

Eligible households must be at or below the “Moderate or Low Income” limits for confirmed household size. The EHUAP Household Income Limits are based on income requirements established by the State of California and Federal Government.

EMERGENCY BUSINESS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Program Overview

The COVID-19 Emergency Business Assistance Program (EBAP) will provide grant assistance to micro- and small-businesses adversely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The program will launch on January 19, 2021 and funds will be awarded on a first come/ first service

Microenterprise Assistance

The EBAP program will provide grants up to \$25,000 to microenterprises that were adversely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Microenterprise grants can be used for the following purposes:

- Rent/utilities
- Payroll
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) supplies required for business operation (The City will not provide reimbursement for any installation-related costs.)
- Business services to increase or alter business activities (e.g. Point of Sale system, website development, outdoor business activities etc.)

Eligible Microenterprise Businesses

To qualify as an eligible microenterprise business, the business must meet the following criteria:

- Five (5) or fewer total employees (including owner)
- Business owner's family income is less than 80% area median income
- Business is located within the city boundaries
- Owner is 18 years or older
- At time of application, business must be in good-standing with the City, have a valid business license, no pending health or code enforcement matters proceeding and not delinquent in the payment of any business license fees or taxes owed the city
- Business was adversely impacted because of the COVID-19 pandemic and can provide supporting documentation illustrating the impact
- Certification that the business has neither received nor will seek other grants, loans, or other assistance from any private, local, state, or federal funding source for the same use as identified in the program application
- Business type is not an ineligible business (see below)

Small Business Assistance

The EBAP program will provide grants up to \$35,000 to small businesses that were adversely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Small Business Assistance grants can be used for the following purposes:

- Rent/utilities
- Payroll
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) supplies required for business operation (The City will not provide reimbursement for any installation-related costs.)

- Business services to increase or alter business activities (e.g. Point of Sale system, website development, outdoor business activities etc.)

Eligible Small Businesses

To qualify as an eligible small business, the business must meet the following criteria:

- Business does not qualify as a microenterprise (see prior section)
- Commitment to create or retain at least one full time equivalent (FTE) permanent job as a result of the EBAP; 51% of all jobs created or retained must be held or made available to low- or moderate-income individuals
- Business is located within the city boundaries
- Owner is 18 years or older
- At time of application, business must be in good-standing with the City, have a valid business license, no pending health or code enforcement matters proceeding and not delinquent in the payment of any business license fees or taxes owed the City
- Business was adversely impacted because of the COVID-19 pandemic and can provide supporting documentation illustrating the impact
- Certification that the business has neither received nor will seek other grants, loans, or other assistance from any private, local, state, or federal funding source for the same use as identified in the program application
- Business type is not an ineligible business (see below)

Ineligible Businesses

- Government, charitable and non-profit organizations
- Firms engaged in speculative activities that generate revenue based on fluctuations in price rather than through the normal course of trade (ex.: commodities firms)
- Businesses involved in banking and lending activities, including real estate investment firms, banks, finance companies, insurance companies, leasing companies, or factors
- Pyramid type sales organizations
- Franchise operations where the franchisor retains control over business operations to the extent that the franchisee is the equivalent of an employee
- Casinos or other gambling businesses
- Sexually-oriented or adult businesses
- Massage facilities or technicians
- Smoke, vape, or other similar shops and vendors
- Nightclub, lounge, bar, or liquor store