

## PRESS RELEASE

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## **SECOND ROUND OF GRANTS OPEN FOR BENICIA BUSINESSES Applications Accepted Through August 31, 2020; City Readies Third Round to Launch September 1**

**Benicia, CA (August 18, 2020)** – The City of Benicia Economic Development Division announces the second round of BOOST (Business·Open·Opportunity·Support·Thrive) grants for Benicia businesses. Applications will be accepted until 5 p.m. on Monday, August 31, 2020.

Grants of up to \$10,000 are funded by a pool of \$100,000 approved by the Benicia City Council on July 21, 2020. Small commercial and industrial businesses with 1-50 employees are eligible to apply. Grant funding may be used for lease payments, utilities, payroll, equipment, and inventory expenditures that are needed to maintain or grow the business in the current COVID-19 economy. The objective of the BOOST grant is to assist those businesses most vulnerable with some relief to unexpected expenses or to bridge a financial gap caused by the COVID-19 crisis, which will help the business continue operations and local employment in Benicia.

Additional eligibility requirements include:

- Business that has been negatively impacted by COVID-19 closures (25% decline in revenue).
- Business that has already pursued other Federal or State assistance.
- Business that has been in operation in Benicia for over 1 year as of April 1, 2019.
- Business in good standing with the City of Benicia and has a current Benicia business license.

This second round of BOOST grants follows the first round which was launched on July 1, 2020. Round 1 saw the award of a total \$200,000 to twenty-seven Benicia Businesses. Information on Round 1 grant recipients is available at [www.BeniciaBusiness.com/in-the-news/2020/8/17/boost-round-1-recipients](http://www.BeniciaBusiness.com/in-the-news/2020/8/17/boost-round-1-recipients). Those businesses receiving City of Benicia BOOST grants are not eligible to apply for subsequent BOOST grants.

Economic Development Manager, Mario Giuliani notes “In a span of four months, the City of Benicia has committed \$450,000 in various grant programs to aid our business community. We know that our businesses have suffered terribly during this historic crisis. While we cannot help every business with these grants, we do hope these various grant programs demonstrate the City’s resolve to stand with our business community, matching our business’s indelible resolve with some tangible financial relief.”

The BOOST Grant Round 2 guidelines, application form and scoring criteria are available online at [www.BeniciaBusiness.com/Boost-Grant](http://www.BeniciaBusiness.com/Boost-Grant). Applications will be accepted until 5 p.m. on Monday, August 31, 2020. Applications may be completed electronically. To apply, the application and supplemental documentation should be submitted in one file and emailed to Mario Giuliani at [mgiuliani@ci.benicia.ca.us](mailto:mgiuliani@ci.benicia.ca.us). Applicants will receive a confirmation email when applications are received.

Giuliani will host a 30-minute Zoom webinar on the grant's competitive application process on Friday, August 21 at 10 a.m. Details and registration are available at [www.BeniciaBusiness.com/Boost-Grant](http://www.BeniciaBusiness.com/Boost-Grant).

After Round 2 closes the City of Benicia will launch its third and final round of BOOST grants on September 1. Round 3 of BOOST grants will also have a funding total of \$100,000. Those funds will be dedicated exclusively to reimburse businesses for the last six months of their Benicia Water Utility costs, up to \$2,500. Look for additional details soon on [www.BeniciaBusiness.com](http://www.BeniciaBusiness.com).

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Attachments:

- BOOST Grant Round 2 Application Package
- BOOST Grant Graphic