



Pikes Peak Area
Council of Governments
Communities Working Together



Contact: Natalie Sosa
El Paso County
719-344-4231
NatalieSosa@elpasoco.com

Contact: Melissa Marts
PPACG
719-471-7080 x 135
MMarts@ppacg.org

Contact: Fena Flores
Colorado Enterprise Fund
720-473-4069
Fena@ColoradoEnterpriseFund.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Applications Now Open for 2021 Pikes Peak Small Business COVID-19 Relief Program

New grant program to provide additional financial assistance to hardest-hit businesses

El Paso County, CO, January 8, 2021 – Additional COVID-19 relief funding is now being made available to local businesses, thanks to Senate Bill 20B-001, which was passed by the legislature of the State of Colorado during the December 2020 special session. El Paso County is working with the Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments (PPACG) to distribute this additional funding locally, through a new grant program, the *2021 Pikes Peak Small Business COVID-19 Relief Program*.

The objective of the 2021 Pikes Peak Small Business COVID-19 Grant Program is to provide additional financial assistance to El Paso County small businesses considered to be especially hard-hit by the COVID-19 pandemic. The program is funded by the State of Colorado, which has specified that eligibility for the funding is limited to restaurants, bars (including breweries, wineries, and distilleries), caterers, movie theatres, gyms, and recreation centers. To qualify, businesses in those categories must have experienced at least a 20% reduction in revenue due to the COVID-19 pandemic since March 26, 2020. Grant awards will be a maximum of \$7,000 each.

“On behalf of PPACG, we are very thankful for the state legislature making these relief funds available for small businesses. We welcomed the opportunity to assist in quickly distributing these critical funds to our small businesses in need throughout the county. PPACG is proud to provide a forum for communities to work together in this way,” said PPACG Executive Director, Andrew Gunning.

PPACG and El Paso County have also partnered with Colorado Enterprise Fund (CEF) to help administer this grant program. CEF will collect, process and review all grant application material, and subsequently provide the details of eligible businesses to PPACG.

“As Colorado's small businesses continue to be impacted by the pandemic, we've seen how important it is for them to have multiple sources of support,” said Ceyl Prinster, President and CEO of CEF. “Through this collaborative effort, these funds will get to those that need it most. Our goal is to make it as easy and smooth as possible.”

Applications for the 2021 Pikes Peak Small Business Relief Program are now being accepted, and [can be submitted online](#). All applications are due by January 29, 2021 at 5:00 PM.

For more information on eligibility requirements, a comprehensive list of FAQs and further details on the grant program, visit the [2021 Pikes Peak Small Business Relief Program website](#).

Pikes Peak Small Business Development Center will also be offering a webinar explaining the eligibility requirements and application process for the program. The webinar will take place virtually on Tuesday, January 12 at 3:00 p.m. Please visit [Pikes Peak SBDC's website](#) for more information on the webinar.