

Overview

In 2022, the City of Hardeeville initially committed \$275,000 of Federal America Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding to the Hardeeville Community Transformation Foundation to be utilized for small businesses and nonprofit/tax exempt agencies that have been financially or program impacted by the impacts of the COVID-19 public health emergency. Currently, \$50,000 of the remaining allocated funds for small business grant will be available for a 2nd round of grant funding in which will be awarded in May 2023. Through the grant program administered through the Hardeeville Community Transformation Foundation, a nonprofit entity under the umbrella of the City of Hardeeville, will provide financial assistance in the form of micro grants for small businesses and nonprofit/tax exempt that provide vital services to the City and its residents, and who have faced economic and financial challenges resulting from COVID-19 impacts.

The purpose of the grants is to mitigate financial hardship for the various small businesses here in the City, such as declines in revenues, closure, or the loss of employees. Small businesses that employ no more than twenty-five people, physically located within the City, have an active business license, and suffered financial losses or hardship can apply. Examples of fund utilization includes supporting payroll and benefit costs, cost to retain and hire employees, operational costs, small scale renovations, marketing, and technical assistance to sustain and grow business operations.

Hardeeville Community Transformation Foundation will carry out the goal of the City of Hardeeville in providing immediate economic stabilization for businesses and households. The overall objective of the grant program is to touch every corner of the City by supporting the business and nonprofits that work to better the lives of those who work and live in the City of Hardeeville.

Type of Grants

Hardeeville Community Transformation Foundation will provide one competitive grant.

- Small Business Recovery Grants

Purpose of Grants

- Small Business Recovery Grants
 - Provides competitive micro grants. Grants will provide financial relief for small businesses that operate in the City of Hardeeville to meet financial obligations and operating expenses that were impacted by COVID-19. Funding examples include small renovations and business upgrades, payroll support, workforce training, recruitment and retainment of workforce, and marketing efforts.

- Nonprofit Grant Program
 - Provides competitive micro grants for nonprofits and tax-exempt businesses affected by COVID-19 and the related health and safety restrictions who provide direct services to the City of Hardeeville.

Eligible Grant Recipients - 2023

- Small Business Recovery Grants
 - Applicants must be physically located in the City of Hardeeville, have an active business license, and have suffered losses due to COVID-19. Eligible applicants are businesses with twenty-five or less employees; Business can be identified as most; sole proprietorship, partnership, and corporations.

Noneligible Grant Recipients and Activities

- Individuals
- Endowments or endowment campaigns
- Private foundations or other organizations for regranting purposes
- Schools for general operating funds
- Religious or doctrinal purposes, although faith-based organizations may apply for
- Debt retirement or to cover past operating deficits
- Fundraising events
- Political campaigns or lobbying activities
- General program support
- Event sponsorships
- Vehicles or large capital purchases and capital improvement programs
- Pay previous property, personal, employee or business taxes owed to IRS, State of South Carolina, Jasper County or City of Hardeeville
- Investment opportunities
- Political campaigns

Total Funds Available

- Small Business Recovery Grants
 - \$125,000
 - \$61,003.00 awarded during first round of grant funding period.
 - \$50,000.00 available for 2nd round of grant funding period.
- Nonprofit Grant Program
 - \$150,000
 - \$126,336.00 awarded during initial grant funding period.
 - No additional funds will be available for 2nd round of grant funding period.

Funding Limits

- Small Business Recovery Grants
 - Grants are available to City of Hardeeville based businesses operating since at least June 1, 2018, that have been affected by COVID-19. Small businesses with \$1,000 to \$100,000 in annual gross revenue are eligible for a \$5,000 grant. Businesses with revenue between \$100,000 and \$1 million are eligible for \$10,000 grant. Businesses with revenue greater than \$1 million up to \$2.5 million are eligible for a \$15,000 grant. Grant increases made be awarded on a case per case basis and dependent on the total number of applicants.

Grant Deadline

- Small Business Recovery Grants
 - April 30, 2022 ([completed](#))
 - April 30, 2023 ([open](#))
- Nonprofit Grant Program
 - April 30, 2022 ([completed](#))

Grant Award and Administration

Funding will be awarded as part of a competitive grant process where applicants will submit an online grant application along with the required documents. Once applications are submitted, a grants review panel will review, score, and recommend funding. The Hardeeville Community Transformation Foundation Board of Directors will then make final decisions on grants awarded based on these recommendations. Grants will be awarded within 60 days from the close of the application period.

Grant Process

Grants and all documents required will be submitted through an online grant application. No exceptions will be made. Printed applications or required documents will not be accepted. Once submitted, grant applications will be confirmed upon receipt. Applications missing required documents will be incomplete and will not be considered for funding opportunities.

During the application review period, the Hardeeville Community Transformation Foundation reserves the right to inquire about a certain grant application and may request additional documentation as needed.

Applications will be screened for the completion of all application questions and the following documents:

- Small Business Recovery Grants
 - W9 form

- 2020 and 2021 approved budgets.
- 2020 and 2021 Annual Tax Returns
- Image of the location of the business
- Image of the current employees in front of the business

Grant Period

Grant recipients will execute a grant contract for a period of 12 months from the period of the award and will have this period to expend funds awarded. Grant recipients will be required to provide 1 semi-annual report during the project period and 1 close out final report due one month after the end of the contract period. The closeout report will include documentation of all expenses, copy of checks and reconciled bank statements. Any unspent funds or funds that cannot be accounted for will be returned to the Hardeeville Community Transformation Foundation along with the closeout report. All expenditures must be related to the submitted budget and closely in line with the purpose and intent identified in the application.

Grant Contact

Applicants who have questions can contact Mr. Neil Parsons, Director of Administrative Services for the City of Hardeeville at 843-784-2231 or at nparsons@hardeevillesc.gov.