

**OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY MAYOR FOR PLANNING AND ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT**

NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY (NOFA)

FY2026 Rhode Island Avenue Support Grant Program

Request for applications (RFA) Release Date: Friday, May, 15, 2026

RFA ID No: FY26-BD-LO-RIASGP

Introduction: The Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development (“**DMPED**”) invites the submission of applications from qualified organizations for a grant under the Rhode Island Avenue Support Grant Program (“**Program**”). The purpose of the Program is to provide grants to support small businesses that (1) have or sign a long-term leases of at least five years in the Rhode Island Avenue corridor in the District of Columbia (“**District**”), and (2) offer services or activities that strengthen community connections and attract foot traffic to the neighborhood.

The funding opportunity will provide up to \$350,000 in total grant funding in FY26 to eligible businesses to (1) offset the costs of rent, or (2) complete tenant improvements.

Authority: The Program will be funded pursuant to the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development Limited Grant-Making Authority Act of 2012, effective September 20, 2012 (D.C. Law 19-169; D.C. Official Code §1-328.04(ii)), as amended by the “Rhode Island Avenue Corridor Long-Term Lease Adjustment Emergency Amendment Act of 2026,” enacted March 2, 2026 (D.C. Act 26-272) or any subsequent temporary or permanent legislation.

Anticipated Number of Awards: DMPED expects to award multiple grants under the Program, in an aggregate amount of up \$350,000, contingent on the availability of an appropriated budget in such amount. Awards are anticipated to range from \$10,000 to \$100,000. Successful applicants may receive the awarded amount in the form of a one-time payment, subject to the availability of funds, successful certification of an active lease, and compliance with the terms and conditions of a grant agreement.

Eligibility: Applicants must meet the following eligibility criteria to be considered for an award under the Program:

- Be registered as a for-profit or not-for-profit entity in the District of Columbia;
- Be in good standing with the District of Columbia’s Department of Licensing and Consumer Protection (DLCP), the Office of Tax and Revenue (OTR), and the Department of Employment Services (DOES);
- If the applicant is a for-profit entity, be registered as, or be eligible to be registered as, a certified business enterprise;
- Have fewer than 30 full-time employees;
- Sign or intend to sign a long-term lease of a commercial property (5 years or longer, with at least 3 years remaining on any active lease);

- Offer retail, educational programs, entertainment, food, or other services or activities that strengthen community connections and attract foot traffic to the Rhode Island Avenue Corridor, with a preference for food markets, grocery stores, or other fresh food access points; and
- Demonstrate that the property where the eligible business is or will be located is an eligible property located within the Rhode Island Avenue Corridor as show on the map here:
 - [Rhode Island Avenue Grant Program Eligibility Area](#)

Additional details about eligibility and criteria for selecting applicants will be included in the RFA.

Grant Information Session: DMPED will host a virtual and in-person information session for interested applicants. Please check DMPED's website for more details: <https://dmped.dc.gov/service/grant-opportunities>.

Contact Information: Tariq Sheriff **Phone:** (202) 727-6365 **Email:** bizdev@dc.gov

Availability of RFA: The RFA will be released on Friday, May, 15, 2026 and posted at <https://dmped.dc.gov/service/grant-opportunities>.

Grant Application Submission Deadline: Applications will be accepted through Monday, June, 22, 2026 at 4:00PM ET. All applications must be submitted electronically, according to the instructions contained in the RFA. Late applications will not be accepted.

Application Process: The grant application process will include an initial screening of applications to evaluate the completeness of the application, followed by scoring by a review panel, and a final approval of funding by the Deputy Mayor.

Final Determination of Award: DMPED anticipates completing the application review within forty-five (45) days after the application submission deadline. Award and funding determinations are final and cannot be appealed. The Deputy Mayor will make the final funding decision, based on a review panel's recommendations, the Mayor's budget priorities, the available resources, the goal of achieving a balance as to communities served, and the goals of the Program.

Reservations: DMPED reserves the right to issue addenda and/or amendments subsequent to the issuance of the NOFA or RFA, or it may rescind the NOFA or RFA at any time in its sole discretion.