

**OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY MAYOR FOR PLANNING AND ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT  
NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY (NOFA)**

**FY26 Vitality Fund Grant Program**

**Request for applications (RFA) Release Date: Friday, February 6, 2026**

**RFA ID No:** DMPED – FY26 – BD – LO– VF

**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 Vitality Fund (“**Program**”). The purpose of the Program is to attract businesses to, or retain businesses in, the District of Columbia.

The funding opportunity will provide grants for the purpose of attracting or supporting the retention and expansion of companies that plan to occupy commercial space in the District of Columbia, with a preference for attraction to, or retention and expansion in, the Vitality Fund Target Area (as defined below), and to encourage job creation and investment in DC. Companies must demonstrate that the attraction, retention, or expansion of their business will have a significant positive impact on the District to be eligible for grants and be active in the location decision making process. The Program will provide grants to cover certain eligible costs identified in D.C. Official Code §1-325.452 and as further described in this RFA.

**Authority:** The Program will be funded pursuant to the Vitality Fund Act of 2024, effective September 18, 2024 (D.C. Law 25-217; D.C. Official Code §§ 1-325.451 – 1-325.452).

**Anticipated Number of Awards:** DMPED expects to award multiple grants under the Program. Award sizes will vary by applicant based on the specific project investments. Awards are anticipated to be disbursed over a three-year period based on the awardee’s performance milestones related to job creation. Based on an internal review panel of recommendations, the Mayor’s budget priorities, the available resources, and the goals of the Program, the Deputy Mayor will make the final funding decision.

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

1. Commit to expand or relocate operations to commercial space in Washington, DC (“**Eligible Program Location**”). Preference will be given to applicants that commit to occupy at least 15,000 square feet of office space for at least five (5) years.
2. Commit to make significant capital improvements to the Eligible Program Location, with a preference for applicants that intend to invest at least \$2 million in improvements.
3. Commit to create new jobs at the Eligible Program Location, with a preference for applicants that intend to create at least 30 new jobs over a three-year period.

4. Preference will be given to applicants in the following high-growth industry sectors, specifically the industry subsectors, though applicants otherwise meeting the eligibility criteria for the Vitality Fund may be eligible. Applicants may be for-profit or non-profit entities.

<b>Sector</b>	<b>Subsectors</b>
Consulting and Business Services	Consulting Services Headquarters
Communications and Design	Marketing Electronic Media
Education and Research	Research Organizations
Life Sciences	Health Technology
Technology	Cybersecurity Artificial Intelligence Financial Technology

5. Demonstrate site control of the Eligible Program Location in which the applicant has or will expand or relocate. Site control may be evidenced by a signed letter of intent or other binding commitment, lease, contract of sale, or deed.
6. Demonstrate that the expansion or relocation of its operations will have significant positive economic impact on the District, as further required by the RFA.
7. Require their employees, in the aggregate, to be on-site at the Eligible Program Location for at least 50% of their work hours.
8. Agree to one of the following community benefits:
  - o Develop or participate in a workforce development program that offers District residents opportunities for training or employment within the business or the industry in which it operates, or
  - o Spend at least 5% of its total annual contracting with businesses eligible for certification as local business enterprises pursuant to D.C. Official Code §2-218.31.
9. Projects will receive preference if the Eligible Program Location is located in the boundaries of the Vitality Fund Target Area, illustrated on the interactive online mapping tool. To check if a proposed Project is within the Vitality Fund Target Area, enter the address on the online mapping tool available here: <https://dcgis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/instant/lookup/index.html?appid=bff51ec133a741d08e942db321cd4482>
10. Licensed businesses in good standing with the Department of Licensing and Consumer Protection (DLCP), the Office of Tax and Revenue (OTR), the Department of Employment Services (DOES), and Internal Revenue Service (IRS). Businesses not currently located in Washington, DC may not need to demonstrate compliance with these requirements at the time of application but will be required to demonstrate compliance prior to the disbursement of funds. Applicants must maintain their good standing status with the aforementioned entities throughout the pre-award process and the period of grantee's performance under the grant agreement.

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

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

**Contact Information:** DMPED's Business Development Unit **Phone:** (202) 727-6365. **Email:** bizdev@dc.gov

**Availability of RFA:** The RFA will be released on Friday, February 6, 2026 and posted at <https://dmped.dc.gov/service/grant-opportunities>.

**Grant Application Submission Deadline:** Applications will be accepted and reviewed on a rolling basis through Wednesday, July 15, 2026, at 4:00PM ET or such time when available funding for the current fiscal year has been awarded, whichever occurs first. 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 eligibility screening of prospective applicants, application submission, 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 a timeline of forty-five (45) days after application submission to complete the application review. 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.