

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

NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY (NOFA)

FY25 Vitality Fund - Growth Fund

Request for Application (RFA) Release Date: Friday, June 6, 2025

Grant Identification No.: DMPED – FY25-BD-LO-GF

Background: The Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development (“DMPED”) invites the submission of applications from eligible organizations for a grant under the Employment Center Vitality and Local Jobs Creation Fund (“**Vitality Fund**”). The purpose of the Vitality Fund is to attract businesses to, or retain businesses in, the District of Columbia (“**District**”).

The funding opportunity (“**Growth Fund**” or “**Program**”) presented under this RFA is a subset of the Vitality Fund, which focuses on providing grants to entrepreneurs, startups, and small businesses that commit to establish or expand their presence in the District of Columbia by occupying commercial office space, including coworking space, and creating jobs in the District. Applicants who commit to relocating or expanding their business in the central business district (the “**Vitality Fund Target Area**”) will be given preference. Applicants must demonstrate that the retention or attraction of their business will have a significant positive economic impact on the District to be eligible for grant. The Program will provide grants to cover certain eligible costs identified in D.C. Official Code §1-325.452 and as will be further described in the RFA.

Authority: The Program will be funded through the special account established 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).

Eligibility:

Applicants must meet the following eligibility criteria to be considered for an award with a preference for applicants that meet certain thresholds described below:

- Applicants must either expand or relocate operations to commercial office space in Washington, DC (the “**Eligible Program Location**”). Preference will be given to applicants planning to initially occupy less than 15,000 square feet for at least two (2) years with the intention of expanding into larger commercial office space in the District in the future.
- Have at least 5 employees who are currently assigned to or will work at the Eligible Program Location.
- Commit to create new jobs at the Eligible Program Location, with a preference for applicants that intend to create at least 5 new jobs over a two-year period.
- 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 Growth Fund may be eligible. Applicants may be for-profit or non-profit entities.
 - o Consulting and Business Services

- Consulting Services
 - HQs
- Communications and Design
 - Marketing
 - Electronic Media
- Education and Research
 - Research Organizations
- Life Sciences
 - Health Technology
- Technology
 - Cybersecurity
 - Artificial Intelligence
 - Financial Technology
- Applicants must demonstrate site control of the Eligible Program Location. Applicants may demonstrate site control by a signed letter of intent or other binding commitment, lease, contract of sale, or deed in applicant's name.
- Applicants must demonstrate that the expansion or relocation of their operations will have significant positive economic impact on the District, as further provided in the RFA.
- Applicants must require their employees, in the aggregate, to be on-site at the Eligible Program Location for at least 50% of their work hours.
- Applicants must agree to one of the following community benefits:
 - 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
 - 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.
- Applicants 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 an Eligible Program Location 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>

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

Anticipated Number of Awards: DMPED expects to award multiple grants under this Program, in an aggregate amount of up to \$551,131.00, contingent on the availability of an appropriated budget in such amount. Award sizes will vary by applicant based on the specific project investments. Awards are anticipated to be disbursed in one initial upfront payment. 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.

Grant Information Session: DMPED will host a virtual information session for interested applicants. Please check the <https://dmped.dc.gov/> website for more details.

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

Availability of RFA: The RFA will be released on **Friday, June 6, 2025** and posted at <https://dmped.dc.gov/service/grant-opportunities>.

Application Process: The grant application process will include an application submission, scoring by an internal review committee, and a final approval of funding by the Deputy Mayor.

Grant Application Submission Deadline: Applications will be accepted until June 30, 2025 at 4:00 pm Eastern time. All applications must be submitted electronically, according to the instructions contained in the RFA.

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

Final Determination of Award: DMPED anticipates a timeline of 16 days after the submission deadline to complete all application reviews. 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.