

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

**NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY (NOFA)**

**FY24 Downtown Recovery Grants**

**Request for Application (RFA) Release Date: Friday, January 26, 2024**

**RFA Identification No.: DMPED – FY24 – DTRG**

**Background:**

The Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development (“**DMPED**”) invites the submission of applications from qualified businesses for the FY24 Downtown Recovery Grant Program (“**Program**”). The purpose of the Program is to support businesses opening or expanding in commercial spaces in the Downtown DC Business Improvement District (“**Downtown BID**”) and the Golden Triangle Business Improvement District (“**Golden Triangle BID**”).

**Purpose:**

The Program will provide grants for the purpose of supporting construction and operation of business enterprises that are locating or expanding in commercial spaces in the Downtown BID and in the Golden Triangle BID that have been vacant for at least six months (“**Project**”). The Program will incentivize businesses to locate and expand in these neighborhoods within the Central Business District that are experiencing high commercial vacancy and reduced foot traffic. The Program will provide grants to cover the costs of building out a new space and operating a business in the space. Eligible costs include capital improvements (construction) and rent.

**Project Requirements:**

- Businesses must lease space in the Downtown BID and Golden Triangle BID that has been vacant for at least six months prior to the RFA release date (January 26, 2024).
- Project location must be designated for commercial use, including retail or office.
- Businesses must operate in an eligible industry (described further in the RFA)
- Projects must be complete by September 30, 2025.
- Applications should demonstrate how Projects will drive foot traffic to the Downtown BID or Golden Triangle BID or will generate economic activity in these neighborhoods.
- Applications should demonstrate the feasibility of the business model and the likelihood that the business will be successful in the Project location.
- Projects must abide by all District laws and regulations.
- Applicants should demonstrate site control or have a Letter of Intent for a qualified leased space.
- Preference will be given to businesses that occupy or will occupy at least 4,000 square feet for a minimum of three years.

The Program will be funded pursuant to the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development Limited Grant-Making Authority Act of 2012, effective September 12, 2012 (D.C. Law 19-168; D.C. Official Code § 1-328.04(hh)).

**Eligible applicants:**

For-profit business enterprises, including:

- Businesses occupying commercial offices space and operating in one of the following industries:
  - Communications and Design
  - Consulting Services
  - Education and Research
  - Hospitality, Tourism, and Entertainment
  - Life Sciences and Health Technology
  - Technology (including Innovation and Entrepreneurship)
- Childcare centers
- Educational institutions
- Entertainment (arts, museum, music, sports, theater)
- Grocery stores
- Restaurants
- Retail stores and retail services
- Urgent care centers

Individuals and home-based businesses are not eligible to receive grants. ***No grant funds expended by the awardee may be used for executive salaries or bonuses.***

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

**Anticipated Number of Awards:** DMPED anticipates making 3-5 awards, with an anticipated award range of \$200,000 to \$3,000,000. Award amounts are based on the anticipated impact of the project. Applicants must request a funding amount at the time of application with need demonstrated by budget documents. Applicants must also demonstrate private funding commitments. Based on an internal review panel of recommendations, the resources available, and the goals of the Program, DMPED will make the final funding decision. DMPED will award up to **\$3,000,000.00** total in grants to be disbursed to successful applicants of the Program.

**Grant Information Session:** DMPED will host an in-person information session for interested applicants on Monday, February 5, 2024. DMPED will also hold a virtual information session on Tuesday, February 13, 2024. Please check the <https://dmped.dc.gov/> website for more details.

**Contact Name:** DMPED Grants Team **Phone:** (202) 727-6365 **Email:** [dmped.grants@dc.gov](mailto:dmped.grants@dc.gov)

**Availability of RFA:** The RFA and grant application will be released on Friday, January 26, 2024, and posted at <https://dmped.dc.gov/>.

**Application Process:** The grant application process will include an initial screening of applicants, a review panel process, and a final review to determine the final funding decision. Each step will be further described in the RFA.

**Funding Rounds and Grant Application Deadline for Electronic Submission:** To be considered for a grant in FY24, applicants must submit a completed online application to DMPED via the Grant Vantage system no later than 5:00 PM/ET on **Friday, March 15, 2024**.

**Period of Performance:** All Projects funded by this Program must be complete no later than September 30, 2025.