

DISCUSSION/DIRECTION:

# COVID-19 SMALL BUSINESS SUPPORT GRANT APPEALS

NOVEMBER 17, 2020  
TOWN COUNCIL



# DIRECTION AND RECOMMENDATION

- Open an appeals process so applicants not awarded grants could request reconsideration
- Collect information on whether the State forced the applicant's business to close and whether the business could provide teleservices
- Keep criteria in place and consider any changes that have occurred
- All businesses determined ineligible were sent an email Oct. 26 and could submit an appeal by Nov. 6
  - 23 businesses submitted an appeal
    - Eight of 16 businesses denied a second-round grant appealed
    - 13 of 143 businesses denied a first-round grant appealed
  - The review committee is recommending five first-round awards as a result of the appeals

# ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATION

- The grant review team recommends Council consider offering a third round of grants, possibly with fewer requirements
  - Criteria are subject to Council's discretion. To facilitate additional grants, Council may wish to:
    - Remove the professional service exclusion, which has been the reason for many denials
    - Remove the restriction on regional businesses with more than five locations in Colorado
    - Simplify eligibility to simply holding a valid Town business license rather than having been in operation for one year
    - Adjust none of these, or other criteria, as Council may deem most appropriate

The review team recommends making awards based on business impacts and sales tax remittance, like in the first round, rather than providing the same award to all businesses approved, like in the second round

# POTENTIAL THIRD-ROUND SCHEDULE

If opening up for more applications, staff suggests this schedule:

- Thursday, Nov. 19 – Grant applications open
  - Friday, Dec. 4 – Grant applications close at 5 p.m.
  - Week of Dec. 7 – Review team meets to form recommendations
  - Friday, Dec. 11 – Recommendations published online by 5 p.m.
  - Tuesday, Dec. 15 – Council reviews recommendations and makes awards
  - By Dec. 30 – Granted funds mailed to recipients
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- Grants must be awarded by Dec. 30 to qualify for CARES Act reimbursement

Staff recommends a program budget of approximately \$500,000. If approved, staff requests Council's direction as to at what amount the maximum grant for any individual business should be set. The max to date has been \$5,000 per award, with \$466,000 in grants awarded to date, assuming the appeals are awarded tonight as recommended.



# PROPOSED MOTIONS

*"I move to direct staff to award additional grants*

*as recommended."*

*to \_\_\_\_\_."*

*"I move to direct staff to open a third round of grants*

*and to remove from the criteria*

*\_\_\_\_\_."*