



City of Coral Gables  
CITY COMMISSION MEETING  
December 8, 2020

**ITEM TITLE:**

**Resolution.** A Resolution of the City Commission of Coral Gables, Florida, retroactively approving the Small Business Recovery Grant program (SBRG) and Technical Workshops program, approved by the Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners for a subaward of Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (“CARES”) Act, Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) federal funds in the amount of \$850,000.00.

**BRIEF HISTORY:**

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (“CARES”) Act was signed into law on March 27, 2020 and appropriated \$150 billion of direct federal funding for state and local governments under Title V to address unforeseen financial needs and risks created by the Novel Coronavirus (“COVID-19”) public health emergency. Only state and local governments with more than 500,000 residents received direct federal funding through the Coronavirus Relief Fund. Miami-Dade County, one of only 12 localities in the State of Florida that met the population threshold, received nearly half a billion dollars (\$474,085,078.50) through the CARES Act.

On August 4, 2020, at a Special Meeting of the Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners (the “BCC”), the BCC allocated a total not-to-exceed amount of \$100,000,000 in CARES Act funds to the municipalities in the County as follows: \$75,000,000 for reimbursement of FEMA local match eligible expenditures as well as CARES Act eligible governmental operations expenditures that are not FEMA reimbursable, and \$25,000,000 for municipal programmatic proposals subject to approval in advance by the BCC.

Shortly thereafter the City submitted a proposal for a small business grant program (\$750,000) and Technical Workshops program (\$100,000) for BCC approval. The goal of the small business grant program is to serve as a multi-purpose funding opportunity to provide financial assistance to small businesses in the City that have experienced a negative financial impact due to the COVID-19 health crisis. The Technical Workshops are a series of webinars with experts in their respective fields offered to businesses in the City free of charge. The workshops provide businesses with the technological tools and methodologies that are readily available in the market to improve their communication and/or interactions with customers and suppliers in an efficient and cost-effective manner; upgrade their business processes to mitigate the current financial impacts created by COVID-19; retain and retool their existing workforce; and establish a resilient and adaptable business process to weather current and/or future disasters or crises.

On October 26, 2020, the BCC finally approved a distribution method for the \$25,000,000 in CARES Act funds that were set aside for municipal programmatic needs, and the City was approved for a total entitlement of \$850,000,000.

Following the BCC's approval of the City's allocation, the City revised its small business grant concept to broaden its scope, extend its reach, and make it easier for businesses to apply and qualify for reimbursements; thus, creating the Small Business Recovery Grant program. The funds will be made available from the County to the City on a reimbursable basis, and expenditures must be incurred by December 30, 2020. Given the time sensitive nature of the funding, staff established guidelines for the SBRG program and publicly released a grant application on Friday, November 13, 2020.

The grants will be awarded on a first come first served basis to small businesses that submit a complete application, meet all established criteria, and receive conditional approval from Miami-Dade County. The maximum grant award per business is \$15,000, but the City retains discretion to determine the final grant amount per recipient.

The process will require the City to front the grant awards from City funds and then follow up with Miami-Dade County to request reimbursement. Though the County has agreed to this process, the City is going to test the process by awarding one or two grants and immediately seek reimbursement from the County. If the process is successful, the full amount of the Program can be distributed to grantees.

As of the date of this resolution, plans for the Technical Workshops are also underway, as the funds from the County will pay for the continuation of an already successful workshop program.

This resolution is being brought forward to obtain City Commission approval for the Technical Workshop program and the SBRG, two programs that will significantly assist the business community of Coral Gables and that are being wholly funded through CARES Act funds from Miami-Dade County. Descriptions of the programs, a scope of work, application, and draft grant agreement are attached as exhibits to this resolution.

**ATTACHMENT(S):**

- 1. Draft Resolution**
- 2. Small Business Recovery Grant Proposal (submitted to County)**
- 3. Small Business Recovery Grant Application**
- 4. Draft Small Business Recovery Grant Agreement**
- 5. Technical Workshop Grant Proposal (Submitted to County)**