



Spirit of Main Street Micro Business Startup Grant Program

Description

In an effort to support the attraction, retention and growth of small businesses in our historic downtowns and commercial corridors, Main Street Oakland County (MSOC) has partnered with Genisys Credit Union to create the Spirit of Main Street Micro Business Startup Grant Program. This grant program is designed to complement MSOC economic vitality efforts and support entrepreneurship at the local community level. A start up company is defined as a business from inception to its early stage of development, **five years or less**, and may be looking to expand into new markets.

Eligible Grant Applicants (Community Main Street Programs)

Auburn Hills, Berkley, Clarkston, Clawson, Farmington, Ferndale, Franklin, Highland, Holly, Lake Orion, Ortonville, Oxford, Pontiac, Rochester, Royal Oak, Wixom

Eligible Activities Include:

- Location renovations/preparations/materials
- Point of Sale systems/technology
- Signage
- Marketing materials/efforts
- Other uses deemed appropriate to support the creation, relocation or expansion of a micro business

Pop-up businesses are eligible provided they have been open in the downtown district on a consistent basis over a period of 6 months. One time event pop-up businesses *are not* eligible.

Conditions: All applications are reviewed by and award determinations made by representatives of Genisys Credit Union and MSOC. Genisys Credit Union and MSOC reserve the right to decline grant applications that are not consistent with the National Main Street Program and/or the vision and masterplan of the local Main Street community. All projects must have appropriate zoning, permitting and historic district approvals if required by the municipality. Grants must be submitted through the local Main Street program.

Business Plan Requirement:

All approved businesses must have a completed business plan and consulted with the Oakland County One Stop Shop Business Center at least once prior to submission. The center can provide business consulting services at no charge to grant applicants.

Grants and Match: The maximum grant award is \$2,500. A minimum dollar-for-dollar match must be provided by the applicant. The cost of labor and materials can go towards grant match. After the proposed project has been completed and final costs have been verified, the grant funds will be issued directly to the local Main Street program, paid as a reimbursement. The local Main Street will be responsible for monitoring approved projects and programs to ensure compliance with the grant program guidelines.

2019 Deadlines:

- **First round is due April 30th**
- **Second round is due August 30th**

For More Information Contact:

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