



DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

m e m o r a n d u m

TO: Mayor Diane Wolfe Marlin and City Council Members

FROM: Lorrie Pearson, AICP, Community Development Services Director
Sheila Dodd, Manager, Grants Management Division
Stepheny McMahon, Interim Economic Development Supervisor, ED Division

DATE: January 14, 2021

SUBJECT: CARES 1 and CURES-ES Funding Updates

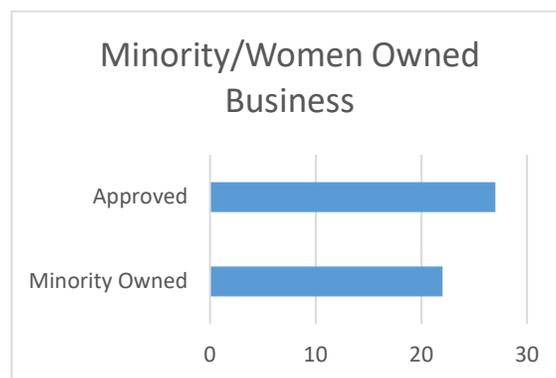
Description

Last spring, the City of Urbana received \$294,966 in CARES Act funding to prevent, prepare, and respond to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19). In June of 2020, City Council approved allocating funds to Housing and Small Business assistance.

In November, the City was awarded \$500,000 in CURES-ES, or economic support funding. What follows is a report on each of the funded programs.

Small Business Assistance

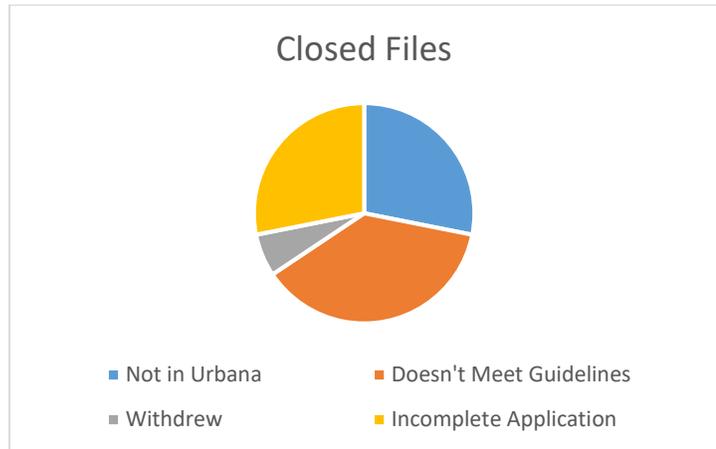
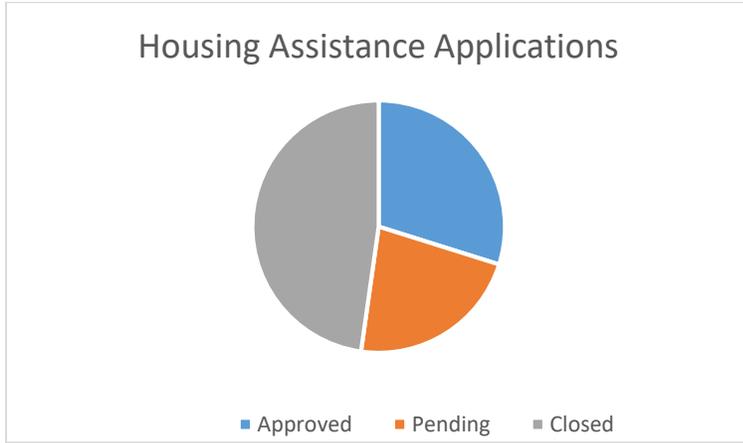
The Small Business Assistance program was launched June 15, 2020. The program was advertised through the City's website, the Small Business Development Center, and Urbana's Economic Development team. Priority was given to minority and women owned business. The program was limited to agencies who had 15 or fewer full time employees. A total of 37 applications were submitted and of those, 27 were funded for a total of \$252,000 of which \$225,000 has been awarded. The remaining funds are being spent as monthly reimbursements for rent, supplies, etc.



Housing Assistance

The Housing Assistance program launched in July of 2020. The program was announced on the City's website, through social service agencies, the landlord associations, and Cunningham Township. The program required the applicant to be impacted by COVID-19, a resident of Urbana, current on rent/mortgage in March of 2020, and meet the HUD income guidelines. Sixty-seven applications have been received, of which 20 have received three months housing assistance and we are awaiting additional information from fifteen. Two applicants withdrew from the program as

they no longer needed assistance. Nine applicants did not live in the city and were referred to the County or City of Champaign for assistance. Twelve applicants did not meet the guidelines and were referred to other programs. Nine applicants did not provide complete applications.



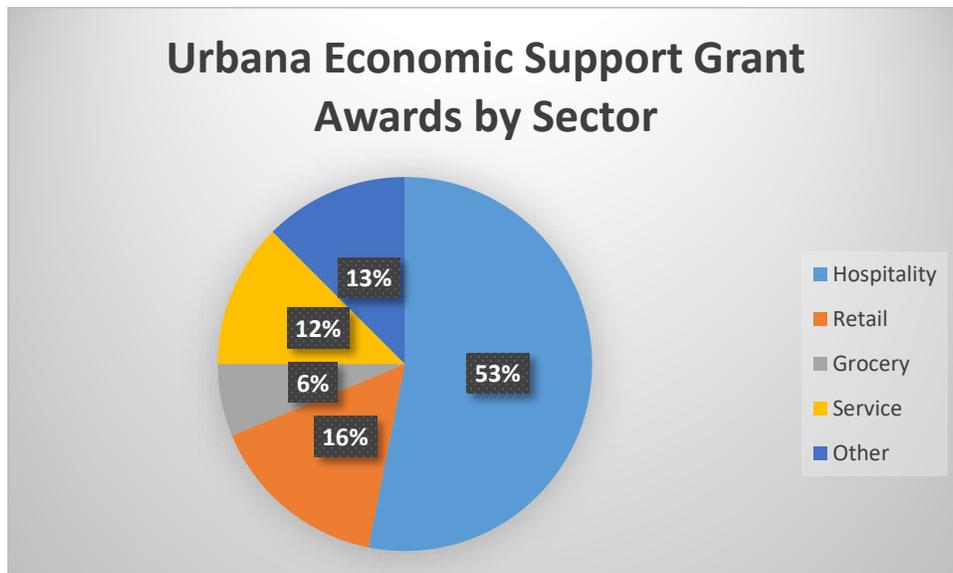
Urbana Economic Support Grant

This past fall, DCEO announced a round of funding called CURES-ES whereby cities could apply for funds to create their own round of economic support grants for businesses.

DCEO awarded the City of Urbana \$500,000 in CURES-ES funding in late November and the City began accepting applications for grants in early December. As grant eligible expenses were required to have been incurred and paid for between March 1, 2020 and December 30, 2020, the timeline to receive, review, and award grants was very quick.

The availability of the grant and request for applicant was promoted via various outlets including a press release, various social media posts and direct email.

Urbana awarded 32 businesses with a total of \$240,973.64 in funds. The graph below shows the division of grant awards by business sector.



Staff is currently waiting notification from DCEO about the potential extension of the funding term and other possible uses of the remaining funds.