FAQs

Startup Assets for Economic (SAFE) Opportunity Grant Program to Provide Financial Support to New and Aspiring Entrepreneurs

Q: Where and when did the SAFE Opportunity Grant Program launch? Where is the application?
A. The new SAFE Opportunity entrepreneurship grant program launched in Kansas City, Missouri on July 23, 2020, and the SAFE Opportunity grant application is available at www.ccfkansascity.org.

Q: Who is in charge of the SAFE Opportunity Grant Program?
A. The SAFE Opportunity entrepreneurship grant program is administered by the Community Capital Fund (CCF), in partnership with the City of Kansas City, Mo. Health Department.

Q: What is the SAFE Opportunity Grant Program?
A. The Startup Assets for Economic (SAFE) Opportunity entrepreneurship grant program is a new initiative that is awarding micro grants ranging from $500 to $2,000 on an incremental basis to residents of Kansas City’s 64128 zip code area. The project is providing laser-focused support to the development of small business startups. Rooted in an asset-based approach to community economic development, SAFE Opportunity is providing funds to grantees to directly support asset purchases related to their small business ventures. From supplies and equipment, to training and certification expenses, to startup expenses like registration and business license fees, the program is supporting developing new and aspiring entrepreneurs, while lowering individuals’ risk for involvement in violent activities, and increasing household income and financial stability.

Q: Why was the SAFE Opportunity Grant Program created?
A. “This groundbreaking project was born from the idea that public health issues – especially with respect to crime and violence – can be addressed by unique organizations representing various types of industry,” Dr. Marvia Jones, Violence Prevention and Policy Manager within the City of Kansas City Health Department, said. “We need to find new ways of providing hope and pathways forward in our city where there has been decades of neglect, decades of lack of opportunity, and decades of harmful and destructive stress. We need to invest in people.”

SAFE Opportunity is the first initiative of the KC Blueprint for violence prevention and a safe and healthy community, which addresses how to fight violence in Kansas City from youth through adulthood through social gateways instead of primarily through law enforcement. Sixty local organizations contributed to the program with their input. The Kansas City Health Department, Violence Free Kansas City Committee and the Health Commission plan to work with organizations across the city to implement it in a number of sectors including health, faith, education, business and more. The Kansas City Council approved KC Blueprint for immediate adoption on July 16, 2020.
Q: How does the SAFE Opportunity Grant Program help new and aspiring entrepreneurs?
A. Throughout the project, Community Capital Fund (CCF) will assist SAFE Opportunity participants in accessing additional resources to increase the success of their small businesses. From providing small business development technical assistance and financial services, to facilitating partnerships with neighborhood organizations and the larger business community, CCF will work to advance grantees and increase their opportunities for economic mobility.

Q: When is the deadline to apply for the SAFE Opportunity Grant Program?
A. Applications for the SAFE Opportunity Grant Program are due by 5 pm on Monday, Aug. 24, 2020.

Q: How do I apply for the SAFE Opportunity Grant Program?
A. There are three (3) ways to apply for the SAFE Opportunity Grant Program:

1. Complete and submit the online form available at [www.ccfkansascity.org](http://www.ccfkansascity.org)
2. Complete fillable PDF application and email to [info@ccfkansascity.org](mailto:info@ccfkansascity.org)
3. If online submission is inaccessible or burdensome, please print & mail your grant application to: Community Capital Fund, ATTN: SAFE Opportunity, 3200 Wayne Ave., Kansas City, MO 64109

Q: Before I apply, how can I learn more about the SAFE Opportunity Grant Program?
A. There are three (3) online information sessions to choose from in order to learn more. To sign-up for a session, please email Michael Carmona, CCF Program Manager at [michael@ccfkansascity.org](mailto:michael@ccfkansascity.org).

1. Tuesday, July 28, 2020 1st Grant Information Session (6:00 p.m.)
2. Wednesday, Aug. 5, 2020 2nd Grant Information Session (12:00 p.m.)
3. Friday, Aug. 14, 2020 3rd Grant Information Session (9:00 a.m.)

Q: If I am selected as a grantee for the SAFE Opportunity Grant Program, when will I find out?
A. Applicants will be notified of award or non-award in relation to the SAFE Opportunity Grant Program by September 8, 2020.

Q: How many grantees will be selected for the SAFE Opportunity Grant Program?
A. It is anticipated between 30 and 40 grants will be awarded.

Q: If I am selected as a grantee for the SAFE Opportunity Grant Program, in how many meetings will I have to participate?
A. At this time, there are five (5) Business Briefing Workshops for grantees to participate in as part of the SAFE Opportunity Grant Program.

1. September 22, 2020 Orientation Gathering & 1st Business Briefing Workshop (optional make-up date TBD)
2. October 6, 2020 2nd Business Briefing Workshop – Small Business + Entrepreneurship
3. October 20, 2020 3rd Business Briefing Workshop – Asset-Based Community Development
5. November 17, 2020 5th Business Briefing Workshop – Asset-Based Community Development

Additional Questions? Please Contact:
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