COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund

Workforce and Small Business Working Group

The Workforce and Small Business Working Group seeks to support nonprofit organizations providing assistance to workers or small/micro businesses and entrepreneurs who have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19. The working group is looking to support efforts (direct service, advocacy and organizing) that seek to mitigate the impacts of reduced wages and lost work with an emphasis on workers who do not qualify for unemployment insurance and/or have been excluded from federal or local stimulus efforts and small/micro-enterprises led by people of color.

Our ongoing conversations with nonprofit partners and stakeholders have confirmed that the most immediate needs continue to center around direct financial assistance to help workers and entrepreneurs cover their financial obligations, as well as support for advocacy and organizing groups to stay on top of the number of new city, county, and federal legislation and policies targeting relief and assistance for workers, entrepreneurs, and small businesses. We are also continuing to coordinate with federal, county, and local government responses to complement and align our efforts.

Given our current knowledge of immediate needs with workers and the small business community, the Workforce and Small Business Working Group’s funding priorities will include:

- Direct financial assistance to workers, including those who do not qualify for unemployment insurance (which can include, but is not limited to, gig workers, the undocumented, contractors, etc.) or those who have yet to receive local stimulus funds.
- Support for advocacy and organizing efforts to respond to current policies (local and federal) that are being proposed and/or implemented or elevate populations who are being left out of stimulus efforts.
- Financial support to nonprofit organizations who provide financial and other kinds of technical assistance to small or micro businesses.
- Efforts to help workforce development and adult education organizations to pivot to this new reality of providing online/remote job training and placement, adult education, and other means of public and private support and assistance to young adults, adult learners, and workers.

Please review the eligibility criteria listed on the RFP. We can only provide financial support to organizations that have a 501(c)(3) designation or have a fiscal sponsor with a 501(c)(3) designation.