Memphis Medical District Collaborative awards $145,000 in emergency relief funding to Medical District small businesses

Monday, April 27, 2020 - The Memphis Medical District Collaborative (MMDC) has awarded $145,000 in relief funding to 21 Medical District businesses through MMDC’s Small Business Emergency Assistance Fund. Of the recipients, 70% of the businesses are minority-owned and 33% are women-owned.

MMDC created the Small Business Emergency Assistance Fund in late March in response to financial losses related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Food, beverage and/or “third place” business located within the Medical District boundaries were eligible to apply. Funds can be used to cover certain expenses including operating capital for leasing space; insurance and/or utilities; and staff salaries. MMDC notified businesses of their awards on Friday, April 24.

“MMDC’s board and staff wanted to respond quickly to help retain businesses in the Medical District during this crisis. We were able to mobilize to create the Small Business Emergency Fund and other programs to respond to the needs of the District during this unprecedented time,” said Tommy Pacello, MMDC’s president. “The Emergency Fund is our first wave of support and MMDC is in the process of planning a Remobilization Fund to be utilized when businesses can resume operations.”

“MMDC’s Small Business Emergency Fund and our crisis response business support are efforts to help retain the vibrancy and momentum small businesses bring to the Medical District. When we are back to business as usual, great places to eat, drink, and gather will be essential again,” said Vonesha Mitchell, MMDC’s Community and Economic Development program manager.

Businesses that were awarded relief funding include the following:

- E’s 24 Hour Cafe
- Mot & Ed's Southern Eatery
- Arnold's BBQ
- Upscale Kutz
- Subway Madison Ave.
- Wonder / Co Work / Create
- Ready Set Grow Learning Academy
- Sundara Wellness
- Cozy Corner
- Mollie Fontaine
- James Lee House
- Riko's Kickin Chickin
- Slice of Soul
- Comeback Coffee
- Alcenia's
- Sabor Caribe
- Evelyn & Olive
- Phillip Ashley Chocolates
- Chef Tam's Underground Cafe
- Edge Alley
- High Cotton Brewing Co.
MMDC is involved in over 20 initiatives in the Medical District in collaboration with anchor partners, community stakeholders, and funding partners. MMDC's programs and incentives work to strengthen the neighborhoods in the District to make the area more livable, vibrant, and safe.

In addition to this Emergency Fund, MMDC supports the community through a range of funding opportunities. Incentive programs open to Medical District small businesses also include facade improvement grants, and soon, a Remobilization Fund. Additionally, local artists can apply to a new grant program to develop public art project concepts (deadline of May 8). Click [here](#) to view all current/available incentive and grant programs ([mdcollaborative.org/grants-incentives](mdcollaborative.org/grants-incentives)).

In order to support employees, students, and residents in the District, MMDC now offers free virtual wellness programs and music performances to the public on a weekly basis, accessible by Zoom or MMDC's social media platforms [@mmdc901](#). MMDC is also working with neighborhood partners to target support to residents through the Hire Local program’s job training resources ([HireLocal901.com](HireLocal901.com)).

The Memphis Medical District Collaborative is a community development organization working with partners to strengthen the communities in the Memphis Medical District so that they are more livable, vibrant, and safe. [mdcollaborative.org](mdcollaborative.org)

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