FAQs

Startup Assets for Economic (SAFE) Opportunity Grant Program to Provide Financial Support to New and Aspiring Entrepreneurs
Updated October 12, 2020 for Round 2

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/safe.

Q: Who oversees 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 LifeX Area (zip codes 64126, 64127, 64128, 64129, 64130, and 64132). 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: I heard that funds have already been awarded for the SAFE Opportunity Grant Program? Did I miss out on funding?

Round 1 of the SAFE Opportunity Grant Program opened on July 23, 2020 and closed on August 24, 2020. Round 1 targeted residents from Kansas City, MO’s 64128 zip code area. 14 grantees were selected in Round 1 of the SAFE Opportunity Grant Program.

Round 2 of the SAFE Opportunity Grant Program is open from October 12, 2020 to November 13, 2020. Round 2 of the SAFE Opportunity Grant Program has expanded to include all residents from Kansas City, MO’s LifeX area (zip codes 64126, 64127, 64128, 64129, 64130, and 64132).

Q: When is the deadline to apply for Round 2 of the SAFE Opportunity Grant Program?
A. Applications for the Round 2 of the SAFE Opportunity Grant Program are due by Friday, November 13, 2020 at 5:00 PM (CST).

Q: How do I apply for Round 2 of the SAFE Opportunity Grant Program?
A. There are three (3) ways to apply for Round 2 of the SAFE Opportunity Grant Program:
1. Complete and submit the online form.
2. Complete fillable PDF application and email to 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 (Copies of the grant application can be requested and picked up at the CCF office. CCF will also mail applications by request. Please call in advance for either option, (816) 502-9584)

Q: Before I apply, how can I learn more about Round 2 of the SAFE Opportunity Grant Program?
A. There are two (2) online information sessions to choose from in order to learn more about Round 2 of the SAFE Opportunity Grant Program. To sign-up for a session, please email Hanan Alabdalla, CCF Community Development Coordinator at hanan@ccfkansascity.org.
1. Tuesday, Oct. 20, 2020 1st Grant Information Session (12:00 p.m.)
2. Friday, Oct. 30, 2020 2nd Grant Information Session (9:00 a.m.)

Q: If I am selected as a grantee for Round 2 of the SAFE Opportunity Grant Program, when will I find out?
A. Applicants will be notified of award or non-award in relation to Round 2 of the SAFE Opportunity Grant Program by December 4, 2020.
Q: How many grantees will be selected for Round 2 of the SAFE Opportunity Grant Program?

A. It is anticipated between 15 and 17 grants will be awarded for Round 2 of the SAFE Opportunity Grant Program.

Q: If I am selected as a grantee for Round 2 of the SAFE Opportunity Grant Program, in how many meetings will I have to participate?

A. Currently, there are seven (7) Business Briefing Workshops for grantees to participate in as part of Round 2 of the SAFE Opportunity Grant Program.

1. January 5, 2021  1st Session – Orientation + Intro
2. January 12, 2021  2nd Session – Setting Sights
4. January 26, 2021  4th Session – Clarifying Concept
5. February 5, 2021  5th Session – Internal Reflection
6. February 12, 2021  6th Session – Branding + Networking
7. February 19, 2021  7th Session – Asset-Based Community Development

Grantees will also be required to participate in monthly check-in's with CCF staff, to track their progress during and after the program.

Additional Questions? Please Contact:
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