Planning, Economic Development and Environment Committee

Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Small Business Support Program (SBSP) Updates

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THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE



Key Takeaways

- City Council has approved awards totaling $15.5 million to four subrecipients, Mountain Bizworks, Arts AVL, Eagle Market Streets, and Venture Asheville.
- Staff and Subrecipients are working as diligently as possible to responsibly finalize program specifics and gather required documentation.
- No official date has been announced for application openings at this time. We anticipate grant programs to be launched and applications for SBSP programs to open in Spring or Summer 2026.
- Although applications are not currently open, there are steps business owners can take now so they can apply as soon as programs launch.
- We anticipate returning to PEDE in April with more updates.

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Background

- On January 27th, City Council approved awards of $15.5 million to four subrecipients:
  - Mountain Bizworks: $10 million
  - Arts AVL: $2,322,500
  - Eagle Market Streets: $2,322,500
  - Venture Asheville: $855,000
- Staff are working as quickly as possible with these subrecipients to responsibly finalize program specifics and gather required documentation, including:
  - Clearly defining **grant eligibility criteria**
  - Outlining operational steps to establish **efficient program management**
  - Ensuring **strong oversight, fraud prevention, and compliance** through staged application review and monitoring processes.

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Timeline

- We anticipate grant programs to be stood up and applications for SBSP programs to open in **Spring or Summer 2026.**
- Although applications are not currently open, **there are steps business owners can take now so they can apply as soon as programs launch**. A guide is available to walk business owners through these steps.
  - Small Business Support Program Guide
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