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PRESS RELEASE

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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA AND SANTA BARBARA FOUNDATION ANNOUNCE EMERGENCY BUSINESS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

(SANTA BARBARA, Calif.) – The County of Santa Barbara, in partnership with the Santa Barbara Foundation, announce the Emergency Business Assistance Grant Program that consists of two components: microenterprise business assistance and small business assistance grants. The application period opens today, May 10 through June 30, 2021, or when all funds are granted, whichever comes sooner. Eligible microenterprise businesses may apply for up to \$10,000 in funding, while eligible small businesses may apply for up to \$25,000.

“This opportunity is made possible through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD),” said George Chapjian, Director of the County Community Services Department. “The goal is to implement Community Development Block Grant programs that reduce the impacts of the pandemic. We are grateful to partners like Santa Barbara Foundation to make this grant program accessible to our countywide community.”

This funding, allocated by the Federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), comes to the County with specific intention for prevention of, preparation for, and response to COVID-19 impacts. In accordance with these and HUD requirements, Emergency Business Assistance Program funding will only be provided in cases that are reasonably determined and documented that the applicant’s business has been adversely impacted by COVID-19. All interested parties are encouraged to review the [grant guidelines and eligibility requirements](#) thoroughly.

“This grant program is an added effort to provide support for our county’s economy through continued uncertain times,” said Jessica Sanchez, Director of Donor Relations at the Santa Barbara Foundation. “This program is another COVID-19 relief partnership like, Santa Barbara Better Together Fund and Elaine F. Stepanek Foundation Restaurant Fund, that are providing extra relief to businesses challenged by the coronavirus pandemic. We are happy to work with the County of Santa Barbara to provide such important support to our local businesses that are at the center of our county’s economy.”

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EMERGENCY BUSINESS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

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To apply for a grant, please review the [grant guidelines and eligibility requirements](#). Before accessing the grant portal and registering your business to receive access to the application, please complete the eligibility checklist.

Staff from the County and Santa Barbara Foundation will be hosting two similar workshops to discuss the Emergency Business Assistance Program with interested businesses. The first is set for [10-11:30 a.m., Monday, May 10](#); and repeated [noon-1:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 19](#).

Applications WILL NOT be accepted by email or fax. Applications will be time and date stamped and reviewed on a first-come, first-serve basis. If interest persists and funds are still available, the application period may be extended.

Applicants may be required to submit additional documentation or detail. Applicants will have two weeks to submit additional materials, as requested by the Santa Barbara Foundation.

For questions or more information, please contact the Santa Barbara Foundation at (805) 963-1873. Applications can be submitted electronically via the Santa Barbara Foundation's grants portal after May 10, or printed and mailed in a sealed envelope to the Santa Barbara Foundation, 1111 Chapala Street, Santa Barbara, CA, 93101. To hand deliver, please bring the sealed application to the above address between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

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About Santa Barbara Foundation

The Santa Barbara Foundation is dedicated to improving the quality of life in Santa Barbara County for all who live, work, play and visit here. Working in partnership with individuals, community organizations, nonprofits and government, we strive to address our communities' most challenging needs. Recognizing that our work depends on the strength of the nonprofit sector, we are committed to their health and vitality. Nearly every Santa Barbara County nonprofit organization and essential community project has been supported by the Foundation during its 93-year history. The Foundation connects those who give with those in need – and all who dream of stronger communities. To learn more, please visit SBFoundation.org.

About the County of Santa Barbara

Santa Barbara County encompasses more than 2,745-square miles and is home to about 448,000 residents. Since 1850, Santa Barbara County government has a history of providing excellent and responsive public service while operating under sound fiscal principles. County government is comprised of 21 departments and agencies, and a workforce of more than 4,200 who strive to provide for the health and safety of residents and visitors. We are one county with one future. For more information, go to countyofsb.org.