



This morning's COVID-19 update focuses on a limited availability, time sensitive grant application for small businesses on the Iron Range or in the Taconite Assistance Area. Interested businesses must apply for the grant tomorrow, Tuesday May 12th if they are interested! Also included are resources and upcoming training opportunities on best practices for businesses operating or looking towards reopening during COVID-19.

Small Business Relief Fund – Regional Grant Opportunity

The Entrepreneur Fund, Northland Foundation, and The Northspan Group, Inc. are pleased to announce they will be accepting grant applications for a second round of funding from the Small Business Relief Fund. Thanks to generous support from the Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation.

The second round will open for applications on Tuesday, May 12 at 8:00AM and close the SAME DAY, Tuesday, May 12 at 8:00PM. This second round uses a simplified application form to lessen burdens on business owners. **If you applied for the previous round of grant funding, you must reapply to be eligible for the second round.**

The grant guidelines are available now for review and preparation, here:
<http://info.entrepreneurfund.org/relieffund>

The Small Business Relief Fund will provide direct grants up to \$5,000 to small business owners in the TAA (including the Iron Range). The review committee will prioritize grants to:

1. Be an existing small business, less than 5 FTEs.
2. During the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Federal Government Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) and State Government Small Business Emergency Loan programs do not fit.
3. Businesses located within the Department of Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation Taconite Assistance Area.
4. Business affected by the disaster (all businesses; not only those included in the State of MN executive order).
5. Priority will be given to those businesses that serve as a core community staple such as rural/community grocery stores, restaurants, downtown/main street retail or hospitality, etc.
6. Fund review committee determination that the available grants will make a discernible impact on the sustainability of the business.

Best Practices for Businesses Open and Reopening

The Hibbing Area Chamber is working on a number of efforts to provide businesses with support as they operate or look towards reopening during the COVID-19 pandemic. Check out our new Best Practices section on our [Coronavirus Resources webpage](#) for helpful links to resources for all business types. Our newsletter tomorrow will also include information on Best Practices for businesses during this time.

Best Practices Training Opportunities

[Hibbing Area Chamber Video | What is a COVID-19 Preparedness Plan](#)

Learn about what a COVID-19 Preparedness Plan is, what it should contain, and why every business should have one. Pre-recorded video, 19 minutes.

[BBB Webinar | Covid-19: A Safe and Smart Return to the Workplace](#)

Join BBB on May 12 at 11:00 - 11:30AM for a Q&A with MN DEED Commissioner Steve Grove to learn more about government guidelines for a safe return to the workplace amid Covid-19.

[Minnesota Chamber Webinar | Fed President Neel Kashkari on economic recovery](#)

As businesses slowly reopen in the state, many have questions about the road to economic recovery. As the President of the Minneapolis Federal Reserve, Neel Kashkari is at the center of what economic recovery might look like. Join us on this webinar as hear how the economy will operate and ask him questions about how it will impact your business. Tuesday May 12 at 1:00PM.