



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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City of Healdsburg Offers Zero-Interest Loans to Small Businesses

Healdsburg, Calif. - The City of Healdsburg has created a \$600,000 Small Business Sustainability (SBS) Loan Program to help its small-business community weather the coronavirus pandemic.

The City's small-business loan program will provide zero-interest loans of up to \$15,000 to eligible small businesses of 25 or fewer full-time employees; these funds may help businesses cover day-to-day operating expenses, lease or mortgage payments, materials, supplies and services. Loan payments will be deferred until May 1, 2021.

The \$600,000 in loan funding will come from the City's Measure V funds, a half-cent sales tax that pays for key City services such as public safety, street maintenance and repair, and economic development. The SBS Loan Program will open on Friday, April 24. At that time, businesses will be able to access the SBS Loan Program application and submit a complete application package.

The loan applications will be reviewed in weekly phases until the allocated SBS Loan Program funds are fully exhausted. More information about the program can be found on the City's website: <https://www.ci.healdsburg.ca.us/982/Help-for-Businesses-Impacted-by-Coronavi>

"It is extremely important to help protect our local small businesses in this crisis," said Healdsburg Mayor Leah Gold. "These zero-interest loans will help them pay their bills and other necessities."

Key SBS Program Loan Features

To apply, businesses must have a brick-and-mortar presence within the Healdsburg city limits. Applicants must also have 25 or fewer full-time employees, hold a current business license with the City of Healdsburg as of March 1, 2020, and be in good standing with the City of Healdsburg (e.g. current with utility bills, no liens or judgements).

The full eligibility requirements for the SBS Loan Program can be found here: <https://www.ci.healdsburg.ca.us/982/Help-for-Businesses-Impacted-by-Coronavi>.

Eligible businesses with five or fewer full-time employees may receive up to \$5,000 while businesses with six to 25 full-time employees may receive loans up to \$15,000. The number of loans the City can offer depends on how many businesses apply given the limited funding of \$600,000.

Loan payments will be deferred until May 1, 2021. Businesses that receive loans of up to \$5,000 have three years to repay the loan balance outstanding as of May 1, 2021, and those with loans of up to \$15,000 will have five years after May 1, 2021 to repay the loan. To further help businesses, no collateral is required to receive these zero-interest loans, and businesses will pay no loan fees or points.

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