

**OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY MAYOR FOR PLANNING AND ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT**

NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY (NOFA)

FY25 Chinatown Lease Incentive Grant Program

Request for Application (RFA) Release Date: March 28, 2025

Grant Identification No.: DMPED-FY25-BCLO-CLIGP

Background:

The Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development (“**DMPED**”) invites the submission of applications from qualified organizations for the FY25 Chinatown Lease Incentive Grant Program (“**CLIGP**” or “**Program**”). The purpose of the Program is to provide grants to support small businesses that (i) sign long-term leases of at least five years in the Chinatown neighborhood in the District of Columbia (“**District**”) and (ii) maintain or enhance the cultural heritage of the neighborhood.

Purpose:

The Program will provide up to \$125,000 in total grant funding in FY25 to eligible businesses to offset the costs of rent. Successful applicants may receive the awarded amount annually for a total of up to five years, subject to the availability of funds and annual certification that the awardee remains in the lease agreement outlined in the RFA.

The Program will be funded pursuant to the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development Limited Grant-Making Authority Act of 2012, effective September 20, 2012 (D.C. Law 19-169; D.C. Official Code §1-328.04(ii))

Eligibility:

Applicants must meet the following eligibility criteria to be considered an eligible business for an award:

- Be registered as an entity in the District of Columbia;
- Be in good standing with the District of Columbia’s Department of Licensing and Consumer Protection (DLCP), the Office of Tax and Revenue (OTR), the Department of Employment Services (DOES);
- If the applicant is a for-profit entity, be registered as, or be eligible to be registered as, a certified business enterprise;
- Have fewer than 30 full-time employees;
- Sign or intend to sign a long-term lease of a commercial property; and
- Offer retail, educational programs, entertainment, food, or other services or activities that maintain and enhance the cultural heritage of the Chinatown neighborhood.

- Demonstrate that the property where the eligible business is or will be located is an eligible property located within the Chinatown neighborhood as show on the map here:
<https://dcgis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/instant/lookup/index.html?appid=1eccc24424d04613b61e5664ea3e6adf>

Anticipated Number of Awards: The total amount of funding available for this Program is \$125,000 for FY25. DMPED anticipates making up to five (5) awards ranging from \$25,000 - \$125,000. Successful applicants may receive the awarded amount on a yearly basis for a total of up to five years, subject to the availability of funds, successful recertification of an active lease, and compliance with the terms and conditions of a grant agreement.

Grant Information Session: DMPED will host a virtual information session for interested applicants. Please check <https://dmped.dc.gov/service/grant-opportunities> for more details.

Contact Name: DMPED Business Development Unit **Phone:** (202) 727-6365 **Email:** bizdev@dc.gov

Availability of RFA: The RFA will be released on **March 28, 2025** and posted at <https://dmped.dc.gov/>.

Application Process: The grant application process will include an initial screening of applications to evaluate the completeness of the application, followed by scoring by an internal review panel. Based on the internal review panel recommendations, the Mayor's budget priorities, the available resources, and the goals of the Program, the Deputy Mayor will make the final funding decision.

Grant Application Deadline for Electronic Submission: Applications will be accepted until May 30th, 2025 at 4:00PM EST. The application link and more information about the Program can be found at <https://dmped.dc.gov/>.

Final Determination of Award: Applications will be processed according to the RFA. Final determinations on awards and funding are final and cannot be appealed.