

# Small Business Stabilization Fund

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Office of Economic Development



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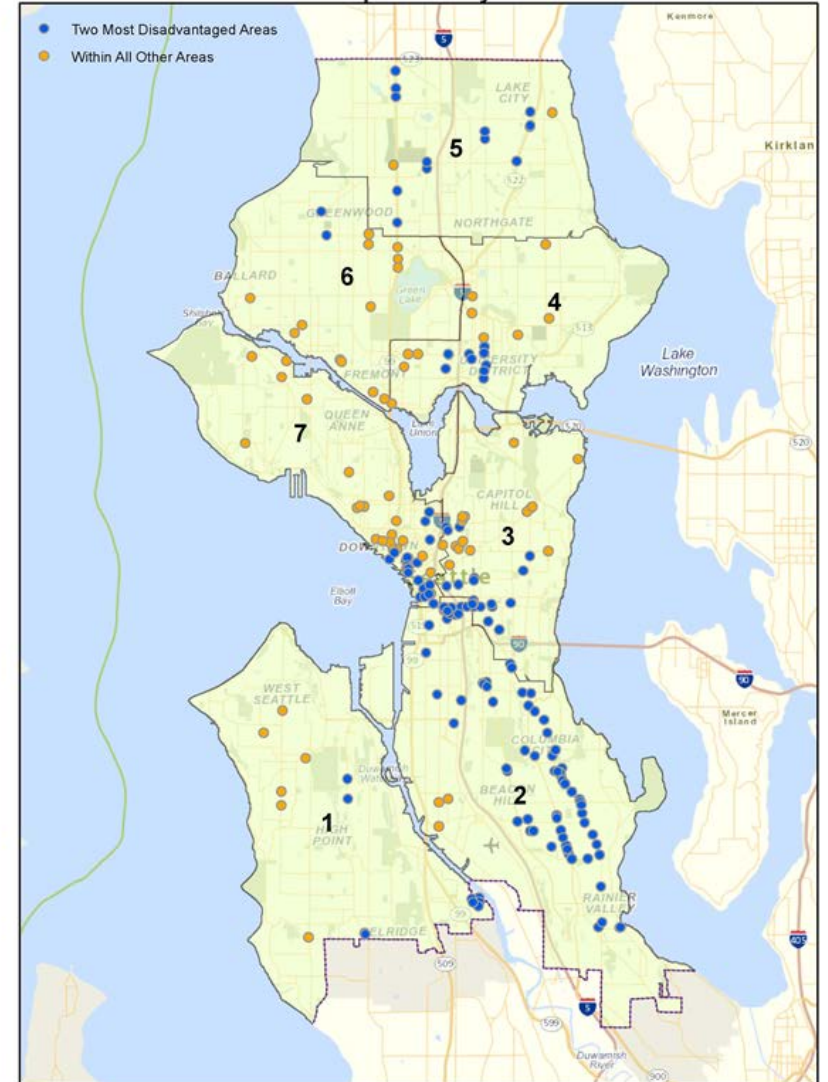
- The expanded Small Business Stabilization Fund is an emergency fund that provides working capital grants in amounts up to \$10,000 to qualifying small businesses impacted by COVID-19.
- The Small Business Stabilization Fund is funded by federal Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), initially with \$2.5 million and the Mayor has proposed adding another \$1.5 million.
- The Mayor directed OED to focus outreach on historically underserved small businesses to improve access to the program for those who may be overlooked by the federal government's Small Business Administration (SBA) disaster relief program.
- Additionally, the Mayor directed OED to use a weighted lottery process to ensure that grants were predominantly awarded to businesses in high displacement risk areas.
- OED's focused outreach and the weighted lottery process resulted in nearly 80% of grant recipients identifying as business owners of color.



# Small Business Stabilization Fund

- Nearly **9,000** businesses applied; nearly **6,000** of which were eligible. **252** businesses were awarded \$10,000.
- Outreach was conducted in collaboration with our neighborhood district partners. Traditional, ethnic and social media platforms were utilized. Regular updates were posted to the website and through our weekly webinars.
- OED triage team reported over 100 stabilization fund specific emails and phone calls per day.

Stabilization Fund Recipients by Council District



# Businesses Awarded the Stabilization Fund

“Villa Escondida is a family-owned restaurant, and we are proud to support our local community and economy here in Belltown,” said Jose Perez, Owner of Villa Escondida. “Our small business was hit hard when many downtown workers began to work from home. This grant from the City will help us keep our staff on payroll and will help us increase our marketing to get more takeout and delivery orders.”



# Businesses Awarded the Stabilization Fund



"This will allow us to pay some of our past due business expenses, while we work on a plan to reopen," --Greg Wetzel, co-owner of South Lake Union's Zheng Cafe

"Tarik Abdullah, owner of A DJ and a Cook, will likely use his \$10,000 grant to cover short-term operational costs and hire some helpers, he said. The South Seattle-based chef has been working 13-hour days to serve paying customers with a pickup model while also donating meals to hard-up community members, he said."— Seattle Times



# Next Steps

- The Mayor is proposing an additional \$1.5 million be added to the Small Business Stabilization Fund, which would allow OED to provide and additional 150 \$10,000 grants.
- The City has established a separate fund to accept private donations to support employee retention for small businesses
- OED is currently developing an equitable outreach framework for future funding projects and programs
- OED is working with firm to develop application/data management system

