

County of Santa Clara

Office of the County Executive

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Date: November 19, 2021

To: Honorable Members of the Board of Supervisors
Jeffrey V. Smith, J.D., M.D., County Executive

From: Miguel Márquez, Chief Operating Officer
Glen Williams, Asset Development Manager

Subject: Status Report on the Small Business Grant Program for COVID-19 Protective Measures

At its June 22, 2021 meeting (Item 119), the Board authorized the Small Business Grant Program for COVID-19 Measures (Program), and funded it with penalties the County has collected from businesses that failed or refused to comply with COVID-19 public health orders. Because of the County's existing relationship with the Enterprise Foundation (Enterprise), the Program was administered and operated by Enterprise on behalf of the County and at no cost to the County.

Enterprise accepted grant applications until September 8, 2021. It received more than 4,000 applications. Enterprise then verified the eligibility of applicants and their claimed expenses after conducting a randomized lottery of applications that was weighted by reference to a location-based diversity, equity, and inclusion framework, as the Board had directed.

To date, Enterprise has approved a total of 231 grants totaling 95 percent of the \$600,000 the County disbursed to Enterprise for the grant program. Grants have ranged from \$500 to \$5,000, depending on need and qualifying expenses, with an average of just under \$2,500 per grantee. Recipients represent a wide range of small businesses, the vast majority of which have five employees or less. Grantees have included barbers, beauticians and nail salons; day care and home care; restaurants and coffee shops; dentists and chiropractors; dry cleaners and shoe cobblers; dance and fitness studios; retailers; professional offices; schools; and non-profits.

This week the County will release an additional \$110,000 to Enterprise to distribute as grants. Enterprise's goal is to approve grants totaling all \$710,000 in authorized funds by Thanksgiving.

cc: Chief Board Aides
James Williams, County Counsel
Tiffany Lennear, Acting Clerk of the Board