



Church Begins Fund For Business Grant Program

A new effort is underway to assist Hillsboro's small businesses as they recover from the COVID-19 shutdown and other impacts on business that have been brought about due to the pandemic.

Initiated by First Presbyterian Church of Hillsboro, with assistance from the Hillsboro Area Chamber of Commerce, a Small Business Support Grant Program is now being formed.

As members of the First Presbyterian Church saw the impact of the COVID-19 shutdown on local businesses, they searched for ways to give back to the community and support the businesses of Hillsboro.

The church reached out to the chamber to ask for guidance and assistance with their efforts. Ultimately, they decided to fund a grant program in the amount of \$10,000.

The chamber assisted with the development of the guidelines and application process and will manage the applications and distribution of funds through the Hillsboro Foundation.

Any local business inside the city limits of Hillsboro with 25 or fewer employees is eligible to apply for the funds.

The initial round of applications will be accepted until Wednesday, October 7. Applications can be found on the chamber's website at hillsborochamber.org.

After the deadline, the applications will be scored, and the funds will be distributed to as many eligible applicants as possible. The maximum amount that will be granted to any one Hillsboro business is \$2,500.

"The First Presbyterian Church has stepped up in a major way to support Hillsboro businesses, and the Chamber of Commerce is honored to be entrusted with the management of the program," said Hillsboro Area Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Wendy Ellis.

"The church hopes their action will inspire other religious, non-profit and corporate organizations or individuals to add to the fund and allow for an even greater positive impact for our small businesses," Ellis explained.

Grants are intended to provide funding to help eligible small businesses replace lost revenue needed to pay for regularly occurring costs, including payroll for employees, rent/mortgage, utilities and other similar expenses that occur in the ordinary course of the recipient's business operation.

Grant amounts will be decided based on scoring criteria outlined in the grant application.

An effort is underway to add to the fund and increase its impact throughout the community. Anyone who would like to donate can make a check payable to the Hillsboro Foundation and mail it to P.O. Box 358, Hillsboro, TX 76645.

Donations can also be made by contacting Ellis at 254-582-2481 or exec@hillsborochamber.org.

"Ultimately, our hope is to keep from losing any small businesses because of the slowdown created by the pandemic. These small businesses make an immeasurable contribution to the quality of life of our residences, and I can't say how much it means to have the First Presbyterian Church recognize that," Ellis said.