

STATE COVID-19 GRANTS

Montana received \$1.25 billion from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. Governor Steve Bullock used recommendations from a statewide task force in determining grant distributions that were to be made available to individuals and businesses in the state. The Department of Commerce operated the main funding portal for these grants and compiled data summarized below. As of June 23, 2020, the funding granted amounted to \$42.9 million. For specific information, go to the department website:

<https://commerce.mt.gov/Montana-Coronavirus-Relief/Awarded-Grants>.

AGRICULTURAL ADAPTABILITY - \$78,493 OF \$500,000

The grants for food and agriculture businesses are "intended to create additional economic activity and bolster food security." Maximum grant is \$10,000 each.

Agricultural Adaptability Grants		
Requester	Location	Amount (as of 6/23)
Diamond H Livestock	Charlo	\$10,000
Faltree Farm	Loma	\$10,000
Keep Cool Greens, LLC	Lincoln	\$8,493
LeVeque Ranch	Cascade	\$10,000
M&R Services Inc.	Kila	\$10,000
Oswald Farms, Inc.	Joliet	\$10,000
Paradise Garden	Plains	\$10,000

BUSINESS INNOVATION GRANTS - \$546,676 OF \$5 M

The innovation grants are intended to help companies "scale up, improve capabilities, or drive expanded distribution of products or services developed in response to COVID-19." Eligibility is for companies, whether for-profit or nonprofit, with fewer than 150 employees

Business Innovation Grants (as of 6/8)		
Location	Requester	Amount
Bozeman	-Bozeman Batiks	\$2,500
	-Dry Hills Distillery	\$25,000
Butte	-Headframe Spirits	\$25,000
	-M.C. Wholesale Inc.	\$25,000
Columbia Falls	-Corporate Image Outfitters	\$17,612
Corvallis	-Microshiner	\$10,000
Ennis	- JCG, LLC	\$25,000
Eureka	Big Sky Mobile Imaging	\$25,000
Helena	-The Local	\$17,200
	-Mont. Learning Cnter (Canyon Ferry)	\$12,500
Lincoln	-Valier Coffee/ Heritage House	\$25,000
Livingston	-LTS Architecture	\$14,389
Missoula	-Day Spa Body Basics Inc.	\$25,000
	-Educational Services (Aerie Backc'try)	\$12,410
Sidney	-Meadowlark Brewing	\$20,000
Stevensville	-Three Rocks LLC	\$25,000
Twin Bridges	-Spiffy Biffy Portable Toilets, Inc.	\$20,000



and a primary base of operations in Montana. Maximum unit distribution is \$25,000. This program ends July 1, 2020.

BUSINESS STABILIZATION GRANTS - \$32.6 MILLION OF \$75 MILLION

These grants are intended to provide working capital to small businesses with 50 or fewer employees. Eligible uses include payroll, rent, accounts payable, debt service and other expenses related to COVID-19 disruptions. The maximum distribution to each business is \$10,000. More than 3,700 businesses had applied for these grants by June 23. Although many applied for the maximum amount, some applied for far less. One business applied for \$10,000 but received only \$987.

BUSINESS ADAPTATION PROGRAM - \$247,229 OF \$20 MILLION

These grants are intended to reimburse eligible small businesses, whether for-profit or nonprofit, for the cost of protecting staff and customers from infection by the novel corona virus. Expenses for protective equipment, communication, or other protective resources, including remote work equipment, must have been incurred after March 1, 2020. The maximum grant award for a business is \$5,000. Initially there was a 50-employee limit for eligible businesses, but that limit has been removed. So far, 71 businesses have received funds ranging from \$416 for a business in Sidney that requested just that amount to the full allowable amount of \$5,000 for 25 businesses.

SOCIAL SERVICE NONPROFIT GRANTS \$4.8 MILLION OF \$10 MILLION

A Social Service Nonprofit Grant Program has \$10 million in funding, with grants up to \$10,000 for eligible nonprofit organizations impacted by COVID-19 and needing funds to retain existing programs and services. These include programs offering senior services, housing services, transportation, economic development, job training, recreational services, public safety, energy assistance, and tourism-related activities. The smallest grant of \$1,000 went to the Big Sky Science Education Enhancement program in Billings. A couple of grants for \$2,000 each were the anomaly. Most grants were for \$10,000, whether requested by chambers of commerce or community schools.

EMERGENCY HOUSING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM \$329,868 OF \$50 MILLION (6/23/2020)

This program provides rent assistance, security deposits, mortgage assistant, and, if needed, hazard insurance assistance for Montanans who have lost jobs or substantial parts of their income because of COVID-19-related activities. The program has \$50 million available. For successful requestors, payments will be made directly to landlords or mortgage servicers, as applicable. The Department of Commerce Housing [website](#) notes that the program will pay the difference

County	Emergency Housing Grants
Cascade	\$24,576
Flathead	\$39,193
Gallatin	\$42,296
Lewis & Clark	\$20,512
Missoula	\$77,517
Park	\$13,522
Ravalli	\$10,050
Yellowstone	\$102,202

between 30% of the household's current gross monthly income and their eligible housing assistance costs, up to \$2,000 a month. The household income limit is \$125,000, depending on family size.

MONTANA LOAN DEFERMENT PROGRAM - NEW - \$125 MILLION AVAILABLE

Applications have begun to be accepted for the loan deferment program, which is being conducted in conjunction with Montana financial institutions. Existing commercial loans may be converted to interest-only status under the program, so that the existing borrower defers principal and interesting payment for between 6 and 12 months. This is intended to free funds for other critical needs. The Coronavirus Relief Fund will be used to pay interest payments. The maximum contribution for each loan note is \$150,000. Those with more than one loan may apply for each entity. Borrowers, which don't include publicly traded companies, will have to show that they were current on their loans as of December 31, 2019, and that they experienced a 25% reduction in gross revenues related to COVID-19 repercussions. Other qualifications apply.

FOOD BANK AND FOOD PANTRY ASSISTANCE - \$1.54 MILLION OF \$2 MILLION

Up to \$50,000 is available for eligible applicants, which include food banks and others providing food assistance to Montanans with limited resources.

OTHER PROGRAMS

- The Department of Public Health and Human Services is handling public health grants and stay connected grants.
- The Department of Administration's Local Government Assistant program is making reimbursement available to local governments, using funds from the CARES Act and the Federal Emergency Management Administration's public assistance grants.
- The Department of Agriculture is handling Montana Meat Processing Infrastructure Grants. That application deadline is July 2 at 5 p.m. Total available funding \$2 million with a maximum award of \$150,000.