

# News Release

City of Anna  
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## Anna CDC establishes grant program for local companies *Program seeks to assist City's 'mom-and-pop' operations*

ANNA (May 13, 2020) Responding to the extraordinary conditions faced by locally-owned and locally-operated businesses in Anna as a result of the pandemic, the City's Community Development Corporation (CDC) has initiated a program designed to provide temporary financial relief to qualified enterprises.

"The devastating effects of the pandemic's consequences on the livelihoods of local entrepreneurs is heartbreaking," says Joey Grisham, Executive Director of the Anna Economic Development Corporation. "The City of Anna CDC COVID-19 Recovery Grant Program seeks to mitigate some of these effects. Unfortunately, many of these small mom-and-pop businesses are ill-equipped to withstand that kind of devastation for very long."

Grisham and Economic Development Manager Taylor Lough provide staff support to the Community Development Corporation Board of Directors, source of the new program's funding.

The grant program will provide a one-time award of up to \$5,000 to companies and businesses that meet certain criteria. Applications for the grants, scheduled for disbursement in June, must be submitted by Wednesday, May 27.

Generally, qualifying businesses include those with a storefront presence within the City limits and which are in full compliance with local ordinances. Companies may not be in arrears in taxes and fees to the City, county or state, and have fewer than 20 employees. Only companies that remit sales taxes to the City of Anna are eligible.

A performance agreement with the Anna CDC is required along with a brief statement showing how the funds will be used. A copy of the company's IRS W-9 form is also part of the application requirements.

Ineligible for the program are home-based businesses, non-profits, franchisees of regional or national chains, grocers, unprepared food or produce vendors, alcohol or tobacco outlets, pawn shops, gas and convenience stores, health providers, financial lenders, and certain service providers.

"We understand the critical nature of the loss of walk-in traffic to our City's small businesses," says Anthony Richardson, President of the CDC Board. "Shops and stores that depend on their customer base coming in and making purchases have been negatively impacted, and our grant program is our way of helping them through this difficult time."

More information on this program and other resources for local businesses can be found on the CDC's website <https://opportunityannatx.com/covid-19/>.

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**ABOUT ANNA** – With a population of 15,000 and growing rapidly, the City of Anna is the fourth fastest-growing community in North Texas. Located in northern Collin County along U.S Highway 75, State Highway 5, and State Highway 121, Anna is a vibrant and emerging city that offers its residents an excellent quality of life and low cost of living. With much of its land still undeveloped, Anna is becoming an attractive location for retail and commercial establishments. Anna's workforce is skilled, well-educated, and comparatively young. Residents enjoy recreational opportunities, parks, trails, open spaces, easy access to the DFW and Red River corridors, and a pace of living that matches both a relaxed hometown and a thriving community.