



Rise to the Challenge

**Funding Local Innovative Solutions to the
Global Pandemic**



**Howard County**
M A R Y L A N D



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- \$1,000,000 Innovation and Operations Grant Fund was announced on Tuesday September 1st.
- Applicants can apply for grants ranging from \$10,000 and up.
- Applicants must demonstrate a strong ability to expend funds by December 30th
- Please refer to the CARES funding criteria published on our website.
- A formal grant application must be submitted to apply for funding.
- There are 2 types of grants that you can apply for:
 - Innovation Grant
 - Operations Grant



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For both grant applications, projects should:

- Directly correlated to the pandemic
- Improve services to the public in response to pandemic
- Be tied to one or more of the HoCo DASH priority areas
- Support greater efficiencies
- Emphasize priority outcomes and quality of life
- Be feasible and measurable



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HoCo DASH Priority Areas:

- Safe and Engaged Communities
- Clean and Sustainable Environment
- Thriving and Healthy Residents
- Reliable and Accessible Infrastructure
- Strong and Prosperous Businesses



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For both grant applications, the following are not eligible uses of funding:

- Making up for lost revenue or to reimburse donors for donated items or services
- Damages covered by insurance
- Payroll or benefits expenses for employees whose work duties are not substantially dedicated to mitigating or responding to the COVID-19 public health emergency
- Workforce bonuses other than hazard pay or overtime
- Severance pay, legal settlements



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Operations Examples (must meet CARES funding eligibility requirements)

- Expenses for disinfection of public areas and other facilities
- Expenses for technical assistance to local authorities or other entities on mitigation of COVID-19-related threats to public health and safety
- Expenses for public safety measures undertaken in response to COVID-19
- Payroll expenses for public safety, public health, health care, human services, and similar employees whose services are substantially dedicated to mitigating or responding to the COVID-19 public health emergency.
- Expenses to facilitate distance learning, including technological improvements, in connection with school closings to enable compliance with COVID-19 precautions.





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Innovation Examples (must meet CARES eligibility funding requirements)

- Necessary low-cost applications required to address an issue related to pandemic
- Improved and new functionality needed for public usage
- Emerging tech with immediate Impact
- Process automation to serve the public: analog to digital
- Technology or infrastructure needed to sustain business during the pandemic
- Social innovations to serve the public during the pandemic
- One-time cost for certain infrastructure efficiency improvements



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Who can submit?

- Howard County-Based Non-Profit Organizations*
- Applicants must demonstrate that the organization is a 501c3 in good standing

We encourage partnerships and cross-sector collaboration (in Howard County).



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The Application Process

1. Visit our online Innovation and Operations Grants portal:
<https://www.howardcountymd.gov/Branches/County-Executive/Rise-To-The-Challenge>
2. Fill out an online application and submit by September 15th
3. Applications will be reviewed and a select interview process will take place between September 21st –28th
4. Grant awardees will be notified by October 1st



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We will not fund projects that . . .

- Are not tied to the pandemic
- Are designed to make up for lost revenue
- Rely on ongoing funding that has not been identified
- Pay for personnel costs without a plan to absorb those costs later
- Do not align with Howard County's priorities
- Will not be fully expended by December 30th

Questions?

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