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Grant County
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

**GRANT COUNTY
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**
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SMALL BUSINESS GRANT APPLICATION

The Grant County Chamber of Commerce was selected to administer a \$12,500 award from the Duke Energy Foundation, Small Business Assistance and Hometown Revitalization grant program.

These awards are intended to help small businesses in Grant County thrive and grow.

The criteria for applicants to consider includes:

- **Small business/owner is a Duke Energy customer (*requirement from Duke Energy) - must include a copy of a recent/current Duke Energy bill**
- Duke Energy has a preference for minority, female or veteran owned businesses (but not required)
- Must be a member of the Grant County Chamber of Commerce in good standing as of 7/1/24. Grant is only open to current chamber members.
- Must maintain membership for at least 3 years after the grant is awarded
- Must attend a Grant County Chamber of Commerce breakfast meeting for a check presentation
- Must attend 1 networking opportunity (chamber breakfast other than check presentation or Business After 5)
- Small business support awards will focus on businesses with less than 50 employees
- **Grant applications are due by Thursday, Sept. 19, 2024** and will be awarded in November 2024.
- Non-profit organizations will not be eligible
- Business must be registered with the Secretary of State and in good standing
- Grants will only be awarded to businesses and not to individuals
- **Award amounts are at discretion and approval of the Grant County Chamber of Commerce's Board of Directors**

Appropriate small business expenditures include:

- Enhanced service opportunities, such as modifying physical space, technology to improve online sales or expanding capacity for delivering goods and services.
- Furniture for expanded space, including outdoor space and materials for the construction of takeout windows, accessibility compliance for additional outdoor seating, additional fixtures required for public health issues.
- Storefront beautification projects enhancing the appearance of the business, including new exterior paint, awnings, signage or planters.
- Tools or programs to support the business's workforce needs. For example, working with a recruiter, paying to list job opportunities or tuition for a training program for employees.
- The small business support awards may be used to reimburse small businesses for expenses already incurred within the last 12 months.

Small business awards shall not be used for:

- Payroll
- Incentive pay
- Rent and utilities
- Loan/credit card payments