EMERGENCY RELIEF FOR BUSINESSES

ABOUT THE DDA

Voters established the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) in November 2006 to provide programs and financial incentives to encourage Downtown development. DDA is governed by a board of 11 people appointed by Colorado Springs City Council. Downtown Partnership executes the work of the DDA as a contracted affiliate. In 2026, City Council adopted the Elevate Downtown Plan as the updated plan of development for DDA. The DDA is funded in two ways: first, by a 5-mill tax levy within the district to support its operations, and second, through Tax Increment Financing (TIF). The latter tax is the capture of increased property tax revenues following a baseline assessment. TIF revenues go into a special fund and as it grows, the funds can be leveraged for support of Downtown projects. The DDA's TIF will expire in 2037. The DDA board meets monthly on the second Tuesday of each month.

MISSION OF THE DDA

To build public and private investment partnerships that promote the physical and economic growth of Downtown Colorado Springs.

PLAN OF DEVELOPMENT

The Elevate Downtown Plan serves as the plan of development for DDA. The plan was created in 2026 as an update to the Experience Downtown Plan, which governed the DDA from 2016 through the newest plan's adoption in 2026. The plan can be found at: DowntownCS.com/elevate

DISTRICT BOUNDARIES

The DDA encompasses roughly 1.1 square miles of downtown. For a map, click here.

GOALS OF EMERGENCY RELIEF FOR BUSINESSES PROGRAM

- Provide meaningful relief for street-level retail, restaurant and service businesses within the boundaries of the DDA after a major, unforeseen incident causing a prolonged diminishment of business.
- Assist in "filling the gap" not covered by insurance or cash reserves for businesses that have sustained a prolonged diminishment or have been displaced by a major incident.
- Prevent the loss of businesses Downtown that were otherwise viable or promising and provided quality offerings and experiences desired by residents and visitors to Downtown.

ELIGIBILITY

- Applicants must be the business owner; property owners are not eligible applicants unless they are also the owner of the business for which the application has been submitted.
- Applicants must have been in business at the impacted location a minimum of two years.
- Applicants must be a street-level retail, restaurant, or service located within the DDA and operating prior to the incident causing severe business impact. This can include restaurants, wellness/fitness services, bars, soft goods retail, and other storefront

dependent business types that require a physical storefront or place of business in order to operate viably. Office users and other business types that are not dependent on a physical storefront are not eligible; including, but not limited to, real estate offices, insurance offices, law firms, banks, and financial services.

- Applicants that have been displaced must reopen within the boundaries of the DDA within 12 months of the incident or be under contract on a property within the DDA to reopen.
- Applicants that do not own their property and are continuing operations in the same location must demonstrate an existing lease agreement of at least 18 months, or, if not, provide a written intent to extend the lease upon its renewal period.
- The place of business occupied by the applicant must have been rendered unusable or severely diminished by a major natural or manmade disaster or similar incident, including but not limited to: fire, car crash / collision, loss of utilities required for operation, limited or greatly diminished business access.
- Impacts to business operations due to scheduled road or sidewalk repairs or closures, utility upgrades or nearby construction projects are NOT considered eligible incidents.
- The incident must cause closure or severe hardship/diminishment of business for a period of six weeks or longer. Practical loss of use may be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- Applicants must carry existing liability insurance.

FUNDING DETERMINATION

Grants range from $5,000 to $50,000 and will take into consideration the following criteria:

- Size of financial loss from loss of business.
- Length of time the applicant has lost use of the place of business.
- Number of employees at the business.
- Cost of physical damage to the property.
- How the applicant demonstrates alignment with the Experience Downtown Plan
- The viability of the business prior to the incident, as demonstrated by financial statements depicting net positive operations or measurable improvement over time in decreasing debt and closing financial gaps.
- Square footage or size of the business.
- Length of lease remaining.

APPLICATION MATERIALS

- Summary sheet
- Narrative describing your business
- Narrative describing the incident that caused loss of use of the place of business or diminishment of operations
- Proof of insurance coverage
- A list of other financial support, indicating all support sources sought as well as secured or denied. This may include rent abatement or concessions, loans and their terms, grants, crowdfunding support.
- Financial documentation showing viability of business prior to the incident, including previous three years of P&L statements
- Plan for reopening within the boundaries of the DDA
- Any additional materials to support application as requested

TO APPLY

- Interested applicants are highly encouraged to first call the Downtown Partnership staff to discuss the incident and eligibility.
- Applications must be received and confirmed by Downtown Partnership staff within 60 days of the incident causing loss of business

All decisions concerning aspects of the grant application process, including eligibility, are within the sole discretion of the Downtown Development Authority board.

Submit grant application summary sheet and supporting documents electronically to: info@downtowncs.com**.** Address questions to Downtown Partnership at 719.886.0088.