

Entrepreneurial Support Grant

The Fairfield County Economic and Workforce Development Department understands that small businesses are a key to a successful local economy. The county's Entrepreneurial Support Grant was created to aid organizations that help individuals start or grow their business. This grant is not meant to directly support the local business but rather provide funding to organizations that support those local businesses in the form of entrepreneurial programming, a business incubator, maker space, or coworking space.

The Fairfield County Commissioners recognize that each economic development project is unique but that all investments to the community produce tangible benefits and serve as a public good. As such the Entrepreneurial Support Grant is designed to be flexible and adaptable to fit a community or organization's needs.

General Eligibility Qualifications:

In general, organizations that intend to utilize the Entrepreneurial Support Grant should meet the following criteria to be eligible. The Fairfield County Commissioners and the Fairfield County Economic and Workforce Development Department are the final decision-making authority for each grant application.

- ✓ Organization must be a not-for-profit or a public entity
- ✓ Facility or programming must take place within Fairfield County.
- ✓ Organization should provide a minimum of 50% matching funds for any grant.
- ✓ Organization should attempt to make a concerted and reasonable effort to recruit entrepreneurs whose business address is in Fairfield County.
- ✓ Projects that support high growth industries or provide above average wages will receive priority.
- ✓ Projects that reuse already existing, vacant building inventory within the county will receive priority.
- ✓ Organization must provide an overall budget detailing the project and why Fairfield County funds are needed to make the project successful.
- ✓ The organization must not be delinquent in any taxes owed to Fairfield County.
- ✓ The organization must identify any conflicts of interest with Fairfield County.

Application and Fulfillment Process:

There is a rolling application period. Applications can be found at <https://www.co.fairfield.oh.us/dev/>. Funding is limited each year. Grants may be awarded for multiple years with a maximum of three years per reward. Organizations may reapply after reward expires. Grant recipients must provide a minimum of the following year-end information by March 31 of each year during the grant term and for two years after the final grant payment:

- Operating revenues and expenses
- Number of businesses supported
- Number of people employed by the businesses supported
- Estimated annual payroll of the businesses supported
- Project timeline, if applicable

Please contact Rick Szabrak at Rick.Szabrak@FairfieldCountyOhio.gov with any questions.