**What is the We Are Mitchell Grant Program?**

The We Are Mitchell Small Business Emergency Relief Fund is an initiative created by the Mitchell County Chamber of Commerce and the Mitchell County Development Foundation to support Mitchell County small businesses during the COVID-19 epidemic. The program is supported by funds from the Duke Energy Hometown Revitalization Grant. Businesses will be invited to complete an application which will be reviewed by a committee of Foundation, Chamber and other partner organizations.

**Am I eligible for a grant?**

Businesses eligible for a We Are Mitchell/Hometown Revitalization Grant must meet the following criteria:

* Must be in good standing with regard to state and local taxes and licenses.
* Must have primary operations in Mitchell County.
* Must have less than 50 full time employees.
* Preference is given to businesses that:
  + Are independently owned
  + Have been operational for 12 months or more
  + Have a brick and mortar location
* Small business support awards are intended to help small businesses recover or “pivot” as a result of COVID-19. A pivot may include adding enhanced service or commerce opportunities for the business to adjust to the effects of the crises, such as modifying physical space, improving an e-commerce site for online sales, or expanding capacity for delivering goods and services. Some expenditures may include furniture for expanded outdoor dining, materials for construction of takeout windows, accessibility compliance for additional outdoor seating, additional fixtures required for compliance with public health issues, and building of e-commerce platforms, as well as other equipment or tools needed for creative adaptation and pivoting of businesses.
  + Payroll, rent and utilities are excluded.
  + The small business support awards may be used to reimburse small businesses for expenses already incurred.
  + Small business support awards may also support storefront beautification projects, but COVID-19 recovery projects will be prioritized.
* Applicants must be willing to provide the following information:
  + Financial information detailing a loss of at least 25% of revenue due to Covid-19
  + A one page summary of how funds were used and their impact on the business’ ability to survive the Covd-19 crisis, both six months and one year after dispersal of funds.
  + All other required information on the application.

**How does the application process work?**

* Starting on October 26, 2021, the applications will be received with a deadline of December 1, 2021. The review committee will review all applications and announcements will be made on January 15, 2022.

The application is online at https://forms.gle/4ywd8bwSMgR8cDAk8