



# City of Tigard

## Press Release

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13125 SW Hall Boulevard | Tigard, Oregon 97223 | [www.tigard-or.gov](http://www.tigard-or.gov)

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### **Tigard CARES Brings 1<sup>st</sup> Round of COVID-19 Relief to Tigard Small Businesses**

The City of Tigard and Micro Enterprise Solutions of Oregon (MESO) have partnered to award 94 grants to small businesses impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The awards represent the first round of small business relief provided by the Tigard CARES program, which was approved by the City Council on April 7, 2020.

The \$1,500 grants were awarded to firms with limited access to commercial banks and federal support. With 49 percent of the grants going to women-led businesses and 36 percent to minority-owned businesses, the Tigard CARES program demonstrates the city's ongoing commitment to equity and inclusion.

One grant awardee, Rosy Nails, will be able to pay its April rent and stay in business because of Tigard CARES funding. "We can't express how much it means to," Hang says. "We have been applying for so many grants and funds, but we haven't received any except this one. We are truly thankful for the City of Tigard team; you are extremely caring of your residents."

Another grant awardee, Urban Lash & Skin, is able to off-set immediate business costs which will go to rent, insurance, and utilities. "When I received the congratulatory email about the grant award, tears brimmed my eyes," Theresa Roth said. "With all the uncertainty for small businesses in Tigard, I am so truly grateful to the City of Tigard for their support."

A downtown Tigard institution, New Shoes Shoe Repair has been operating on Main Street since 1991. With severely reduced demand and curtailed cashflow due to the COVID-19 pandemic, New Shoes Shoe Repair was awarded a grant to help cover lease and utility payments and daily operating expenses. "I'm grateful for the City of Tigard's support during this tough time," Donny Myers says.



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Forced to close their doors due the state-mandated shutdown, Empyre Barbers was awarded a small grant through Tigard CARES that will help them continue to be a staple in the Tigard community. “We want to thank City of Tigard for reaching out and staying consistent in helping us with the support needed to get through this COVID- 19 pandemic together,” says Matthew and Lydia. “Since opening our doors, the community of Tigard has been so welcoming and supportive in our business. We are very honored to have our business in Tigard.”

Most grant recipients were notified on April 17th and have already received grant funds. The city is hopeful that its funding will act as a bridge to help businesses meet operating costs until additional funds are delivered, or the economy stabilizes.

“Given that we have more than two thousand very small businesses in Tigard, we had to make some choices about where to focus a few hundred thousand dollars. We are hoping that additional funds, from the city council or others will enable us to help even more.” said Economic Development Manager Lloyd Purdy.

Distributing the Tigard CARES programs grants is MESO one of two chosen Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) partners for the Tigard CARES program. As small business owners are now facing unexpected challenges, MESO is committed to supporting entrepreneurs that commercial banks often overlook, supplementing financial support with hands-on assistance, marketing and business planning services.

A second round of relief will enable Business Resilience Loans to dozens of businesses faced with costs related to rent, payroll, and future inventory. Loans from that round are expected to be announced in the coming days.

For more information and additional Tigard CARES Business Stories, visit [www.engage.tigard-or.gov/CARES](http://www.engage.tigard-or.gov/CARES)

To learn more about the City’s economic development program visit: [www.tigard-or.gov/ccdev](http://www.tigard-or.gov/ccdev)

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