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**STATE AWARDS 43 WORKING WASHINGTON SMALL BUSINESS EMERGENCY GRANTS
THROUGH YAKIMA COUNTY DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION**

(YAKIMA, Wash.) – Yakima County Development Association (YCDA), in partnership with the Washington State Department of Commerce (Commerce), has awarded 43 local small businesses with grants of up to \$10,000 each through the Working Washington Small Business Emergency Grant (WWSBEG) program.

Commerce administered the funds for the relief program, and through YCDA– the designated Associate Development Organization (ADO) for Yakima County – deployed \$380,495 across the county to businesses with 1-10 employees to offset operating and other costs caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The WWSBEG program total for the state was \$10 million.

“Each of these businesses faced unique challenges over the last three months,” said YCDA Executive Director Jonathan Smith. “We are grateful to disseminate these needed funds to small businesses so they can safely reopen and thank Commerce for the relief.”

“Small businesses are job generators, product and service providers, and they provide the unique character of our downtown and neighborhood commercial districts,” said Commerce Director Lisa Brown. “While we know there is much more to do, these Working Washington grants are designed to support them during this challenging time on the road to recovery.”

Over a two-week period in April, YCDA and other local business development organizations received over 750 applications, then 96 screened applications were forwarded to Commerce who then decided the final awards. YCDA will manage the grant contracts with each awarded business. The contract period runs through June 2021.

The selected pool of grantees includes twelve restaurants, seven retail establishments, five salons, four healthcare businesses, four construction-related businesses, three business services firm, two entertainment/recreation businesses, one auto shop, one education business, one childcare business, one family services business, one fitness facility, and one legal service business. The selected pool of grantees also includes 21 women-owned businesses, 16 minority-owned businesses, and three veteran-owned businesses, and one tribally-owned business. Located in nine different cities across Yakima County, these businesses will primarily use these funds to pay for rent, utilities, and other allowable expenses.

The WWSBEG recipients in Yakima County employ a total of 214 individuals, and it is estimated that these grants will prevent the loss of 189 jobs.



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YCDA is continuing to work with Yakima County and the City of Yakima to administer additional relief dollars for small businesses. “While we celebrate the 43 small businesses that received much-needed support, the remaining 700 plus small businesses that applied are left out. We are doing what we can to get dollars to assist those businesses too,” said Smith.

To find a full list of applicants who were awarded, visit:
<https://www.chooseyakimavalley.com/covid19/wwsbeg/>

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ABOUT YAKIMA COUNTY DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

Yakima County Development Association is a private non-profit economic development organization committed to enhancing the income, quality of life, and employment stability of Yakima County residents. Since 1985, the Yakima County Development Association has served over 100 businesses annually, created 5,750 new jobs at over 150 businesses, and facilitated \$490 million in investments in Yakima County businesses.