FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Denver Awards $585,000 of Emergency Relief to Local Nonprofits Providing Essential Services

Grants will help organizations heavily impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic

DENVER – July 28, 2020 – Denver Economic Development & Opportunity (DEDO) announced today that $585,867 in grants have been awarded to 57 local, community-based organizations and nonprofits that have been heavily impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The grants are being provided through the Nonprofit Emergency Relief Fund (NPERF), launched in mid-June as a rapid-response funding effort by Denver’s Economic Relief & Recovery Council to help organizations continue essential programs and services for residents across a spectrum of needs.

“These cash grants are our way of supporting those most affected by this health crisis as quickly as possible,” said Eric Hiraga, DEDO’s Executive Director. “Community-based organizations and nonprofits are on the front lines serving our neighborhoods and its residents, often operating with already limited resources. These funds will provide organizations with much-needed support to weather this difficult time.”

The NPERF provides one-time grant assistance up to a maximum of $15,000 to alleviate impacts directly resulting from COVID-19, and it is managed by DEDO’s division of Neighborhood Equity & Stabilization (NEST) in partnership with the Colorado Nonprofit Development Center and the agency of Human Rights and Community Partnerships.

The program is one of the primary economic relief initiatives launched by DEDO since the start of the pandemic to help Denver’s most vulnerable businesses and nonprofits and has an initial budget of $2M from Denver’s federal coronavirus relief fund allocation.

“The need for services has increased dramatically and the inequities nonprofits aim to address have been exacerbated while the funds coming in have dwindled,” said Melinda Higgs, President & CEO, Colorado Nonprofit Development Center. “CNDC is proud to partner with the city on the Nonprofit Emergency Relief Fund to assist nonprofits during this critical time.”

As with the Small Business Emergency Relief Fund, which was launched in early April, the city places equity and inclusivity at the forefront of the NPERF’s implementation. Most importantly, the program has a streamlined application process and offers extensive staff support to make funding more accessible to smaller organizations.

“Denver Inner City Parish (DICP) is grateful to Denver for providing this grant to support our efforts in combatting the effects of COVID-19 in the West Denver area. During the pandemic, DICP has seen community need and use of our food pantry services double, while demand has increased the cost of our food tenfold,” said Michael Bruno, DICP Hunger Programs Coordinator. “The amount of funding provided will support two months of food purchases and staffing, as well
as the transportation costs of DICP’s home food delivery program for those who are unable to leave their houses during the pandemic.”

The program continues to take applications for its two subsequent funding rounds, closing on August 7 and September 11).

Denver Economic Development & Opportunity is leading an inclusive and innovative economy for all Denver residents, businesses, and neighborhoods. By supporting local and global business development, workforce programs, and stabilization efforts in Denver’s diverse neighborhoods, we are creating opportunity for everyone to make a home, get a job, and build a future.

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