

Minneapolis Black Business Week

Notice of Funding Availability

2026

Introduction

Since 2019, the City of Minneapolis has hosted Black Business Week at the end of July, leading into National Black Business Month.

This annual event celebrates and supports Black-owned businesses and entrepreneurs through a series of activities and events. The City is seeking proposals for the 2026 Black Business Week, set to take place Monday, July 27 through Sunday, August 2, 2026.

There is \$100,000 available, and the City expects to fund multiple proposals. Individual applicants may request funds for up to \$20,000.

Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants for Black Business Week funding include:

- Non-profits
- For profit businesses
- Neighborhood and community organizations
- Cultural groups
- Individuals
- Partnerships of the above

Funded Activities

Activities funded through this program must align with the overarching goals for the identified cultural business week and take place within the City of Minneapolis (or virtually) between July 27 and August 2, 2026. We also will consider funding events taking place July 24 – 26. Proposals that support recovery from the economic impacts of Operation Metro Surge will be prioritized.

All activities and expenses must meet public purpose rules for City funds. Proposed activities may include:

- Workshops and trainings
- Networking events
- Pop-up markets
- Resource fairs
- Public promotional campaigns to support local businesses
- Events that support business development in Minneapolis

Eligible expenses	Ineligible expenses
<p>Program funds may be used for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Space rental fees • Equipment rental (e.g. AV equipment) • Speaker fees • Development of materials • Print materials • Event planning coordination • Interpreters and/or translation of materials • Photography and/or videography. Photos and/or videos must be provided to the City of Minneapolis for future use. • Marketing and promotion for events. Marketing and promotional materials must be pre-approved by the City, and use City-provided logo, branding. • Food and beverage for events. Food and beverage purchases must be made in accordance with the City’s food policy. 	<p>Program funds shall <u>not</u> be used for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Entertainment • Permit and license fees* • Decorations • Grants, gifts, donations, etc. to businesses or individuals • Advertisement for individual businesses • Giveaways, “swag bags”, prizes • Purchase of gift cards for any reason • Other items that do not have a public purpose.

** Other City funding is available to pay for public, commercial event permits in 2026*

Additional Requirements

- The City-provided logo must be included on all print and marketing material.
- Selected organizers must coordinate with City staff on promotion of activities.
- Activities utilizing program funds must be free, open to the public, and open to all interested attendees, regardless of race, ethnicity, or other characteristics.
- Selected organizations are responsible for all activity logistics.
- Organizers must coordinate participant registration where relevant and share registration data back with the City and/or report back estimated attendee/participation numbers for funded activities.

Timeline

NOFA/RFP Issued	April 1, 2026
Deadline for Written Questions	April 16, 2026
Q&A Posted Online	April 20, 2026
Submission Deadline	April 27, 2026 by 4 pm
Proposal Review and Evaluation	May 2026
Anticipated Contract Dates	June 1, 2026-August 31, 2026

NOFA Inquiries

Prospective responders should direct questions **in writing** to the department contact person Zoe Thiel at btap@minneapolismn.gov. All questions are due no later than April 16, 2026 at 4:00 pm. Questions will be answered in writing and posted under “documents” on the [CPED RFP website](#) on April 20. The department contact person cannot vary the terms of the NOFA. The City reserves the right to modify this NOFA at any time prior to the proposal due date. An addendum will be posted to the [CPED RFP website](#) if the NOFA is modified.

Proposal Submission

All applicants must submit a completed Proposal Form (Exhibit A). Applicants must email the Proposal Form to btap@minneapolismn.gov **by April 27, 2026 at 4:00 pm**. Proposals received after the deadline may be rejected. It is neither CPED’s responsibility nor practice to acknowledge receipt of any proposal. It is the applicant’s responsibility to assure that a proposal is received in a timely manner. Please make sure your proposal is complete. Incomplete proposals may be rejected.

Evaluation Process and Criteria

A committee of City staff will review and select proposals for funding. The City reserves the right to reject any or all proposals or parts of proposals, negotiate modifications to an entire proposal or specific components of the scope of work within a proposal to create a project of lesser or greater magnitude than described in this NOFA or the submitted proposal. In reviewing proposals, the review team will by consider the following criteria. The City may, in its sole discretion, expand or reduce the criteria upon which it bases its final decisions.

- Quality, thoroughness, and clarity of proposal.
- Qualifications and experience of staff.
- Demonstrated ability to coordinate and implement the proposed activities.
- How well the proposed activities meet City objectives.
- Cost of services proposed.
- Demonstrated relationship with communities involved in the proposed activities.

Selection & Contracting

Selected applicants will be required to enter into grant agreements with the City. The terms of the agreements will be finalized by the City and the selected applicants following selection. The agreements will be reimbursable, performance-based grant agreements.

The grant recipient will be required to attend a pre-grant award virtual meeting.

No Applicant Recourse

The City shall not be responsible for any costs incurred by any applicant in connection with this NOFA. Applicants shall bear all costs associated with preparation and submission of their proposals, and any other activity associated with this NOFA. This NOFA does not commit the City to award a contract. Submission of a proposal shall neither obligate nor entitle any applicant to enter into a contract with the City.

EXHIBIT A

Minneapolis Black Business Week Proposal Form

SECTION A – Applicant Information			
Business/ Organization name			
Website			
Primary Contact or Program Manager		Title	
Phone Number:		Email:	
Street Address			
City/State:		Zip Code:	

The contact person (entered below), on behalf of the above organization, hereby authorize the submittal of this application form in response to the Black Business Week NOFA.

Contact Person:

Date:

Section B- Organization's Mission, Background and Performance

Provide a bio of your organization, describing its work and mission.

Provide the names and qualifications of the staff who will lead the work on your proposed activity.

Describe your prior experience coordinating and implementing projects similar to your proposed activity.

Describe your organization’s relationship with and connection to the communities involved in the proposed activities .

Section C – Proposed Activity			
Title:			
Location:			
Date:		Times:	
Number of Participants (estimate):			

Provide a description of your proposed activity.

Describe how you will promote your proposed activity.

Describe any non-monetary support requested from the City for your proposed activity (e.g. staff to speak and/or table at the event).

Section D - Budget

How much funding are you requesting for your proposed activity (maximum award is \$20,000)?

Provide a line-item budget of your proposed activity, accounting for all expenses including those proposed to be funded by the City.