



**TOWN OF TEMPLETON
SELECT BOARD
160 Patriots Road, P.O. Box 620
EAST TEMPLETON, MASSACHUSETTS 01438
TEL: (978) 894-2755**

February 1, 2024

Dear Templeton Residents,

Subject: COVID-19 Recovery Micro Grants Program Policy Letter

We trust this letter finds you in good health. In response to the ongoing challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, The Templeton Select Board is proud to announce the establishment of a COVID-19 Recovery Micro Grants Program. This initiative is designed to provide financial assistance to individuals and community groups who have been adversely affected by the pandemic, helping to offset its impact and contribute to our collective recovery.

Purpose of the COVID-19 Recovery Micro Grants Program:

The COVID-19 Recovery Micro Grants Program aims to support residents and community groups who have experienced hardships as a result of the pandemic. Each micro grant, valued up to \$1000, will serve as a means to alleviate financial burdens, encourage community resilience, and contribute to the overall recovery efforts. Funds for this effort were allocated by the Select Board in a special vote concerning the distribution and use of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds received by the Town of Templeton. As such, micro grant recipients are bound by the rules and limitations of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and all corresponding regulations.

Equitable Distribution:

Our commitment to an equitable distribution of these micro grants remains unwavering. The application process has been designed to be accessible to all residents, ensuring that those who have been disproportionately affected by the pandemic have an opportunity to receive assistance. Special consideration will be given to applications that highlight the specific challenges faced by marginalized communities.

Application and Eligibility Process:

To apply for a COVID-19 Recovery Micro Grant, interested individuals or community groups should complete the accompanying application form. The form requests basic information about the financial impact of the pandemic, how the grant funds will be utilized to aid recovery, and any other relevant details. Any awards of a micro-grant are expressly for the purposes contained therein and DO NOT exempt any recipient from any applicable permits, fees, and/or other monies owed to the Town of Templeton.

Applications may be submitted electronically, by emailing grants@templetonma.gov, or as a paper copy in an envelope clearly labeled "Micro Grant Application" at the Select Board Office, 160 Patriots Rd,

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East Templeton. There is no deadline for applications, however the application window will close when total allocated funds are depleted or as they are scheduled to expire in approximately September of 2026; the review process will commence promptly upon each receipt of application. Please be aware, only registered residents or community groups of Templeton with a verifiable address on record with the town are eligible for this temporary grant program. Only one grant will be awarded per household or community group based on a 'first come, first served' basis. Applicant must be aged 18 or older.

Selection Criteria:

As authorized by this policy letter, a Town Administrator selected panel of municipal representatives will evaluate applications based on the following criteria:

1. Demonstrated Need: The applicant has experienced financial challenges directly related to the COVID-19 pandemic.
2. Impact on Recovery: The potential of the proposed use of funds to contribute to the applicant's recovery from pandemic-related hardships.
3. Feasibility: The plan for utilizing the grant funds is realistic and well-thought-out.
4. Inclusivity: Efforts to ensure that assistance reaches diverse segments of the community affected by the pandemic.

The Selection Panel will endeavor to consider each of the four criteria and consider approval if the application meets any/all of the four criteria or consider denial if not enough evidence supports award approval. The decision of the Selection Panel is final and may not be appealed.

Award Notification:

Successful applicants will be notified of their award decision within 60 days of receiving verification of submission. The Town of Templeton may announce a total number of awards to acknowledge the status of the program but will strive to keep applicant information confidential to the extent Massachusetts Public Record Law allows. Any further inquiries on the COVID-19 Recovery Micro Grant Program policy letter or application process may be directed to the Grants Administrator by emailing grants@templetonma.gov or by calling 978-894-2768.

We encourage all eligible residents to apply for this program as we work together towards a robust recovery from the impacts of COVID-19. Your strength and perseverance are invaluable assets as we collectively strive for a brighter future. Thank you for your continued resilience and commitment to the well-being of our community.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Currie
Chairman, Select Board
Templeton, Massachusetts