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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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City of Menifee Releases Fourth Round of Menifee CARES Small Business Relief Grant as Part of Comprehensive Business Support During Pandemic

MENIFEE, CA—In response to the economic hardships experienced by small businesses due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the recent announcement of additional closures by the State of California, the City of Menifee City Council unanimously approved Phase IV (4) of the Menifee CARES Small Business Relief Grant Program at the December 16, 2020 City Council meeting. This will provide an additional \$150,000 of local small business support. The City has already provided \$265,000 to local business in the first three rounds of this grant. The program is a part of the Menifee CARES Initiative and Menifee Forward campaign, which aim to support local businesses in a variety of ways during this challenging time. The new phase of grant funds provides eligible businesses between \$1,500 and \$5,000 to assist with the impacts of the pandemic. Businesses are encouraged to quickly turn in applications and supporting documentation. The application period will be open for one week to meet tight CARES Act funding deadlines for grant disbursement.

The City of Menifee and Menifee City Council recognize that small businesses are the backbone of the economy, and to promote their continued success and support of jobs, the City is utilizing CARES Act funding for the Menifee CARES Grant Program. The State provided CARES Act funding to cities for emergency response, public safety, and programs to respond to COVID-19.

In addition to the Menifee CARES Grant Program, the City's Economic Development Department and Menifee Chamber of Commerce have led multiple business retention efforts including, but not limited to, business resource guides and toolkits, economic surveying, essential business mapping, shop local marketing initiatives, workshops, boots-on-the-ground assistance, and giveaways, all to help local businesses. Additional highlights include being the first city in Southwest Riverside County to offer free temporary outdoor dining and personal service permits, two years of waived business license fees, and creatively partnering with Menifee restaurants by purchasing meals for food-insecure residents, well before the State developed a similar program. As part of the requirements for cities to receive the CARES Act funding that the City is using to assist small businesses throughout the pandemic, the City is required to educate residents and businesses about State mandates or campaigns as it relates to COVID-19.

During last night's City Council meeting, councilmembers expressed their support for Menifee's business community. "To the City of Menifee City Council, every business is essential. We want to show our support for our small businesses and do everything we can to support them. We are thankful for the CARES Act funding that allows us to provide these resources to Menifee businesses," echoed the councilmembers.

The Menifee CARES Small Business Relief Grant has assisted local Menifee businesses with working capital to support jobs, keep businesses open, maintain lease payments, and purchase PPEs as required by State guidelines. Since July, the City has assisted more than 53 business, and with this new influx of grant funding will increase that number to 83 or more.

Pre-applications will be accepted starting today, December 17, 2020 and close December 24, 2020 at 4 p.m. Grants will be made available for a maximum of \$5,000 (minimum of \$1,500) for eligible expenses through a lottery process. The Economic Development Department for the City of Menifee, who administers the program, encourages all eligible and reapplying businesses to apply as soon as possible. Please review the [Menifee CARES Small Business Grant Guide](#) to view the eligibility list, eligible expenses, and required documentation for the grant. Applications are available [HERE](#).

For more information about the Menifee Cares Small Business Relief Grant Program, or the Menifee CARES Initiative for businesses, please visit <https://www.menifeebusiness.com/disaster-resource/menifee-cares-grant/> or contact the Economic Development Department at (951) 723-3711 or econdev@cityofmenifee.us.

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ABOUT MENIFEE: *Situated in the heart of southern Riverside County along Interstate 215, Menifee is a vibrant, new city of more than 97,000 residents who enjoy a pleasant year-round climate, abundant recreational offerings, reasonably priced housing and convenient proximity to some of Southern California's premiere attractions and employment centers. Within its 50 square miles, Menifee's business, retail and entertainment outlets are starting to shape the community's character and this growing economic base is also contributing favorably to the city's strong financial position. Menifee's growing family-oriented population values the city's ongoing commitment to public safety, community events and smart growth for the future. All of these elements are working together to support the city's strategic vision to make Menifee one of the state's most promising new cities.*