



**For more information, contact:**

Andy Radig, Communications Coordinator  
(920) 236-5269; [aradig@ci.oshkosh.wi.us](mailto:aradig@ci.oshkosh.wi.us)

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**The City of Oshkosh and Wisconsin Women's Business Initiative Corporation  
Partner on Economic Development Program**

**OSHKOSH, Wis., October 12, 2021** – (UPDATED) The City of Oshkosh recently allocated \$150,000 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to The Wisconsin Women's Business Initiative Corporation (WWBIC) to launch the Oshkosh Micro Enterprise Program.

The program will award forgivable loans of up to \$7,500 to assist microenterprise businesses that have been negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic/economic crisis. Microenterprises are businesses that have five or fewer employees, including the owner. For businesses to be eligible, they must be located within the City of Oshkosh, meet low-to-moderate income qualifications for Winnebago County and document how the business has been adversely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The funds can be used for basic working capital, leasing space, insurance, utilities and staff salaries. Ineligible uses include non-business debt, personal expenses, financing for political activities and reimbursements for expenses incurred prior to February 1st, 2020. Funds will be targeted to for-profit, existing microenterprises started before February 1st, 2020. Upon application approval, WWBIC will provide technical assistance such as business coaching and mentorship opportunities.

Applications are reviewed on a first-come first-served basis. **The deadline to apply has been extended to Friday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> at 11:59 p.m.** Any interested small business owners should review all requirements for eligibility and all documents needed to apply. Additional information and the application for this funding opportunity can be found at <https://bit.ly/mico-entreprise-program>.

Please contact Colleen Bies, at [cbies@wwbic.com](mailto:cbies@wwbic.com) for additional information or questions about applying for The Oshkosh Micro Enterprise Program.

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