

Economic Development Resources Available to Gibsonton Residents

Information prepared by Eric Lindstrom as of August 6, 2020

The following questions were posed by attendees of the Gibsonton public meeting held on July 29, 2020. The questions are directly transcribed from the meeting. The answers have been provided by the Hillsborough County Economic Development staff.

Q: What resources are possible (being that Gibsonton is a lower socio-economic community) through County resources?

- *Currently*, both resident and business R3 programs are available to Gibsonton through Dec 30, 2020. The programs cover financial assistance for businesses and individuals that were harmed due to the COVID-19 crisis, including: workforce training; financial assistance for small businesses economically injured by the COVID-19 crisis; payroll incentives to businesses that qualify; and a matching reimbursement for the workplace for improvements directly related to mitigating the spread of COVID-19. Find additional information here:
<https://www.hillsboroughcounty.org/residents/public-safety/rapid-response-recovery-assistance-program-r3>

Q: What kind of plans and incentives that Gibsonton residents have for economic development activities?

Several County-wide programs are implemented and managed by the Economic Development Department that would assist business owners and entrepreneurs in the Gibsonton area.

- **Historic Preservation Challenge Grants.** The County financially supports, on a reimbursable basis, projects that promote historic preservation, heritage tourism and related business and economic development throughout the County. Find more information at:
<https://www.hillsboroughcounty.org/en/businesses/business-community/grants/action-folder/apply-for-a-historic-preservation-challenge-grant>
- **Special Events Partnership Grant.** The County supports non-profit organizations that organize events designed to strengthen and promote cultural assets through growing and supporting arts and cultural events that encourage place-making and community-building aligned with the County's community prosperity goals. A cultural asset, under this program, fine arts, historic places, people, or events, natural and/or recreational, and lifestyle, culinary and/or creative industries. Find more information at:
<https://www.hillsboroughcounty.org/en/businesses/business-community/grants/action-folder/apply-for-special-events-partnership-grant#:~:text=The%20Special%20Events%20Partnership%20Grant,economic%20and%20community%20prosperity%20goals.>
- **The Entrepreneur Collaborative Center.** The Entrepreneur Collaborative Center, or ECC, is located in Ybor City and was established by the County in 2014. The ECC provides Hillsborough County entrepreneurs easy access to business service providers, resources, mentorship, and specialty training. Most services are completely free of charge. Find more information at:
<https://www.hillsboroughcounty.org/en/locations/entrepreneur-collaborative-center>

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- **The Manufacturing Alliance of Hillsborough County.** The Alliance was formed in 2016 and the benefit to both residents and businesses are two-fold: existing and future companies can hire the talented employees they need and enterprising residents of Hillsborough County looking for fulfilling, well-paying manufacturing jobs can find them. Find more information at: <https://www.hillsboroughcounty.org/newsroom/2016/09/23/manufacturing-alliance-aims-to-provide-pipeline-of-workers>
- **Minority or woman owned business information and assistance.** The County has targeted programs to help minority or woman owned businesses flourish. The County provides resources, access to business opportunities, and training at no charge. Minority Certification and Small Business Registration are also provided at no cost to business owners. Assistance is provided in both English and Spanish. Find more information at: <https://www.hillsboroughcounty.org/en/businesses/doing-business-with-hillsborough/minorities-and-women>