

For Immediate Release: Tuesday September 13, 2016
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**OFFICE OF ECONOMIC AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCES
\$8.5 MILLION REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR
STRENGTHENING LOCAL NONPROFITS & SMALL BUSINESSES**
Funding to support community based organizations for direct services

San Francisco, CA—The Office of Economic and Workforce (OEWD) announced the release of a Request for Proposals (RFP) totaling \$8.5 million to strengthen and expand services for critical social and health services for our children, families, and in arts and culture and for small businesses in merchant corridors in San Francisco. The RFP encourages community based organizations to apply to provide direct services to small businesses and nonprofits over the next two years.

“The funding allows the Office of Economic and Workforce Development to provide more focused and direct assistance to non-profits and small businesses in our commercial districts,” said Todd Rufo, director of the Office of Economic and Workforce Development. “The resources will allow us to deploy vital services toward retaining small businesses and nonprofits in San Francisco; promoting our cultural districts; and activating vacant and underutilized buildings that continue to make our neighborhood commercial districts strong.”

Nonprofits and small businesses are centerpieces to the City’s workforce and overall health of the economy. The new funding leverages the financial, technical, and cultural investments from Mayor Lee through the Office of Economic and Workforce Development, which creates jobs and economic opportunities. The funding will also create permanently affordable space and ensure the long-term sustainability of neighborhood-serving nonprofits citywide.

The Office of Economic and Workforce Development offers a range of support and resources for San Francisco’s neighborhood commercial districts and small businesses. Through OEWD’s Invest In Neighborhoods (IIN) funding is made available for neighborhood community based organizations that enhance community and economic vitality, such as greening and beautification of a corridor, activation and programming of underutilized spaces through events, and marketing and promotion. In addition, a wide range of direct business counseling programs are funded to enhance and improve business models, provide access to capital for business’ to invest in new equipment, add inventory, and expand their business. It will also provide loans and matching grants for storefront and commercial space tenant improvements.

“Estoy altamente agradecida, la prioridad para mi negocio era hacerle mejoras a mis baños y a mi entrada, sin él apoyo de la ciudad esto no hubiera podido ser posible. ¡Estoy sumamente agradecida!” said Juanita Moran, Owner of Ricon Latino in the Excelsior Neighborhood.

“I am highly grateful, it was a priority for my business to make ADA improvements to my bathroom and my entrance. Without the support from the city, these improvements would not have been possible. I am extremely grateful,” said Juanita Moran, Owner of Ricon Latino in the Excelsior Neighborhood.

The underlying objective of the Nonprofit Sustainability Initiative is to ensure access to quality of life resources as well as education, health and human services to residents of San Francisco. Additionally, this investment is intended to support and stabilize nonprofit businesses, which are a vital economic force in San Francisco, by helping them activate underutilized space, evaluate real estate opportunities and secure permanent affordable space. The \$8.5 million in funding will initiate new and build upon existing programs to address critical needs and opportunities in the commercial corridors, and to nonprofits to continue to serve vulnerable populations and the arts. The investments to grant organizations will be administered through the Non-Profit Sustainability Initiative and Invest In Neighborhoods Initiative of the Office of Economic and Workforce Development.

The RFP was issued on Sept 2. For more information on the RFP, please visit the website of the Office of Economic and Workforce Development, www.oewd.org

About the Office of Economic and Workforce Development (OEWD)

The Office of Economic and Workforce Development's (OEWD) mission is simple – to create shared prosperity in San Francisco. OEWD provides city-wide leadership for workforce development, business attraction and retention, neighborhood commercial revitalization, international business and development planning.

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