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Biloxi Chamber of Commerce Small Business Grant Program

More than 80% of Mississippi Gulf Coast Chamber of Commerce, Inc.'s membership is made up of small businesses. Biloxi Chamber of Commerce has instituted a program designed to assist small business development and expansion. Biloxi Chamber of Commerce's Small Business Grant Program will provide financial support for its membership. Grants will be awarded to selected businesses in the Biloxi Chamber of Commerce service area who meet the specified criteria. Applicants who have not received a Biloxi Chamber of Commerce Small Business Grant in the past 3 years will be considered first.

Applications will be judged in the following categories:

- Grant funds will increase business exposure.
- Grant funds will increase business capacity.
- Grant funds will positively impact City and surrounding businesses.
- Plans for spending grant funds are clearly defined.

To apply, review the guidelines below and complete the application on the opposite side of this form. You must provide all requested information to be eligible.

To be eligible for the mid-year distribution, a completed application must be received at the Biloxi Chamber of Commerce office no later than 5:00 p.m. on May 26, 2016

To be eligible for the end of the year distribution, a completed application must be received at the Biloxi Chamber of Commerce office no later than 5:00 p.m., October 27, 2016.

Any applications received after the mid-year due date may be considered for the end of the year distribution, including those received in the mail. Completed applications may be dropped off in person or mailed to: Biloxi Chamber of Commerce Grant, 11975E Seaway Road, Gulfport, MS 39503.

Please type or print clearly. You may attach extra documentation if more space is required.

Guidelines and Eligibility Check List

(Business owner must check all listed to be eligible for the Biloxi Chamber of Commerce Small Business Grant.)

- _____ 1. Biloxi Chamber of Commerce is an affiliate of Mississippi Gulf Coast Chamber of Commerce, Inc. Becoming a member of Mississippi Gulf Coast Chamber of Commerce, Inc. is synonymous with Biloxi Chamber of Commerce membership. Call 228-604-0014 to join.
To be eligible for the Biloxi Chamber of Commerce Small Business Grant Program you must be a member of the Mississippi Gulf Coast Chamber of Commerce, Inc.
- _____ 2. The award may be granted to selected small businesses currently operating or reopening by grant submission date, in the City of Biloxi or Biloxi Chamber of Commerce Service Area (includes D'Iberville and Ocean Springs).
- _____ 3. Applicants must complete the entire application, and it must be typed or written clearly. Please include as much detail as possible.
- _____ 4. Application for the grant gives permission for the Biloxi Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, staff or a designee to visit the business for evaluation.
- _____ 5. To be eligible, applicants must be operating a business in the Biloxi Chamber Service Area (39530, 39531, 39532, 39540, 39564) and be a member of Biloxi Chamber of Commerce by the corresponding due date.
- _____ 6. A small business is defined as a business with the equivalent of 50 full time employees or less.
- _____ 7. Applications must be received in the Biloxi Chamber of Commerce office no later than 5:00 p.m., by the corresponding due date.
- _____ 8. Applicants must include a brochure, business card or flyer that adequately describes their business.
- _____ 9. If you are selected as a Biloxi Chamber of Commerce Grant recipient, you will be required to fill out a grant accountability form. Grant accountability forms will be distributed upon receiving the grant and due back three months after your grant is received. Failure to return this form may result in penalty for receiving future grant awards from the Biloxi Chamber of Commerce.

The decisions of the selection committee will be final.

The Biloxi Chamber of Commerce reserves the right to limit applications, modify or change the program at any time.

Questions? Call 228-604-0014 or email Rachael@mscoastchamber.com

Mississippi Gulf Coast Chamber of Commerce, Inc. is a membership organization made up of businesses in Harrison County and throughout South Mississippi. Through a partnership among the Biloxi, Gulfport, Long Beach, and Pass Christian Chambers of Commerce, Mississippi Gulf Coast Chamber of Commerce, Inc. promotes community and economic development on the Mississippi Gulf Coast

**Biloxi Chamber of Commerce
Small Business Grant Application**

Date Joined: _____
Office use only

Date: _____

Business Name: _____

Physical Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Email Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____ Fax Number: _____

Are you currently open for business? YES NO

Is your business home-based? YES NO

What year did you start your business: _____

Business Information:

Form of Business (**circle one**): Sole Proprietorship Partnership* Corporation

*If your business is a partnership, all owners must be listed below.

Type of Services/Products Offered: _____

Date Business Originated: _____ Number of Full-Time Employees: _____

*Business Owner(s): _____

Federal ID# _____ State ID# _____

Have you applied for the Biloxi Chamber Small Business Grant in the past? _____

On average how many chamber functions do you attend each year? _____

Have you or anyone from your company served on any committees with the Chamber? _____

What is your mission or vision of your business?

Give a brief statement on the plans for your business over the next five years.

Project Estimate: \$ _____ Describe how you plan to use the grant: _____

Attach additional information if needed

Grant Awards will be up to \$1000. If your project exceeds this amount or if you do not receive the full amount requested, will your project be completed? YES NO

Grant Amount Request: \$ _____

If you receive a Biloxi Chamber of Commerce Small Business Grant, will you use a Mississippi Gulf Coast Chamber of Commerce, Inc., member to complete your project? YES NO

By signing this application, I certify that the information in this application is true, complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I am aware that information will be kept confidential and that the selection of the grant recipients is at the sole discretion of the Biloxi Chamber of Commerce.

Signature: _____ Print Name: _____ Date: _____

*Signature: _____ Print Name: _____ Date: _____

*A second signature is required if there is more than one business owner.

ATTACH BUSINESS CARD, BROCHURE OR FLYER THAT ADEQUATELY DESCRIBES YOUR BUSINESS.