

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Jose M. Landeros (915-401-4736) Interim Director

County Approves New Round of Small Business Grants

LiftFund to Issue more emergency relief grants for small businesses

EL PASO, TX—Today, the Commissioners Court approved \$600,000 in CARES Act funds to provide a second round of small-business grants for companies located primarily throughout the unincorporated area and the City of El Paso.

Earlier in the year, the County partnered with LiftFund to provide grants under the El Paso Small Business Emergency Relief Program. Now, the Commissioner's Court has approved for staff to work with LiftFund to develop another round of grants for specific eligible activities. These grants will help businesses looking to provide open-air cafes, install drivethru or to-go service, establish an on-line web presence, engage in new marketing efforts or any other needs to maintain their current operations.

"We are eager to engage with an amazing community partner such as LiftFund to finalize the details of this second round or grant funding," said Jose M. Landeros, Interim Director of the Economic Development Department. "We thank the Court for their continued commitment to economic recovery during these uncertain times for many small and local businesses."

The tentatively timeline for LiftFund to solicit applications is set for the period between Monday, November 30 and December 8th. After a review, applicants selected for grants would be awarded between December 15th and December 22nd. Economic Development staff will work closely with LiftFund to finalize this agreement and present it to Commissioners Court for approval along with the final approved program schedule.

<u>The El Paso County Economic Development Department</u> administers programs which seek to enhance the business operating climate and promote heritage tourism throughout El Paso County. These efforts serve to enhance the quality of life for all residents.

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