

## MIAMI-DADE ECONOMIC ADVOCACY TRUST

# 2026 GRANT CYCLE OVERVIEW & GUIDE

The Miami-Dade Economic Advocacy Trust (MDEAT) is pleased to announce the launch of its 2026 grant cycle, offering two targeted funding opportunities designed to support businesses at different stages of growth across Miami-Dade County. All applications for this cycle must be submitted via the new online platform.

The **2026 Small Business Capitalization Program provides \$10,000 grants** to businesses that have been operating for three years or more, supporting expansion and long-term sustainability countywide. Additionally, the **Business Resource and Education Grant offers \$2,500 grants** to businesses established for six months to two years, helping early-stage enterprises build capacity and resilience.

Eligible entrepreneurs throughout Miami-Dade County are encouraged to apply and take advantage of these funding opportunities to advance and strengthen their businesses.

### **2026 SMALL BUSINESS CAPITALIZATION PROGRAM [\$10,000]**

Applicants must not have received a 2025 MDEAT Capitalization Grant. Businesses with common ownership or management as a 2025 recipient are also ineligible. If an owner operates multiple businesses and any received a 2025 Capitalization Grant, neither the owner nor any affiliated business may apply, even under a different business name. Only one business per owner or affiliated group with common ownership and/or management may receive funding.

#### **For-Profit Grant Eligibility**

Applicants must meet the following criteria to be eligible to receive grant funds:

- ✓ Eligible applicants must not have been an MDEAT Capitalization Grant recipient in 2025.
- ✓ Applicants must attend at least 1 2026 grant cycle workshop
- ✓ Business must have a physical Miami-Dade County address listed on Sunbiz.org
- ✓ Business must have and maintain a valid Local Business Tax Receipt.
- ✓ Provide IRS EIN Documentation
- ✓ Business must have been in existence for a minimum of three (3) years as stated on Sunbiz.org
- ✓ Provide the three (3) most recent years of signed business tax returns and/or Schedule C, along with the corresponding tax transcripts.
- ✓ Average revenue must be a minimum of \$24,000, not to exceed \$750,000 over the last three years
- ✓ Employs fewer than twenty-five (25) employees
- ✓ Only one affiliate by common ownership and/or common management awarded
- ✓ Is not currently in default and remains in good standing with all County loan and grant programs.
- ✓ Note that franchises or businesses affiliated with national chains are ineligible
- ✓ Align business operations with economic development goals such as community improvement, job creation and/or sustainability.
- ✓ Confirm that the business does not engage in any illegal activities

## Nonprofit Grant Eligibility

Applicants must meet the following criteria to be eligible to receive grant funds:

- ✓ Eligible applicants must not have been an MDEAT Capitalization Grant recipient in 2025.
- ✓ Applicants must attend at least 1 2026 grant cycle workshop
- ✓ Business must have a physical Miami-Dade County address listed on Sunbiz.org
- ✓ Business must have and maintain a valid Local Business Tax Receipt
- ✓ Provide IRS EIN Documentation
- ✓ Business must have been in existence for a minimum of three (3) years as stated on Sunbiz.org
- ✓ Provide proof of **verified IRS active status**
- ✓ Submit the most recent three (3) years of IRS Form 990
- ✓ Provide the three (3) most recent years of Balance Sheets, Income Statements, and/or Profit and Loss Statements
- ✓ Average revenue must be a minimum of \$24,000, not to exceed \$750,000 over the last three years
- ✓ Include Solicitation of Contributions from the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
- ✓ Submit IRS tax-exempt status documentation
- ✓ Employs fewer than twenty-five (25) employees
- ✓ Only one affiliate by common ownership and/or common management awarded
- ✓ Is not currently in default and remains in good standing with all County loan and grant programs.
- ✓ Note that franchises or businesses affiliated with national chains are ineligible
- ✓ Align business operations with economic development goals such as community improvement, job creation and/or sustainability.
- ✓ Confirm that the business does not engage in any illegal activities

## 2026 BUSINESS RESOURCE AND EDUCATION GRANT [START-UP \$2,500]

Applicants must not have previously received a MDEAT Business Resources and Education Grant, as this is a one-time funding opportunity. If an owner operates multiple businesses, only one entity under common ownership and/or management is eligible. If any affiliated business has received this grant in the past, neither the owner nor any related business may reapply, even under a different name. Only one award is permitted per owner or affiliated group.

## For-Profit Grant Eligibility

Applicants must meet the following criteria to be eligible to receive grant funds:

- ✓ Eligible applicants must not have been a previous MDEAT Business Resource and Education Grant recipient
- ✓ Applicants must attend at least 1 2026 grant cycle workshop
- ✓ Business must have a physical Miami-Dade County address listed on Sunbiz.org
- ✓ Business must have and maintain a valid Local Business Tax Receipt
- ✓ Provide IRS EIN Documentation
- ✓ Business must be 6 months - 2 years old on Sunbiz.org
- ✓ Businesses 1-2 years in existence must provide most recent signed business Tax Returns/Schedule C, along with corresponding tax transcripts
- ✓ Businesses under 1 year in existence provide 6 months of recent receipts and/or transactions (Sep-Feb)
- ✓ Employs fewer than twenty-five (25) employees
- ✓ Is not currently in default and remains in good standing with all County loan and grant programs.
- ✓ Align business operations with economic development goals such as community improvement, job creation and/or sustainability.

## 2026 MDEAT GRANT CYCLE

- ✓ Note that franchises or businesses affiliated with national chains are ineligible
- ✓ Confirm that the business does not engage in any illegal activities

### Nonprofit-Grant Eligibility

Applicants must meet the following criteria to be eligible to receive grant funds:

- ✓ Eligible applicants must not have been a previous MDEAT Business Resource and Education Grant recipient
- ✓ Applicants must attend at least 1 2026 grant cycle workshop
- ✓ Business must have a physical Miami-Dade County address listed on Sunbiz.org
- ✓ Business must have and maintain a valid Local Business Tax Receipt
- ✓ Provide IRS EIN Documentation
- ✓ Business must be 6 months - 2 years old on Sunbiz.org
- ✓ Provide proof of **verified IRS active status**
- ✓ Businesses older than 1 year must provide the most recent most recent IRS Form 990, Balance Sheets, Income Statements, and/or Profit and Loss Statements
- ✓ Businesses under 1 year in existence must provide 6 months of recent receipts and/or transactions (Sep-Feb)
- ✓ Include Solicitation of Contributions from the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
- ✓ Submit IRS tax-exempt status documentation
- ✓ Employs fewer than twenty-five (25) employees
- ✓ Is not currently in default and remains in good standing with all County loan and grant programs.
- ✓ Align business operations with economic development goals such as community improvement, job creation and/or sustainability.
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Navigating this Grant Cycle:

# Top Tips For A Successful Application



1. **Thorough Review:** Take the time to carefully review the application multiple times. Use a highlighter to mark important sections and ensure a clear understanding of what is required from each applicant.
2. **Seek Assistance:** Don't hesitate to reach out for help if you have any questions or need clarification. Attend our grant expo/workshop events or reach out to our technical assistance partners for guidance and support.
3. **Enthusiasm and Creativity:** Approach the application process with enthusiasm and creativity. Let your passion for your project shine through in your writing and ideas.
4. **Attention to Detail:** Pay close attention to detail. Meticulously go over each section of the application to avoid errors or oversights that could negatively impact your submission.
5. **Stay Organized:** Stay organized throughout the entire application process. Keep track of deadlines, requirements, and any supporting documents needed for your application.
6. **Exude Confidence:** Have confidence in your submission. Believe in the value of your project and convey that confidence in your writing and presentation.

