



## PRESS RELEASE

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### City of Hemet Announces Kitchen Grant Program to Support Local Culinary Businesses and Economic Growth

**HEMET, CA** – The City of Hemet Economic Development Department is pleased to announce the launch of the City of Hemet Kitchen Grant Program, a strategic initiative designed to support restaurant owners and culinary entrepreneurs while encouraging economic development and community revitalization throughout the City.

The application period opened on January 29, 2026, at 5:30 PM and will close on March 15, 2026, at 5:30 PM.

The Kitchen Grant marks the second application round of the now expanded citywide kitchen grant program, previously limited to the downtown area. A total of \$700,000 is available in grant funding, with awards expected to be limited to \$300,000 per project.

The program offers reimbursement-based financial assistance to qualified applicants seeking to establish or expand commercial kitchen facilities within the City of Hemet. By reducing upfront costs and barriers to entry, the program aims to strengthen the local food and beverage industry, support job creation, and enhance Hemet's dining and business landscape.

"Supporting small businesses and fostering entrepreneurship are key priorities for the City of Hemet," said City Manager, Mark Prestwich. "The Kitchen Grant Program represents a meaningful investment in local talent and helps create vibrant spaces that contribute to our community's economic vitality."

#### Program Highlights

- **Financial Assistance:** Reimbursement-based funding to offset eligible costs associated with the development of commercial kitchen facilities.
- **Local Investment Requirement:** Applicants must demonstrate a 20 percent financial contribution toward total project costs.
- **Permit Fee Exemptions:** Approved projects are exempt from City Planning and Building permit fees, further reducing development costs.
- **Eligible expenses** may include kitchen construction, plumbing, ventilation, layout improvements, and other infrastructure improvements necessary to support foodservice operations.

## **Community and Economic Impact**

The Kitchen Grant Program is designed to:

- Encourage the growth of locally owned restaurants and food-based businesses
- Support job creation and workforce opportunities
- Contribute to downtown and citywide revitalization efforts
- Strengthen Hemet's overall economic resilience

This initiative aligns with the City's broader economic development efforts focused on supporting small businesses and creating a business-friendly environment.

## **How to Apply**

Complete program guidelines, eligibility requirements, and application materials are available on the City of Hemet website. Interested applicants are encouraged to review all materials carefully and submit their applications prior to the March 15, 2026, at 5:30 PM deadline.

For additional information or application assistance, please contact the City of Hemet Economic Development Department at (951) 765-2300 or [econdev@hemetca.gov](mailto:econdev@hemetca.gov).

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