



Durham Library Foundation was a recipient of the SunTrust Lighting the Way Award to assist Durham County Library programming to support small businesses and emerging entrepreneurs.

**Request:** To use \$30,000 of the Lighting the Way Award to create a micro-grant specifically for Durham based sole proprietors and small businesses with 15 FTE or less.

**Reason:** Due to the major impact of Covid-19 on the entrepreneurial community in Durham and the participation of Durham County Library on the Small Business Task Force for Durham, we have seen the true need that exists with small businesses who did not qualify for the PPP and EIDL programs. The transition of some of the program funds to grant funds would allow Durham County Library to further embed into the entrepreneur eco-system in a practical and tangible way in addition to the programming and partner access that is in place.

**Timeline:**

- July – August: Gain approval from Library leadership for micro-grant library-based program
- September – October: connect with community evaluators to refine criteria for application
- November – Applications Open
- December – Applications Close
- January 2021 – Application Review
- March 2021 – Recipients are notified

**Criteria for Applicants**

- Business based within County (Durham) Limits
- Must be able to complete an information session based on their business or path to entrepreneurship for Durham County Library
- Businesses must be under 15 employees
- Companies must have proof of a business license or sole proprietorship

**Potential Applicant Evaluators**

- **Representatives from the City of Durham and the County Durham**
- **Small Business Center of Durham Tech**
- **Business Services Librarian for Durham County Library**
- **Assistant Director or proxy for Durham County Library**
- **Banking Representative SunTrust/ Truist**