



# MARIPOSA COUNTY

## SAFE (Safety And Freedom Enhancement) Program

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### Situational Summary

The COVID-19 pandemic has swept the world and caused havoc on the global economy. On March 19, 2020, Governor Newsom enacted a SiP (Shelter in Place) order for the state of California, which closed down all non-essential businesses. The entire state was in containment and a travel ban was put into place, allowing only essential travel. As California succinctly flattened the curve, the governor discussed loosening restrictions. The state was initially in Phase 1, which only allowed grocery markets, gas stations and hardware stores to open fully. Restaurants were only allowed pickup, delivery and curbside delivery. On May 8<sup>th</sup>, the governor announced that the state would enter Phase 2, allowing retail stores to offer pickup and curbside delivery. Mariposa County applied for an attestation to Phase 2.5, allowing dine in service at restaurants with a limited capacity. The attestation was approved by the California Department of Health on May 13<sup>th</sup> and several restaurants quickly opened for dine in service.

As the state, and county, slowly prepares for reopening of the various business sectors, safety guidance has been created and issued to each sector. Mariposa County has conducted several GoTo meetings to discuss safety guidelines with county professionals available for questions. As county businesses become to open, government staff recognizes that there will be questions, challenges and costs associated with adhering to recommended guidelines.

### Introduction

The County of Mariposa ("County") is pleased to offer its local businesses an opportunity to apply for the SAFE program, which will provide reimbursements for COVID-related safety measurement purchases. The purpose of the business relief program is to assist Mariposa County businesses in meeting enhanced safety guidelines as outlined in the governor's road map to reopening California.

The County realizes that the safety guidelines could come with an additional cost to the businesses, which many have experienced two months of lost revenue and out-of-pocket costs to create innovative solutions to stay in business. The SAFE Program could help alleviate the burden of the added costs to comply with safety guidance.

### Program Summary

The SAFE Program will provide emergency relief to local businesses that need access to capital for compliance with state safety guidelines. The program would provide reimbursements for each business that is funded. The funding program would be "first come, first served" until funds are depleted, with each applicant submitting an application. The application will include a budget for the additional safety guidelines, and a business plan that outlines how the business plans to adhere to new social distancing practices and provide a safe environment inside their facility.

The funding will come from the County's PI (Program Income) which has a balance of approximately \$78,500.

## Selection Process & Criteria

Projects will be reviewed by a committee based on the following criteria to determine, to the best of our knowledge, if requested funds will help the business meet a specific guideline required or recommended by the State or County in order to reopen:

1. The business followed the governor's SIP orders and stay closed until it was permitted to open.
2. The business incurred costs to follow suggested state safety guidelines for their business sector.
3. The business is up-to-date with all required tax payments.
4. The business has a current FBN (Fictitious Business Name).
5. The business was open prior to the SIP order.

## Eligibility

Applicants must meet the following criteria to be eligible for the SAFE program:

1. The business for which the grant is used must be located within Mariposa County and have a current FBN or prove that it is exempt from filing an FBN.
2. The business for which the grant is used must be current on all taxes including transient occupancy taxes due on or before May 1, 2020.
3. The applicant must be the owner or operator of the business.
4. Non-profits and home-based businesses are not eligible.

## Guidelines

Grant awards are subject to the following:

1. This is an ongoing loan forgiveness program. Submission of invoices verifying work was completed to California State sector guidance according to appropriate industry is required for all reimbursements.
2. Projects must demonstrate that they assist a local business to complete safety measures necessary to reopen their businesses under the governor's road map. This program is not intended to fund routine operations or purchases.
3. Applicants are responsible for submitting all appropriate documentation, including invoices and receipts for completed work, with their application. Only documented expenses may be reimbursed under this program.
4. Projects must comply with all local, state and federal law. If necessary, appropriate permits must be obtained prior to reimbursement. No reimbursement will be issued to businesses that are known to be operating contrary to state or county public health officers' orders.
5. A completed application must be submitted electronically to [tschiff@mariposacounty.org](mailto:tschiff@mariposacounty.org). No changes to the application are permitted after it has been submitted.
6. Application reviewers will respond to all complete applications within two business days. Approved applications will receive a check within two weeks of the date of approval.
7. Applicants will be reimbursed for expenses made to adhere to safety measures for the reopening of their business. Mariposa County reserves the right to adjust the program and its funding tiers and fund requests at its discretion.
8. This program will continue as long as funds are available unless suspended by the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors at its sole discretion. Additional funds may be leveraged, as needed.

**SAFE Program Review**

**Overall Score:**

**/100**

**Scoring Matrix**

**Confirmation #:**

**Business Name:**

**Reviewer's Name:**

**Date Reviewed:**

**Defined Scoring Criteria**

**1) Was the business essential or non-essential under the governor's COVID-19 Shelter-In-Place Order?**

Yes This shows whether or not a business fell within the 16 critical infrastructure sectors to continue business operations or if they fell outside and were forced to shut down. Executive Order N-33-20 directed all residents to heed current State public health directives to stay home, except as needed to maintain continuity of operations of essential critical infrastructure sectors and additional sectors as the State Public Health Officer designated as critical to protect health and well-being of all Californians. If the business was deemed essential, we will need a description of what the business did to comply with state health orders and how it maintained safety during the Shelter-in-Place order. We will also need to know what the business does to determine if it meets one of the 16 critical infrastructure sectors to be classified as essential and remain open during the SIP.

No What phase was your business was allowed to reopen? \_\_\_\_\_  
If not currently permitted to reopen, which phase your business will be allowed to reopen? \_\_\_\_\_

- a. What preparations will your business make to follow the governor's suggested guidelines for your sector? \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Did you attend the business sector GoTo meetings coordinated by Mariposa County?  
 Yes       No
- c. Do you have a plan for reopening with new social distancing and safety guidelines in place? Please attach a copy of the plan.

**2) If your business was non-essential under the governor's SIP order, did you remain open or did you follow orders and close until permitted under appropriate phase?**

If your business was non-essential and stayed open during the governor's SIP order, you are not eligible for the grant. If your business opened prior to your permitted phase, you are not eligible for the grant.

**5) What is the ability to pay for supplies to follow businesses new safety reopening plan?**

Please provide a budget to meet the demands of your new safety reopening plan that follows the state's recommended safety measures & guidelines for your business sector.

**6) What is the business' economic need for safety supplies for the next 30 days (total \$ amount)**

How much total money does the business need to stay meet the governor's recommended guidelines for your business sector?

**7) Explain the current economic impact to the business due to COVID-10/ Shelter-In-Place**

Consumers are practicing social distancing to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and following recommendations for Shelter-in-Place, leaving their homes only for essential purchases and activities. Bars and restaurants are seeing business slow, hotels are experiencing cancellations, and layoffs are spread across industries. Change in daily function of businesses, such as restaurants now doing curbside pick-up, meaning less employees are needed daily. Sudden impact of COVID-19/Shelter-in-Place was not likely in their business plan/models, nor was the added expense of additional safety measures, hence importance of assistance during this time for these businesses.

**8) Valid business FBN and proof of payment of taxes, including TOT**

Business has been operating in Mariposa County before impact of COVID-19. Establish business stability in Mariposa County. Documentation: Proof of current FBN and current on all required taxes

**9) Explain the intended use of the funding that may be provided by Mariposa County?**

It is important that businesses have a safety plan in place for near and long-term future. The plan should follow California's recommended guidelines for your business sector. Requesting information as to how grant funds will be spent gives the Scoring Committee an insight of the short-term planning process as well as an acknowledgement that the monies will not be misused.

Documentation: Narrative

**10) What is the ability to pay payroll or mortgage/ lease obligations and monthly bills while also paying for supplies to follow the necessary safety measures?**

The Business has been paying mortgage/ lease obligations and monthly bills before the impact of COVID-19. Business has been stable before the impact of COVID-19, and is it able to continue to be viable during this crisis and adhere to recommended safety guidelines. Business proves the ability to continue to adhere to necessary safety measures. Documentation: Lease agreement and last three months receipts of utilities paid.