



## PRESS RELEASE

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### Hemet Unveils Kitchen Grant to Spice Up Downtown Business Revival

**Hemet, CA** — The City of Hemet is thrilled to announce a new initiative, the Downtown Kitchen Grant, specifically designed to spark a revitalization in the downtown district. This program offers a substantial financial incentive, providing up to \$300,000 in grant funding to assist potential businesses in establishing modern, fully equipped restaurant kitchens within the Hemet downtown area.

This initiative is a cornerstone of the City's broader economic development strategy, Hemet RISES (Resurgent Investment Strategy for Economic Success), which aims to promote business retention and expansion, position Hemet for strategic investment, and foster a business-friendly environment.

The core objective of the Downtown Kitchen Grant is to attract a diverse range of culinary businesses that can serve as anchors, drawing in both local residents and visitors, and creating a more vibrant and active environment in the heart of Hemet. Recognizing the pivotal role that a dynamic food scene plays in a community's economic vitality, social fabric, and overall quality of life, this program aims to support the establishment and expansion of high-quality restaurants.

The anticipated outcome is a transformation of the Hemet downtown landscape, with an influx of appealing dining options that will enhance the area's attractiveness and contribute to a renewed sense of community and economic vitality. The City envisions a transformed downtown, a culinary destination that attracts both residents and visitors alike.

Interested businesses have a limited window to apply, with the grant application period open from May 6 to June 5, 2025. Applicants must demonstrate a 20% financial commitment as a matching contribution toward the project.

The grant funding is specifically intended for materials directly related to the Downtown Kitchen Grant construction, focusing on kitchen development and revitalization rather than routine maintenance or equipment (e.g., tools).

**Eligible items include:** *Commercial-grade range/oven, High-volume refrigerator, Commercial dishwasher, Hood system and ventilation, Three-compartment sink, Walk-in freezer, Food processor, Ice machine, Grease trap installation, Professional-grade knives and cutting boards.*

For more information about Kitchen Grant or upcoming initiatives, contact the City of Hemet's Economic Development Manager, Ben Sandoval, at (951) 669-0265.

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