Main Street High Side Project
Beer Cheese Relief Fund

The purpose of the Main Street High Side Project Business Compensation Grant is to reimburse businesses for actual loss of income stemming from the High Side Project, which is located on the east side of Main Street between Broadway Street and West Lexington Avenue. This is a supplemental grant intended to offset loss of revenues caused by incremental closures and other unforeseen impacts during construction in businesses in the Downtown Winchester Historic District during the High Side construction phase.

Eligibility

- Any commercial business in the Downtown Historic District whose business is reliant on 50% (or more) walk-in traffic.
- Applicants must currently be open for business a minimum of twenty (20) hours per week.
- Business must be located in the High Side construction zone, which includes Main Street-facing business from Broadway Street to Lexington Avenue.
- Up to date on applicable fees generated by the City of Winchester which includes (but is not limited to) business license, code enforcement, property taxes, etc.
- Submission of a short narrative evidencing financial impacts during the High Side Project.
- Businesses who are awarded this fund must commit to remaining open a minimum of six (6) months following the completion of the High Side construction.
- Business that do not maintain an open-for-business minimum of twenty (20) hours per week may be required to refund a portion or entirety of monies awarded from this fund.

Program Parameters

- Fund application will be available until January 1, 2026. Funds will be issued so long as they are available. Once funds have been exhausted, no more grants can awarded.
- Businesses will only be eligible for the Beer Cheese Relief Funds once.
- Profit and Loss statement certified in writing by either an accountant or business owner evidencing losses to date. Losses can be evidenced by illustrating year-to-date period, or month-to-month comparisons.

- Eligible Funds: up to $10,000.00 per business (including any funds awarded through the Main Street High Side Business Support grant).
- Funds will be distributed following review by an independent Certified Public Accountant, chosen by the downtown business-owner and building-owner group, who will verify profit and loss statements and submit a summary in writing for review. Business financials will be sealed until delivery to the accountant via a downtown building owner or business owner representative (who is not applying for a grant). Financials will be shredded following review. A ranking will then be established by the Advisory Committee, along with applicable grant totals, to the Commission for review and approval. (Individuals serving on the Business Compensation Grant Advisory Committee, which will be comprised of downtown business owners and building owners, cannot apply for grants, nor own properties where businesses are seeking funds.)