

**FY 2026-2027 BUDGET QUESTION**  
***Response to Request for Information***

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**DEPARTMENT(S):** Austin Economic Development;

**CBQ NO.:** 72

**REQUESTED BY:** (District 3) José Velásquez

**DATE REQUESTED:** Monday, July 27, 2026 11:34 AM

**DATE POSTED:**

**REQUEST:**

Could you please provide a breakdown of Austin Economic Development (AED) funding opportunities for the community, including, but not limited to, grants and micro-loans and how those were distributed last fiscal year?

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**RESPONSE:**

Austin Economic Development (AED) provides the following community funding opportunities.

- AED's Business Incentives and Expansions Division supports strategic planning and implementation of Economic and Cultural Districts. In addition to prescribed district development initiatives, districts may receive an activation award or renewal grant to support organizational development of partner merchants' associations. The FY26 awards included:
  - \$15,000 for East Cesar Chavez District Renewal Grant
  - \$20,000 for Aldrich Street at Mueller Activation Award
  - \$20,000 for South First Street Activation Award
- AED's Small Business Division has partnered with Kiva, a non-profit that makes crowdfunded loans available to microbusinesses and small businesses. The program was implemented in March 2026, and they have facilitated 4 loans since inception for a total of \$32,000, with 4 more loans in the queue. These loans have 0% interest and no fees.
- AED's Community Technology Division manages the Grant for Technology Opportunities Program (GTOPs), a grant program focused on digital equity, specifically promoting internet access, device access, and digital skills training. In FY 2025, AED invested \$400,000 in GTOPs across 30 awards. The FY26 awards are pending finalization but will total \$400,000.