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The Aaron Rodgers Small-Business COVID-19 Fund at North Valley Community Foundation will pay \$578,000 in rent to help out 79 businesses in Butte County.

The grants in the second round of funding will provide at least two months of rent — and often significantly more — for small businesses.

The fund received a \$236,725 donation from “Jeopardy!” after Rodgers, a Chico native and the reigning NFL Most Valuable Player, guest hosted the show for two weeks in April. There was also money left in the fund from the first round of grants. Rodgers then made another large contribution to increase the funding for each business in the second round.

Coupled with a first round of grants in March, the Aaron Rodgers Small-Business COVID-19 Fund has helped 159 small businesses with grants totaling \$1,599,967.

Rodgers and Alexa Benson-Valavanis, president and CEO of NVCF, personally called several businesses Friday to tell them the news.

“The first round of grants was so impactful,” said Benson-Valavanis. “I am excited that with the help of Aaron, ‘Jeopardy!’ and the many people who have contributed to the fund we can do this again.”

The 79 businesses include restaurants, retail stores, museums, bars, fitness centers, beauty salons and much more. Locally owned and operated businesses with 20 or fewer full-time equivalent employees in select sectors were eligible to apply.

The minimum awarded was \$2,500 and the average grant was more than \$7,300.

“We hope that the rent payments will help them bridge the gap to a time when herd immunity allows businesses to be operating somewhat normally again,” said Alexa Benson-Valavanis, NVCF president and CEO. “We know many businesses are struggling with debt incurred during the shutdown. This will help significantly.

“People ask me all the time how they can thank Aaron Rodgers for what he has done here. I'm pretty sure one of the best things we can do to show our gratitude is shop locally as often as possible.”

NVCF has mobilized more than \$2.8 million in grants for coronavirus relief through various funds.

Rodgers has frequently stepped up to provide help for his hometown but has been a key partner of NVCF since the Camp Fire on Nov. 8, 2018. He was a founding partner of the Butte Strong Fund along with NVCF and Sierra Nevada Brewing Co. He personally contributed more than \$1 million to the fund and helped NVCF raise millions more. The small-business fund was unveiled earlier this year and Rodgers has contributed \$1 million to that as well.

Here are the 79 businesses that received a grant in the second round of funding:

Helen's Donut Nook  
Drunken Dumpling  
Gogi's Cafe  
Japanese Blossoms  
Fresh Twisted Cafe  
Unwined Kitchen & Bar  
Chanpheng's Mandarin Cuisine  
Windy Chinese Restaurant  
Casa Vieja  
Son of a Wich  
El Rey Mexican Grill  
Chicobi's  
Chico Theater Company  
California Regional Theatre  
FunLand / Cal Skate Chico  
Chico Children's Museum  
Chico Air Museum  
Chico History Museum  
Pageant Theater  
Terrain Park Climbing Center  
Chico Boot Camp  
9Round

HYPE Dance Studio  
Basis Health & Performance  
Curves Paradise  
Paradise Stronger  
Freebird Yoga  
530 Strength & Conditioning  
Argus  
Joe's Bar  
The Commons  
Studio Inn Lounge  
The Maltese  
Crazy Horse Saloon  
Quackers  
Panama Bar and Cafe  
The Beach  
University Bar  
Piggs Club  
Boba TeaLicious  
Butte Meadows Mercantile & Resort  
Fleet Feet Chico  
Recognition Products  
Kats Meow  
Tomfoolery  
Urban Couture  
Pink Willow Boutique  
For Elyse  
Woodzee Sunglasses  
Heel and Sole  
Anika Burke  
BaT Comics & Games  
2econd Life  
Mondos Coffeehouse  
Gale Vineyards LLC  
LaRocca Vineyards tasting room  
Gallery Interiors  
12 Volt Tattoo  
I Feel Pretty Beauty Boutique  
Diane Nicole Photography  
Sports Barbershop  
Envee Hair Studio  
Braids By Gabbi  
Satori Color & Hair Design

Canopy Hair Studio  
Salon Diamond  
Fashion Nails Spa  
Le Beau Visage Permanent Cosmetics  
The Idea Emporium  
Enchanted Play Infant & Preschool Center  
MC Parts N Stuff  
Diamond Dash Meal Prep Service  
Glow Aesthetics by Elise  
Massage By Jenn Chico  
Chico Art School  
The Studio 561  
Diamond W Western Wear  
Wacky Wags Doggie Daycare Center  
Great Pair Eyewear