

PRESS RELEASE

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De Pere awarded \$100,000 business grant from WEDC

DE PERE, Wis. — The City of De Pere is excited to announce it has been awarded a \$100,000 Small Business Development Grant from the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation.

The announcement was made this morning at Orsetta Craft Kitchen, with remarks from Mayor Boyd, WEDC Secretary and CEO Missy Hughes, and others.

This funding will expand our *Experience De Pere Program*, which helps small businesses move into vacant storefronts. Since launching in January, the program has already awarded \$120,000 to eight businesses in the downtown district, including Orsetta Craft Kitchen and neighboring Voyageur Bakehouse.

With this grant, the program will now extend to the Main Avenue corridor from Fort Howard Drive to Lawrence Drive, opening the door for more retail, restaurant, and experience-based businesses to grow. Grants of \$5,000, \$10,000, or \$15,000 are available, with a focus on unique concepts and underserved entrepreneurs.

“Thank you to the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation for supporting De Pere’s commitment to a thriving, vibrant business community,” said Mayor James Boyd. “Together, we’re not just revitalizing our downtown. We’re building something deeper; a community rooted in purpose, belonging, and resilience.”

For more information on this and other business-related grants and programs in the City of De Pere, visit www.deperewi.gov/development.

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