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**NEWS
RELEASE**

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City of El Paso Awarded National Grant to Launch Veterans in Business Accelerator

U.S. Conference of Mayors DollarWise grant supports veteran entrepreneurship and economic mobility

EL PASO, Texas—The City of El Paso has been awarded a \$10,000 DollarWise Economic Mobility Grant from the U.S. Conference of Mayors to design and launch the Veterans in Business Accelerator, the City's first dedicated entrepreneurship accelerator for veterans, implemented through the City's Business One-Stop Shop (BOSS) program.

The award was presented during the U.S. Conference of Mayors' 94th Winter Meeting, held January 28-30, 2026, in Washington, D.C. The program is anticipated to launch in fall 2026 and will serve an inaugural cohort of eight local veteran entrepreneurs.

The four-week accelerator will provide hands-on training, one-on-one mentorship, coordinated connections to Entrepreneurial Support Organizations (ESOs), and \$500 seed microgrants to support early business needs such as licensing, marketing, or equipment upgrades.

“Veterans have already proven they can lead under pressure, solve problems, and deliver results,” said Mayor Renard U. Johnson. “When those skills are matched with the right tools and support, veterans do not just start businesses. They create jobs, expand services, and keep dollars circulating right here in our community. El Paso should be the place where military experience turns into business ownership, long-term opportunity, and real economic growth for families across our City.”

“We are proud to be spearheading the City of El Paso’s first Veterans in Business Accelerator through the Business One-Stop Shop,” said Economic Development Assistant Director Mirella Tamayo. “Veteran entrepreneurs contribute invaluable leadership and resilience to our economy, and this initiative ensures they have the support, guidance, and connections necessary to turn their experience into lasting business success.”

Program Overview

The accelerator will run four weeks, with one workshop per week lasting two to three hours. Sessions will focus on translating military experience into entrepreneurship, business planning and funding fundamentals, marketing and digital presence, and operations, compliance, and growth pathways.

Participants will also receive post-program support through 30- and 90-day check-ins, referrals to partner organizations for specialized assistance, and optional enrollment in the City’s Buy El Paso Open Rewards Program to help boost local sales and visibility.

The program will be delivered in collaboration with partner organizations, leveraging the BOSS’s broader network of ESOs.

To learn more about the BOSS program and available small business resources, visit EIPasoBOSS.org.

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Promoting Transparent & Consistent Communication
Among All Members of the Community

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