



THE
BRIDGEFUND

Bridge Fund

\$40 Million grant fund to provide financial relief to small businesses in the restaurant, retail, and entertainment sectors that have experienced at least a 20% reduction in revenue during the Public Health Emergency related to COVID-19.

Eligible Applicants: For-profit, small business in the restaurant, retail, or entertainment sector currently operating in a brick-and-mortar business location in the District and generated gross receipts of no more than \$5 million in each 2019, 2020, and 2021. (additional eligible business types listed on slide 4)

Award Range: \$20,000 - \$100,000 (non-competitive grants)

Award Formula: Up to 100% of monthly fixed costs (rent, payroll, utilities) for three months, with a maximum award of \$100,000. Final award amounts may be less than 100% of fixed monthly costs depending on the availability of funding, to ensure as many businesses can receive funds as possible.

Priority Review: During the application review period, business that did not receive an award from the Paycheck Protection Program, and businesses that earned no more than \$2.5 million in each 2019, 2020, and 2021, will receive priority review for eligibility and award.

Timeline:

Application Period One

- Opened: **Monday, January 24, 2022**
- Closes: **Friday, February 25, 2022 at 11:59 PM EST**

Application Period Two **(Deadline extended!)**

- Opens: **Saturday, February 26, 2022**
- Deadline: **Thursday, March 31, 2022 at 5:00 PM EST**

Application: Available through www.obviouslydc.com/fy22-business-funding-opportunities

Bridge Fund

Eligibility Requirements

- Must be an eligible business type (slide 4)
- Must be a for-profit, small business physically located in the District of Columbia at a brick-and-mortar location
- Must have generated no more than \$5 million in gross receipts in each 2019, 2020, and 2021
- Must be able to demonstrate at least 20% reduction in revenue as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic
- If a franchise with multiple locations, must be independently owned and operated
- Must currently be in operation unless mandated to be closed by public health guidance
- Must demonstrate business has site control of the space
- Must be able to provide a Certificate of Clean Hands dated within 90 days of application
- Must have an active DC Basic Business License, and an active ABRA License, if applicable
- Owners of multiple businesses are eligible, as long as each location has a unique EIN and satisfies all eligibility criteria, up to a maximum of 5 locations
- Sole proprietors must be District of Columbia residents

Additional application criteria is outlined at www.obviouslydc.com/fy22-business-funding-opportunities.

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Eligible Business Types*

Restaurant

- Bakery
- Bar or Tavern (with tavern license)
- Cafe
- Cafeterias
- Caterer
- Coffee Shop
- Delicatessens
- Food Court
- Food Trucks
- Restaurant
- Vending Trucks or Carts
- Winery, Brewery, Distillery (with tavern license)

Retail

- Art Gallery
- Art Supply Store
- Bookstore
- Cards, Gifts, Party Store
- Clothing/Specialty Apparel Store
- Consignment Shop
- Convenience Store
- Corner Stores
- Dry Cleaner
- Electronics Store
- Flooring Center
- Florist Manufacturer with On-Site Retail
- Furniture Store
- Grocery Store
- Gyms / Yoga, Dance, or Fitness Studios
- Hair Salon / Barbershop
- Hardware Store
- Home Goods
- Jeweler
- Laundromat
- Massage Therapy
- Nail Salon
- Pet Supply Store
- Pharmacy
- Printing & Signage Shop
- Specialty Foods Store
- Specialty Products (e.g. beads, incense, candles)
- Specialty Retail Store
- Tuxedo/Dress Rental Shop
- Waxing Center
- Wine Shop
- Winery, Brewery, Distillery (with manufacturer license)

Entertainment**

- Billiard Parlor
- Bowling Alleys
- Event Venues
- Live Music Venues or Concert Halls
- Movie Theaters
- Museums (private institutions)
- Nightclubs
- Performance Venues
- Skating Rinks
- Specialty Experience Venues
- Theaters

*not an exhaustive list

**If the business receives an award from the Arts and Entertainment Venue Relief Fund, it is not eligible to receive an award from this program

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Ineligible Business Types*

- Businesses that are permanently closed and have taken steps to cease business operations under DCRA Corporate Divisions and OTR Guidelines
- Business that are franchises and are not independently owned and operated
- Businesses that received a grant from the Restaurant Revitalization Fund (RRF)
- Businesses that received a grant from the Shuttered Venue Operators Grant (SVOG)
- Businesses that received a grant from the Arts and Entertainment Venue Relief Fund
- Businesses that receive dedicated state or federal tax revenue
- Online only / e-commerce businesses
- Home-based businesses
- Seasonal businesses (only open for part of the year)
- Not for profit organizations
- Hotels, Bed and Breakfasts, and Inn and Motels
- Professional services companies (Accountant, Insurance, Law Office, etc.)
- Financial Institutions (banks, credit unions, check cashing establishments, pay day lenders, etc.)
- Child care providers
- Entertainment supporting businesses (Audio & Visual, Event Equipment Rental, Photographer, Event Planners, Trade Show or Event Staffing Services, Event Production Companies, Talent Booking Agency, Tour Companies (bus, boat, walking tours), Performance Art Companies (dance companies, theatre groups), Performing Artists, Event Promoters, and Recreational Sports Leagues)
- Health care and social assistance (physicians, dentists, acupuncture and chiropractor offices, etc.)
- Construction and Real Estate (general contracting, architecture, development, property management, realtors, etc.)
- Freelancers (massage therapists, hair stylists, cosmetologists, nail tech, fitness instructors, dance teachers, etc.) who do not own or lease a storefront retail location
- Makers who sell their products in shared retail spaces but do not own or lease a storefront retail location
- Retail or food service pop-ups who do not own or lease space in a retail location

**not an exhaustive list*

Get Ready to Apply

Prepare these documents before you apply:

1. Federal Employer Identification Number (EIN) Letter
2. 2019 Federal Tax Return, if operating prior to January 1, 2020
3. 2020 Federal Tax Return, if operating prior to January 1, 2021
4. 2021 Federal Tax Return (if available)
5. 2019 Monthly Income Statement, if operating prior to January 1, 2020
6. 2020 Monthly Income Statement, if operating prior to January 1, 2021
7. 2021 Monthly Income Statement
8. Active DC Basic Business License
9. Active ABRA License, if applicable
10. Certificate of Occupancy (must be current and active)
11. Lease or Deed
12. Certificate of Clean Hands (dated within 90 days prior to application date)
13. Proof of Valid Identification of business owner
14. Payroll or Roster of Employees dated within 30 days of application (including employees state of residence)
15. Landlord Affidavit (indicating whether your business owes back rent, and if so, the amount of back rent owed)

Do not submit any documents via email unless requested to do so.

Eligibility Scenario Chart

Scenario	Eligible?
Owner of more than one eligible small business (must submit separate application with unique EIN for each eligible business with up to a maximum of 5 businesses) .	✓
A franchise of a business with multiple locations that is locally owned and operated	✓
Owner of a business that opened after January 1, 2021, and earned less than \$5 million in 2021	✓
Owner of a business that opened before December 31, 2019, and earned less than \$5 million in 2019, 2020, and 2021	✓
My business is temporarily closed, but I plan to re-open when possible.	✓
My business received an award from the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP).	✓
My business generated more than \$5 million in gross receipts in 2019 and 2021	✗
My business received a grant from one of the following programs: the Restaurant Revitalization Fund (RRF), Shuttered Venue Operators Grant (SVOG), or Arts and Entertainment Venue Relief Fund.	✗
I am a District resident and operate my business from my place of residence.	✗
Business that is a not-for-profit organization	✗
My business does not own or lease a retail storefront or other commercial space for operations	✗

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Eligible Uses of Grant Funds

- Business Rent or Mortgage Expenses (if you owe back rent, at least 50% of the award must be applied to back rent, to 100% of the amount of back rent owed)
- Payroll and Labor
- Inventory (includes supplies but not merchandise for sale)
- Operating Expenses

See the full list of eligible expenses on
www.obviouslydc.com/fy22-business-funding-opportunities

Technical and Language Support

For technical assistance, contact:

- DC Main Streets: <https://dslbd.dc.gov/service/DCMS>
- Business Improvement Districts: <https://dslbd.dc.gov/service/business-improvement-districts-bids>
- Small Business Technical Assistance CBOs: <https://dhcd.dc.gov/page/small-business-technical-assistance-cbos>

For language assistance, contact:

- Mayor's Office on Latino Affairs: (202) 671-2825
 - Spanish
- Mayor's Office on African Affairs: (202) 727-5634
 - Amharic
 - French
- Mayor's Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs: (202) 727-3120
 - Chinese (Mandarin and Cantonese)
 - Vietnamese
 - Korean

For assistance with hearing or vision impairment, contact: thebridgefund@dc.gov

Frequently Asked Questions

When will I receive my award notification letter? We anticipate that conditional award notifications will begin by late March 2022.

When must I spend my award funds? All funds must be spent by July 31, 2022.

How can I use the award funds? Awards may be spent on business rent/mortgage, payroll, inventory, and operating expenses. If you owe back rent to your landlord, at least 50% of the award must be spent on back rent, up to 100% of the amount of back rent owed.

I received a grant from another program. Am I eligible to apply? Yes, for some programs and no for other programs. If you received an award from the Restaurant Revitalization Fund, Shuttered Venue Operators Grant, or Arts and Entertainment Venue Relief Fund, you are not eligible to receive an award from this program. If you received an award from any other program, and your business meets the eligibility requirements, you are eligible to apply. Priority will be given to businesses that did not receive an award from the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) but you are eligible even if you received a PPP loan.

What is the definition of an eligible small business for the Bridge Fund? The term “small business” means a brick and-mortar, for-profit establishment located in the District that reports gross receipts of no more than \$5 million in annual revenue in each 2019, 2020, and 2021.

I operate more than one small business. Am I eligible to apply for more than one business? Yes, if each of your small businesses meets the eligibility requirements and has a unique EIN, each small business is eligible, up to a maximum of 5 businesses

Can I submit the same Certificate of Clean Hands that I used for the other grant programs? No. A current Certificate, dated within 90 days prior to application date, is required.

See more FAQs at
www.obviouslydc.com/fy22-business-funding-opportunities

Next Steps

The application, application guidance, and FAQs can be found by visiting:

www.obviouslydc.com/fy22-business-funding-opportunities

**Application Deadline:
Thursday, March 31, 2022, by 5:00 PM EST**

**Application Questions?
Email: thebridgefund@dc.gov**

Thank you!