

Get Small Medium Business Growth Fund Ready

What is the Small Medium Business Growth Fund?

Mayor Bowser and the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning & Economic Development is investing \$5.4 million in the Small Medium Business Growth Fund, a program that will offer grants aimed to retain and expand district-based small businesses by supporting large scale capital improvements, large equipment purchasing, and technological advancements within retail, professional services, industrial-based businesses, and manufacturing industries.

The Small Medium Business Growth Fund targets:

- Professional Services (this includes technology/life sciences companies)
- Industrial-based
- Manufacturer
- Retail
- Small Business Investment Projects (for profit & non-profit*)
- New businesses and existing businesses
- Startups participating in a DC accelerator/incubator*

Grants made to small businesses will support funding under four categories. Businesses may apply for funding in one of the following categories:

Retail

Awards up to \$50,000 to support capital improvement, purchase of large equipment, and retail expansion.

Local Manufacturer

Awards up to \$100,000 to support capital improvement, purchase of large equipment on commercial property with a designated industrial use.

Small Business Investment Projects

Awards up to \$600,000 to support innovative projects that elevate the development of distressed and emerging neighborhoods throughout the district. Note: the project must be delivered within a 12-month timeline.

Technology Advancement

Awards up to \$200,000 to support technology advancements like automation, AI, Machine Learning, VR, robotic process automations, augmented reality, systems upgrades and processes that allow businesses to scale.

Am I Eligible?

The Small Medium Business Growth Fund will be open to businesses that meet the following criteria:

- New for-profit businesses (including, but not limited to partnerships, limited liability companies, corporations)
- Existing for-profit businesses headquartered in DC (including, but not limited to partnerships, limited liability companies, corporations)
- Independently owned and operated businesses.
- Technology-based businesses, professional services, industrial-based, and manufacturers
- Retail businesses and service-oriented businesses
- Business participating in a DC accelerator/incubator program
- Maximum of \$15 million in annual revenue
- Local nonprofit (must be duly organized in the District of Columbia, must not be an affiliate of a national charter, must own building, and have ground-floor retail tenants)
- Less than 100 employees

What Documents Do I Need to Apply?

Before you start your application, please prepare the following documents:

- 2021 tax returns, Annual Income Statement for past 3 years (2019, 2020, and 2021) or Annual Statement of Activities for the past 3 years (2019, 2020, 2021)
- DC Basic Business License (Request [here](#))
- Certificate of Clean Hands (dated within 90 days prior to application date). [Learn how to request your certificate.](#)

Ineligible Business Applicants

- Adult entertainment
- Auto body repair
- Bank
- Liquor Store
- Bar or Nightclub, as defined by an ABRA license
- Construction/general contracting/architecture/design-build
- E-commerce business
- Recipients of the Great Streets Grant, DC Locally Made Manufacturing Grant, Neighborhood Prosperity Fund during the award period October 1, 2021, to September 30, 2022.

How Do I Apply?

The application will open on Friday, April 22, 2022, at 4 PM (EST) and close on Friday, May 27, 2022, at 4 PM (EST). The application along with an Application Guide and FAQs will be posted on The Small Medium Business Growth Fund Page (<https://www.obviouslydc.com/fy22-business-funding-opportunities>)

Small Medium Business Growth Fund Scenario Chart

SCENARIO	ELIGIBILITY
Franchises that are independently owned and operated	✓
My business has a physical location providing aesthetic and wellness services (e.g., massage establishment; hair salon; gyms; yoga, dance, or fitness studios)	✓
My business is in the professional services industry (e.g., accounting, marketing, legal)	✓
My business is a distillery	✓
I sell my products inside DC retail spaces or at DC outdoor markets but do not own or lease a storefront retail location.	X
Businesses with a revoked or expired DC business license and/or Certificate of Occupancy and/or Certificate of Clean Hands	X
I have not received my proof of incubator/accelerator program completion	X
Businesses that received an award from the Great Streets, Locally Made Manufacturing, and Neighborhood Prosperity fund in this fiscal year from October 1, 2021, to September 30, 2022, are not eligible	X

Commonly Asked Questions

- **How do I know if my business is eligible for the Small Medium Business Growth Fund?** Click here to view our eligibility chart.
- **When will I receive my award notification letter?** We anticipate that notifications will begin in mid- June.
- **What are the minimum and maximum amount of funds that I can receive?** The funding category an applicant selects determines that maximum award amount.
- **I have multiple businesses. Can I apply for more than one business to the Small Medium Business Growth Fund?** You may apply for each business that has an EIN and separate business license. However, a maximum of two (2) applications may be submitted per owner.
- **My business is located outside the DMV. Can I apply?** You may **ONLY** apply if your business is opening a new location within the District of Columbia.
- **What if I can't provide my documents in time?** This is a competitive application. To be eligible for funding, businesses must provide all required documentation with their application, or application is deemed incomplete and no longer considered for a grant.
- **The online GrantVantage application is not displaying a SUBMIT button, how do I submit my application?** If you do not see a submit button, your application is incomplete and will not be reviewed. You must review your application and respond to all questions and checkboxes. Please review the application carefully.
- **Can I submit the application via email?** No. All applications must be submitted on the designated online portal no later than Friday, May 27, 2022, at 4:00 PM/ET. DMPED and its program partners are not responsible for unreadable, incomplete, and/or out-of-order submissions.
- **Can I submit the same Certificate of Clean Hands that I used for other funding opportunities?** No. A current Certificate (dated within 90 days prior to application date) must be submitted with application.

Where Can I Find Assistance?

For technical assistance with completing and submitting your application, contact:

- [DC Main Streets Program](#)
- [Business Improvement Districts](#)
- [Community-Based Organizations](#)

For language translation assistance, contact:

- Mayor's Office on Latino Affairs: (202) 671-2825
- Mayor's Office on African Affairs: (202) 727-5634
- Mayor's Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs: (202) 727-3120
- Applicants who are hearing or vision impaired and need assistance may contact us at SMBGrowthFund@dc.gov

Have Questions? For all other inquiries related to the Small Medium Business Fund contact SMBGrowthFund@dc.gov.

Information Sessions- [Register Here](#)