

FY 2020 Great Streets Grants

Frequently Asked Questions

Updated on October 18, 2019

Note: If you would like a written confirmation that your business is eligible to apply, please send an email to DMPED.grants@dc.gov. To ensure that all questions are answered, we will not be able to respond to any questions submitted, whether in writing or by phone, after 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 23.

Questions about the application process

1. I'm having trouble opening the application portal.
 - a. Open the application on a desktop or laptop computer, not a phone or tablet.
 - b. Refresh your browser.
 - c. Use Google Chrome as your browser.
 - d. Open the portal directly from the link on www.GreatStreets.dc.gov.
 - e. Be sure to click "save" periodically.
2. The application gave me an error message that my Employment Identification Number (EIN) was incorrect.

Please enter the correct EIN twice.

Questions about eligible expenses

3. Can grant funds be used to fund the following types of projects?
 - a. Marketing expenses? Yes.
 - b. Paving parking lots or spaces located on private land? No.
 - c. Installing solar panels? Yes.
 - d. Sidewalk repairs? No.
 - e. Landscaping? No.
 - f. Playground equipment? Yes, but the expenses are capped at 20% of the grant, or \$10,000.
4. Can you apply only for the equipment expenses, without making any building improvements?

No, you can spend 100% of the grant on building improvements but not the reverse.
5. Do architect's fees come from the 80% or 20% portion of expenses?

The 80%, but they must be connected to actual building improvements.

6. Are food trucks eligible as an expense for a restaurant, to allow them to expand into food delivery?

Yes, if they keep their restaurant open. These expenses would be capped at 20% of the grant, or \$10,000.

7. Can we work begin work on our project before receiving the grant?

No, you must wait until you have a Purchase Order from DC Government before starting any work which is to be funded by the grant.

Questions about eligible businesses

8. Can tenants of Union Market apply?

Yes.

9. Are for-profit child care centers eligible to receive a grant?

Yes, only nonprofit ones are excluded.

10. Can nonprofit organizations receive a grant?

Yes, but only if they are an arts-based organization. All others are not eligible.

11. Are food trucks businesses eligible to receive a grant?

No. They must be associated with a bricks-and-mortar business.

12. Can a business with multiple locations in multiple corridors apply for multiple grants?

Yes, but you would need to apply with separate applications.

13. Are businesses based in Virginia or Maryland, but opening a location in the District, eligible?

Yes.

14. Do grants received from other District Agencies count towards the \$1 million revenue cap for grantees?

Yes.

15. Are arts-based nonprofits subject to the same revenue cap of \$1 million?

Yes.

16. Are optical shops eligible?

Yes

17. Are car dealers eligible?

No.

18. Our nonprofit program is a subsidiary of a larger nonprofit organization. Our program has a budget of less than \$1 million but the parent organization's budget is larger than \$1 million. Are we eligible?

No, because all units are part of the same organization.

19. Is the \$1million cap for gross or net sales?

Gross sales.

20. Is a wellness center an eligible applicant?

If it is open to the public, like a fitness center, then yes, but if it is a medical office, then no. If you are in doubt, please submit an application.

21. Can a new business apply?

Yes, but if your business is less than two years old, you will need to submit a business plan and three years of your personal tax returns. New tavern businesses are not eligible to apply since they lack proof, via tax returns, that 51% of their sales are not related to alcohol.

22. I'm moving my business from one Great Streets corridor to another one. Can I receive a grant?

Yes, if you have not previously received a grant. If you have already received a Great Streets grant, then, no, you cannot receive a second grant to move your business.

23. I'm subleasing from someone. Can I apply?

Yes, if you have a valid lease and proof that the property owner gives you permission to make changes to the building.

24. Are there limits on personal income, or just business income?

Only business income is capped at \$1 million.

Questions about application documentation

25. Do new applicants get extra points over returning grantees asking for a second, or third, grant?

No.

26. Do new businesses get extra points over older businesses, or vice versa?

No.

27. Do new businesses need to have a business license, including restaurants which cannot get a business license until they have a certificate of occupancy?

Applicants must show proof that they have applied for a business license.

28. Is the arrest and conviction statement still required?

No.

29. How many months of tax returns are required to prove that a tavern is making 51% of their revenue from food?

Three full years, or 36 months.

30. I own my building. Do I still need to upload the Landlord Affidavit?

No. The deed will be enough.

31. What is a DUNS Number?

The Dun & Bradstreet (DUNS) Number is a unique nine-digit identifier for businesses. This number is assigned by the Dun & Bradstreet company which identifies a company as being unique from any other in their database. DC Government checks businesses against the Dun & Bradstreet database to ensure that they are active businesses.

32. Do I need to submit a business plan?

Yes, if your business is less than two years old.

33. I'm planning to move into a storefront space and have a Letter of Intent to lease the space?

Does that substitute for a lease with two years remaining on it?

No, you must have an executed lease showing that you have two years remaining on it.

34. Does an option to renew for two years, count as a two-year lease?

No.

35. How do I fill out the Master Supplier Information?

This form is required in the application and should reflect all information from the applicant.

36. How do I fill out the EEO Policy Statement?

This form is required in the application and should reflect all information from the applicant.

37. How do I fill out the ACH form?

This form is provided for your information only and not required as part of the application. You will need to provide it to DMPED if you are awarded a grant.

38. How do I fill out the First Source Agreement?

For grants of only \$50,000, you do not need to submit a First Source Agreement.

39. How do I fill out the Grant Invoice?

This form is provided for your information only and not required as part of the application. You will need to provide it to DMPED if you are awarded a grant.

40. Can I hire contractors who are not CBEs?

Yes, but your application will get a higher score if you choose to work with CBEs.

Questions about the processes after the grant is awarded

41. Will we get help from DMPED in spending funds correctly?

Yes, you will have a grant manager assigned to you. The grant manager will conduct an initial meeting and will perform regular site visits.

42. How will DMPED know that I'm doing the work?

Via the expense reports you submit, and the site visits conducted by DMPED staff.