

Inclusive Grant Program

Program Overview

Updated 03/02/2022



**Commonwealth of
Massachusetts**

INCLUSIVE GRANT PROGRAM



Program Overview

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has made \$50,000,000 available to support small businesses negatively impacted by COVID-19. This program targets businesses that focus on reaching markets predominantly made up of socially and economically disadvantaged and historically underrepresented groups, underserved markets, and those owned by minorities, women, veterans, disabled individuals, or those that identify as part of the LGBTQ+ community. MGCC will administer grants up to \$75,000 for eligible small businesses.

These funds were appropriated through the state's share of the American Rescue Plan Act.

Please be advised:

- ***A business and/or business owner is eligible to receive only one grant in total from either the New Application or Inclusion Grant Program***
- ***Businesses that have not experienced a negative economic impact from public health emergency need not apply***

Eligible Applicants

Businesses eligible to receive an Inclusive Grant must meet all the qualifications below:

- Business must meet at least **one** of the following criteria:
 - Minority-owned
 - Woman-owned
 - Veteran-owned
 - Disability-owned
 - LGBTQ+-owned
 - Focus on reaching markets predominantly made up of socially and economically disadvantaged and historically underrepresented groups or underserved markets
- Business must be Massachusetts-based operating in-state that has been negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic
- Address on your Federal Business Tax Return must be within Massachusetts
- Business must be a for-profit entity (sole proprietorship, partnership, corporation, cooperative or LLC)
- Business must be owned by individuals
- Business owners must have one of the following: Social Security Number or ITIN
- Business must currently have between 2-50 full-time equivalent (FTE) employees, one of which is the owner
- Business must have a minimum of \$40,000 in operating expenses based on 2020 Federal Business Tax Returns
 - line 28, IRS Form 1040 Schedule C
 - line 24, IRS Form 1120-C
 - line 20, IRS Form 1120-S
 - line 27, IRS Form 1120
 - line 21, IRS Form 1065
- Business revenues must be between \$40,000 to \$2,500,000 based on 2020 Federal Business Tax Returns
 - line 1, IRS Form 1040 Schedule C
 - line 1c, IRS Form 1120-C
 - line 1c, IRS Form 1120-S
 - line 1c, IRS Form 1120
 - line 1c, IRS Form 1065
- Business must be currently in operation
- Business must have been established prior to 09/30/2020
- Business must be in good standing with federal, state and city/town:
 - (1) Business must be current on all taxes; and
 - (2) Have active and valid state licenses/registrations, if applicable

While all businesses meeting the above criteria are eligible, priority will be given to businesses that fit the below conditions:

1. Located in a Gateway City
2. Have not received relief aid from Federal, State or local programs
3. Priority given to smaller companies based on revenue size

Ineligible Businesses

- Businesses that did not experience a negative economic impact from the public health emergency

- Business owner cannot hold an ownership interest (percentage) in any other business applying for this same grant
- Businesses owned in whole or in part by corporations, trusts, LLCs, partnerships or cooperatives
- Businesses owned by persons under age 18
- Businesses owned in whole or in part by foreign individuals (non-permanent resident) or corporations
- Businesses that are chains (chains are defined as businesses not headquartered in Massachusetts with multiple locations)
- Massachusetts-based franchisees with more than 3 locations
- Businesses primarily engaged in political or lobbying activities
- Real estate rentals/sales businesses
- Cannabis-related businesses
- Non-profit organizations, Churches, or religious institutions
- Member-services organizations (social clubs)
- Government-owned entities or elected official offices

Amount of Funding

Maximum grant amount is \$75,000 and a minimum of \$10,000. Grants will be capped at the lesser of \$75,000, which shall be equivalent to 3 months of annualized operating expenses, as evidenced by 2020 Federal Tax Returns.

Approved Use of Funds

- Employee payroll and benefit costs
- Costs to retain employees
- Business mortgage or rent
- Utilities
- Interest on other debt obligations incurred after March 3, 2021
- Operating costs as a result of COVID-19 and measures taken to contain spread of the virus
- Costs associated with adopting safer operating procedures
- Cost to implement COVID-19 prevention or mitigation tactics, i.e. physical plant changes to enable social distancing, enhanced cleaning efforts, barriers or partitions
- Cost to enhance outdoor spaces for COVID-19 mitigation (e.g., restaurant patios)
 - Business will not apply the funds granted in response to this application to any expense that has been or will be covered by any other source of federal or state funding including, but not limited to, MGCC's COVID-19 Relief Grant Programs, SBA Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL), Restaurant Revitalization Fund, Unemployment compensation benefits, Insurance claims/proceeds, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) funds, Small Business Administration funds, other Federal/State/local funding, other nonprofit/private sector/charitable funding.
 - Business will collect and retain sufficient documentation to demonstrate that the expenses delineated in this application were incurred within the eligibility limits and established for the Inclusive Grant Program. Documentation includes, but is not limited to, receipts, invoices, purchase orders, contracts, contemporaneous memoranda, or other relevant materials. These materials must be stored in an easily accessible and searchable format, in business control, and in compliance with document retention best practices. This documentation will be maintained in

compliance with applicable federal, state, and municipal law to support internal and external audits of these obligations and expenditures. As the prime recipient of the Inclusive Grant Program, the Commonwealth, reserves the right to request this documentation or other audit evidence at a future date.

- Grantor reserves the right to require Business to report on incurred expenses and/or outcomes in a form prescribed by the Grantor.

Non-Approved Use of Funds

- Purchase of real property
- Construction activities
- Lobbying
- Depositing funds into any pension fund - Sec. 602(c)(2)(B) & 603 (c)(2)
- Rainy day fund, financial reserves, or similar funds
- Debt incurred prior to March 3, 2021
- Satisfaction of any obligation arising under or pursuant to a settlement agreement, judgment, consent decree, or judicially confirmed debt restructuring plan in a judicial, administrative, or regulatory proceeding, except to the extent the judgment or settlement requires the provision of services that would respond to COVID public health emergency
- Businesses that did not experience a negative economic impact from public health emergency
- Uses that bear no relation to the harm experienced by the public health crisis or are grossly disproportionate to the type or extent of harm
- Additionally, grantees must prevent the duplication of benefits, which means these grant funds may not be used to pay expenses if another source of financial aid has paid that same expense

Required Documentation

ONLY COMPLETE APPLICATIONS INCLUDING ALL REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION WILL BE CONSIDERED.

As security of sensitive information is of the utmost importance, MGCC has chosen to contract with a third-party online platform, Submittable, for application submissions. Please see below for Submittable's statement regarding its security and compliance measures with collected documentation and information.

Documentation Required:

- **2020 Federal Business Tax Return:** A complete copy (all schedules) of your filed 2020 Federal Business Tax Return as submitted to the IRS. If you file Schedule C income, please upload that document in place of a Business Tax Return.
 - Social Security Numbers and EIN Numbers must be fully visible on documents
 - Please be advised: If you received tax returns from a CPA, documents may be password protected. Include the document password for reviewer access. If you do not provide document passwords, your application will be considered incomplete

- **2020 Federal Personal Tax Returns:** A complete copy (all schedules) of your filed 2020 Federal Personal Tax Returns as submitted to the IRS for each business owner with 20% or greater ownership.
 - Social Security Number and EIN Numbers must be fully visible on documents
 - Please be advised: If you received tax returns from a CPA, documents may be password protected. Include the document password for reviewer access. If you do not provide document passwords, your application will be considered incomplete

- **IRS W-9 Form:** Completed and signed IRS W-9 Form for your business.
 - You must fill out a new W-9 Form for MGCC, click here: [Form W-9 \(irs.gov\)](https://www.irs.gov/irm/101/101_01/101_01_01.pdf)
 - Must provide information for boxes 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, Part I and Part II of W-9 Form
 - If you have an Employer Identification Number (EIN), provide that in Part I of W-9 Form. Otherwise, provide your Social Security Number (SSN). Number provided should match your Federal Business Tax Return, Schedule C, or Federal Personal Tax Return.

- **Certificate of Good Standing – Massachusetts Secretary of State's Office:**
 - Required if your business is a LLC, Partnership (except General Partnerships) or Corporation
 - All entities organized in other states that operate in Massachusetts must be registered and in good standing in Massachusetts
 - Your Certificate must have been issued within the past 12 months
 - If you need to request a Certificate of Good Standing, please do so immediately as it may take up to 2+ weeks to receive, click below. Uploaded receipts will not meet application completion requirements.
<https://corp.sec.state.ma.us/CorpWeb/Certificates/CertificateOrderForm.aspx>

- **Business Certificate:** A copy of your unexpired Business Certificate from the city/town in which your business operates.
 - Required if your business is a Sole Proprietorship or General Partnership

- If you need to request a Business Certificate, visit your town/city hall website.
- **Photo ID:** A copy of the business owner's photo identification (ID).
 - Accepted ID's include State-issued driver's license/ID card or U.S. Passport book/card
 - ID must be valid and not expired
 - ID match the business owner who is an authorized signer for the business that signs this application
 - If it is a State-issued driver's license, please submit a copy of the front of the ID only
- **If Applicable, Payment Plan(s): Federal, State and/or Local Business and/or Personal Taxes**

“Submittable meets the standard in the SaaS industry. All data is encrypted in transmission and at rest. As the platform works with several government organizations with sensitive & private information, security and compliance are paramount at Submittable.

- **What compliance certifications does Submittable offer?** Submittable maintains compliance with the security and privacy requirements of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), as well as many other applicable frameworks, including SOC 2 Type 2, FERPA, and PCI. We also undergo third-party web accessibility testing at least annually, and our most current VPAT is available upon request. We are also an active member of the EU-US Privacy Shield.
- **Does Submittable comply with X state or country privacy laws?** Submittable is a United States SaaS company. We maintain several security and privacy controls as described and documented in our terms of use and third-party compliance reports. For a detailed and third-party audited description of our controls, please refer to our latest SOC 2 Type 2 report. For specific guidance on how these certifications and controls map to your local laws and regulations, please consult your legal counsel.
- **How do you determine data ownership?** All data used, transferred, or stored is owned by the creator of that data. For more information, please refer to our [terms of service](#).
- **Has Submittable ever had a data breach?** No. For a third-party attestation on this topic, please refer to the latest copy of our SOC 2 Type 2 report.
- **Is data encrypted at rest?** All data is stored at an Amazon Web Services (AWS) data center in the Northern Virginia region (us-east-1) and is encrypted at rest using standard AWS methods. We use AWS' Relational Database Service and AWS S3's built-in encryption, which uses AES-256. We have a single master key managed by AWS Key Management Service. For more information, please refer to the relevant AWS user guide at: <https://docs.aws.amazon.com/AmazonRDS/latest/UserGuide/Overview.Encryption.html>.”

Timeline

February 23, 2022 at 12:00pm – Application opens

April 4, 2022 at 11:59pm – Application closes

Application Submission Instructions

Your application must be filled out and submitted electronically along with attachments as stated in the “Required Documentation” section. Hard copies or electronic copies submitted in any other way, such as mailed or emailed, will not be considered. Additionally, only complete, accurate and legible applications will be considered.

Please be advised, applications must include all required documentation by the program deadline in order to be considered. Please see full list of “Required Documentation” details below. Common omissions that would exclude your application from consideration:

- Certificate of Good Standing from the Massachusetts Secretary of State’s office
- Complete 2020 Federal Business Tax Return or Schedule C
- Complete 2020 Federal Personal Tax Returns, including all schedules, for each business owner with 20% or greater ownership

Award Process

Applications will be accepted by MGCC through MGCC’s online application portal, Submittable, and evaluated by MGCC staff based upon eligibility criteria and priorities described above. MGCC will award and disburse grants to those that are approved.

Compliance with Federal Funds, Laws and Regulations

Applicants must comply with all applicable laws.

Language Translations

Program overview information will be available in the following 10 languages on MGCC’s website, [EmpoweringSmallBusiness.org](https://www.empowering-small-business.org) (Application remains in English)

- Arabic
- Gujarati
- Haitian Creole
- Khmer
- Korean
- Portuguese
- Simplified Chinese
- Spanish
- Traditional Chinese
- Vietnamese