

Save Our Small Businesses Grant Program

Now Accepting Applications for Round 3 Funding until, Tuesday, September 22, 2020 at 11:59 PM.

Fresno's small businesses are essential to our economy. The City of Fresno understands the sacrifice small business owners have made to help flatten the curve and is stepping up to help them recover and reopen.

The city has already distributed \$2,750,000 through the Save Our Small Businesses program. Round 3 will provide an additional \$2 million in emergency relief funds to small businesses operating in the City of Fresno city limits for the purpose of:

- payroll and benefit costs
- unemployment insurance costs incurred by the recipient as an employer if such costs will not be reimbursed by the federal government pursuant to the CARES Act or otherwise
- rent or mortgage payments to avoid eviction or foreclosure
- utility fees (except for utilities managed by the City of Fresno e.g. water and garbage bill)
- property capital improvements related to social distancing or other public health requirements
- operational, equipment or property modifications to adapt to longer-term changes in customer behavior (e.g. shifts to online ordering and home delivery) and unstable economic conditions (interruptions to supply chains and the potential for future closures, general recession conditions)

Businesses with 1-5 employees are eligible for \$5,000 grants; businesses with 6-25 employees are eligible for \$10,000 grants.

Round 3 Guidelines

Round 3 will target “hard-to-reach” businesses that historically do not have equitable access to financial support from the government due to language barriers or a lack of access to technical assistance.

To overcome these barriers, the City of Fresno is partnering with the Fresno Area Hispanic Foundation. If you have any questions or need help with the application, please contact FAHF. Language support in English, Spanish, Hmong and Punjabi is available.

Applications from businesses kept closed by Shelter in Place requirements such as barber shops and hair/salons, event businesses such as DJs and mobile food vendors will be prioritized.

Eligibility Requirements

- **Physical Business Address** - Business must be physically located and operating in the City of Fresno
- **Length of Operations** - Business must have been operating with a current and valid City of Fresno business tax certificate prior to March 4, 2020. Not sure about the status of your Business Tax Certificate? Call Business Tax Customer Service at (559) 621-6880.
- **Workforce** - Business must have 25 or fewer employees on payroll; owner-operated businesses and consultancies are considered to have a single employee.
- **Good Neighbor Standing** - Business must have no outstanding code violations and be operating as permitted by their conditional use permit.
- **Loss of Income** - Business must have been subject to a required or voluntary closure or reduction of business operations or be able to provide proof of at least 10% loss of revenue due to the COVID-19 crisis. Businesses will be asked to validate their revenue for February and April of 2020 under penalty of perjury.
- **Intent to Continue Operations** - Business cannot be offered for sale through any channel in 2020 including during the period of application through the distribution of funds. Discovery of sales negotiations during this period will result in the city asking for a return of the grant.

The following business types are not eligible for Round 3 of the SOSB program:

- Former recipients of Round 1 or Round 2 of the Save Our Small Businesses program
- Recipients of the Fresno County HUB Program grants
- Businesses where city staff and council members or their spouses or domestic partners hold a financial stake
- Healthcare providers including doctors, dentists, vision care providers, and physical and mental therapists
- Cosmetic surgeons & cosmetic dental services
- Grocery stores, certified farmers' markets, farm and produce stands, supermarkets, food banks, convenience stores, hardware stores and other establishments engaged in the retail sale of food

and other household consumer products such as cleaning and personal care products

- Food cultivation, including farming, livestock, and fishing
- Newspapers, television, radio, and other media services
- Gas stations
- Banks and related financial institutions including check-cashing services
- Professional services, such as legal or accounting services, when necessary to assist in compliance with legally mandated activities
- Property management and real estate sales services
- Hotels/motels
- Trucking and logistics services
- Liquor stores and smoke shops
- Massage parlors
- Gambling entities
- Local outlets of national chains unless privately and locally owned and operated
- Non-profits & religious organizations

Deadline to submit applications is: Tuesday, September 22, 2020 at 11:59 PM

For Help Filling Out This Application

Contact the Fresno Area Hispanic Foundation at 559-222-8705. You may also print out the form, fill it out, and fax it to 559-222-8706 or email it to citygrants@fresnodbh.org

APPLY NOW

<https://appdev.fresno.gov/grant-program/>