

# 2021 Citywide Robust Retail Grants

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## OVERVIEW

- The Department of Small and Local Business Development (DSLBD) is excited to announce the opening of applications for the 2021 Robust Retail: Citywide grants.
- DSLBD intends to award **up to \$7,500 per business** to 106 businesses from the total \$800,000 in available funding for the 2021 Fiscal Year.
- **Applications open December 7, 2020** and close January 28, 2021 at 2pm eastern.
- This Grant is open only to for-profit consumer-facing, small and independent retail businesses with fewer than 25 full-time employees (FTEs), with a licensed retail location in DC.
- Grant recipients will be selected through a lottery process with a mechanism for ensuring at least half of the grants are evenly distributed across all 8 DC Wards.
- Announcements of selected awards will be made on or around February 5 - 15, 2021.
- All additional details can be found in the official [Request for Applications](#)

## USES

The funding may be used to reimburse for expenses the agency deems reasonable to support maintaining business viability between July 1, 2020 and January 28, 2021 "Period of Performance". Explicitly allowed expenditures during the "Period of Performance" include:

- Employee Wages and Salaries
- Insurance
- Rent
- Utilities
- Inventory
- Cleaning Supplies
- New Delivery or Online Costs
- Taxes, Debt Service

## ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- This Grant is open only to for-profit consumer-facing, small and independent retail businesses with fewer than 25 full-time employees (FTEs), with a licensed retail location in DC.

To be eligible, businesses must submit all required documentation in advance of an application being entered into the lottery. All documentation is subject to verification.

Eligibility documents include:

- Federal Employment Identification Number
- Clean Hands Certificate
- Valid DC Business License
- Certificate(s) of General Liability Insurance
- Current IRS W-9

For the complete list of eligibility requirements, please refer to the list on [page 4](#)

## HOW TO APPLY

- The application is live **NOW** (as of December 7) and can be found [here](#).
- The application will **close on Thursday, January 28 at 2PM EST**.
- If you have additional questions, DSLBD will hold an informational session and paperwork boot camp during the grant application period as advertised via the [DSLBD Eventbrite](#). Please submit all other questions to [Inno.ED@dc.gov](mailto:Inno.ED@dc.gov).