

Restaurant Bridge Fund

OVERVIEW

- The Restaurant Bridge Fund aims to provide competitive grants to eligible restaurant and food services establishments that have experienced significant economic distress due to the COVID-19 public health emergency and made plans to respond and adapt to these challenging circumstances.
- The Fund will award at least 700 grants to use the \$35M allocated to the restaurant industry.
- **The minimum award is \$10,000 and the maximum award is \$50,000.**
- 15% of the funds will be set aside for businesses that are eligible to be a Resident-Owned Business and Small Business Enterprise and at least 51% owned by economically disadvantaged individuals OR at least 51% owned by a woman or a majority of women.
- [Applications open December 7, 2020](#) and close December 28, 2020 at 5PM EST.
- Announcements of selected awards will begin in January and continue through February 2021.

USES

The funds can be used to support:

- General operational expenses including:
 - Rent
 - Mortgage
 - Docking expense
 - Payroll
 - Insurance
 - Fuel for mobile vendors
 - Utilities
- Winterization expenses
- COVID-19 preparation expenses

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS *(if you are uncertain of an eligibility requirement, we recommend you apply and allow DC to determine qualification)*

- Must be located in the District of Columbia
- Must employ at least one District resident; this may include owner.
- Must be currently open and operating.
- Business must have been revenue generating prior to October 1, 2020
- If the business opened after March 17, 2020 and before September 30, 2020, the business must have generated a minimum of \$25,000 in revenue.
- Must have a DC Business License
- Maximum of \$10M in annual revenue for 2019 and/or \$7.5M as of September 30, 2020.
- Franchises must be independently owned and operated.
- Must demonstrate financial distress of 25% in decrease in revenue during COVID-19.
- Must be Local Business Enterprise eligible
- Must have a Certificate of Clean Hands obtained within 90 days of application.

HOW TO APPLY

- The **application is live NOW** (as of December 7) and can be found [here](#).
- The application will **close on Monday, December 28 at 5PM EST**.
- For required application documents and their explanations please refer to the [Get Restaurant Bridge Fund Ready Checklist](#).
- For additional questions, please refer to the [FAQ](#) or email RestaurantBridgeFund@dc.gov