

Retail Bridge Fund

OVERVIEW

- The Retail Bridge Fund aims to provide competitive grants to eligible retail 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 Retail Bridge Fund is a \$15M fund allocated to the retail industry awarded competitively.
- The minimum award is \$5,000 and the maximum award is \$25,000.
- Local brick-and-mortar retail establishments, such as bookstores, clothing stores, salons, massage establishments, fitness studios, art galleries, and dry cleaners are eligible to apply. Full list of eligible businesses can be found [here](#).
- Grantees will be selected based on business viability, number of employees and tenure.
- 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 14, 2020 and close January 8, 2021 at 5PM EST.
- Announcements of selected awards will begin in late January 2021.

USES

The funds can be used to support:

- General operational expenses including:
 - Rent
 - Mortgage
 - Payroll
 - Insurance
 - Utilities
- COVID-19 operation expenses

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

- A brick-and-mortar for-profit retail location in the District of Columbia. Online-only businesses are ineligible. Must have Certificate of Occupancy.
- Currently open and must have been revenue generating prior to March 17, 2020.
- Must be Local Business Enterprise eligible
- Must have a Certificate of Clean Hands obtained within 90 days of application.
- Maximum of \$6M in annual revenue for 2019 and \$4.5M in revenue as of September, 30, 2020.
- Must demonstrate financial distress (25% decrease in revenue) during COVID-19 public health emergency.
- Solo proprietors with a physical storefront are eligible if they are District residents.

HOW TO APPLY

- The **application is live NOW** (as of December 14) and can be found [here](#).
- The application will **close on Friday, January 8 at 5PM EST**.
- For required application documents and their explanations please refer to the [Get Retail Bridge Fund Ready Checklist](#).
- For additional questions, please refer to the [FAQ](#) or email RetailBridgeFund@dc.gov