



Riverside County COVID-19 Small Business Grant Program Frequently Asked Questions

1. What do I need to include in the Safe Reopening Plan?

Businesses anticipating a reopening or still operating are expected to complete and implement a Safe Reopening/Operating Plan that addresses employee and customer health measures. The plan does not require County approval, but businesses are encouraged to make the plan available so that the public and staff are aware of the precautions it addresses. Not all components of the plan are intended or expected of all businesses and a business may provide justification that a particular operational component does not apply. You will be asked during the Application process to complete a form addressing components in the Riverside County Safe Reopening Guidelines. Click [HERE](#) to review these guidelines.

2. How do I know if my business is eligible, and if my application is declined or approved?

Once your Application Questions are completed, your initial eligibility will be determined based upon the criteria for the grant. If your business is determined eligible to apply, you will proceed to the remainder of the Application. All required forms need to be completed, and all required documents need to be uploaded in order for your Application to be complete. Only **COMPLETED** applications will be considered for funding. Eligible applications will be subject to a lottery if demand for the grant exceeds available funding. Once a decision is made, you will be notified via the email address you provided in the Application.

3. What is an ACH and what is it used for?

ACH (Automated Clearing House) is a way to move money between banks without using paper checks, wire transfers, credit card networks, or cash. If your grant is approved and funded, we will transfer the money to you via ACH to the account you designate on the Application.

4. Why do I need to complete a W9?

The County is required to report CARES Act funding information to the United States Treasury at the end of the year.



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5. How long will it take to get approved for this Grant?

This will largely depend on the volume of inquiries we receive, and if your business is selected in the lottery (if a lottery is necessary based on demand). Only **COMPLETED** applications will be considered for funding. Once the application deadline is over and your application is reviewed and selected for funding, disbursement will occur within 10 business days.

6. Why is my City business license being requested as part of this grant?

Your current City Business License is a requirement for operating within any city in Riverside County. Businesses operating within unincorporated areas of the County of Riverside are not required to have a County Business Registration.

7. Are sole proprietors eligible to apply?

Yes, if you have a valid business license and have at least one employee.

8. Why are you asking for employee information?

We are asking for payroll information to determine if your business meets the minimum (1 other than the owner) and maximum (49) number of employee limits to qualify for the grant.

9. Why are you asking for my business financial statements?

Your 12/31/19 business financial statements (Income Statement, Balance Sheet) allow us to verify that your business was active in the County prior to the effective date.

10. I rent my house on short-term rental sites such as Airbnb. Because of COVID-19, my renters cancelled. Am I eligible for the Grant?

Unfortunately, No, short term rentals of private property are not eligible for the grant.

11. I drive for Uber/Lyft and have seen my income drop as a result of COVID-19. Am I eligible for the grant?

Unfortunately, no.



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12. My business just opened. Is my business eligible?

Your business must have been opened before March 2019 and have experienced an adverse economic impact from the COVID-19 pandemic to be eligible to apply for a grant.

13. What if I already applied for Federal assistance including SBA Economic Injury and Disaster Loans (EIDL) or Paycheck Protection Program (PPP)? Can I still apply?

Yes, you may still apply, but if you have received a commitment letter or funding for any Federal CARES Act program or COVID-19 Relief Federal funding including PPP and EIDL, you are not eligible for this grant.

14. I do not have a business address in the County, but I have a business license within the County. Will I qualify?

In order to qualify, businesses must meet ALL the eligibility criteria. This means having a business address within the County. If you have multiple locations for your business and have a location within Riverside County, that location would be eligible.

15. How do I Upload the required documents?

You can upload scans, Word or Excel documents, or images saved to a computer or mobile device. When you get to the upload part of the Application, you can search your device for the document you need, and then upload it.

16. If I have questions after reading this FAQ, who do I send my question to?

If you have additional questions, please send an email to: rcfaq@mainstreetlaunch.org

17. I was declined, can I re-apply?

Decline notifications are final, please make sure you complete the application accurately and completely.

18. Will I be declined if I do not have a business banking account?

Yes. A valid business checking account is a requirement for approval.