County of Orange
Small Business Relief Program
Frequently Asked Questions

1. **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 randomized selection 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.

2. **Are home based businesses eligible to apply?**

   Home based businesses are not eligible for this grant program.

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

   ACH (Automated Clearing House) is a way to move money between banks without 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.

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

   This will largely depend on the volume of applications we receive, and if your business is selected in the randomize selection (need will be 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 after final approval.

6. **Why are my business bank statements being requested as part of this grant application?**

We require these statements for two reasons. First, the 2019 statements allow us to validate you were in business prior to the start of the pandemic. Second, the statements allow us to see that your business was impacted by the pandemic.

7. **Are sole proprietors and independent contractors eligible to apply?**

   Yes, but not if you are a home-based business.

8. **Why are you asking for employee information?**

   We are asking for employment information to ensure your business has no more than 25 employees and to determine if you had a reduction in staff after the pandemic started.

9. **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.

10. **My business just opened, is my business eligible?**

    District 5 - Your business must have been opened before April 2019 and have experienced an adverse economic impact from the COVID-19 pandemic to be eligible to apply for a grant.
    District 4 - Your business must have been opened before October 2019 and have experienced an adverse economic impact from the COVID-19 pandemic to be eligible to apply for a grant.

11. **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, but you can only use the proceeds from this grant for alternative expenses.

12. **How do I Upload the required documents?**

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

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

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

14. Is the application available in other languages than English?

No, but if you need assistance in completing the application in any other language other than English, please call 714-480-6500