

## **FAQS**

### **Q: What is the Lee County Small Business Resiliency Grant?**

**A:** This program is designed to help small businesses and charitable nonprofits keep their doors open, protect local jobs threatened by the COVID-19 pandemic, support community recovery, and increase the resiliency of local businesses in our community. Funds for this program are part of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (CSLFRF) allocated to Lee County.

### **Q: What does the grant provide?**

**A:** As recommended by the program's technical assistance provider, the program may reimburse COVID-19 related business expenses for rent or mortgage payments, payroll, utilities, or other resiliency eligible costs that could provide \$5,000 - \$20,000 in grant funding.

### **Q: What are the grant terms?**

**A:**

The business owner or designee must complete the Technical Assistance consultation and assessment by one of Lee County's providers: Small Business Development Center (SBDC), SCORE, Southwest Regional Manufacturers Associations, Goodwill, or SWFL Impact Partners.

As recommended by the program's technical assistance provider, the program may reimburse COVID-19 related business expenses for rent or mortgage payments, payroll, utilities, or other resiliency eligible costs

The eligible reimbursable expenses are only those that are not paid or will not be paid by insurance or will not be paid by another government program. (Payments may not be duplicated).

A grant request must be between \$5,000 - \$20,000

Grant payment will be a one-time only payment to one business owner

No match is required to receive a grant

Awards will be made to qualified small businesses applicants on a first come, first serve basis, and through the execution of an Agreement between the grant recipient and Lee County Government

Awarded businesses will be, through the Agreement, required to make available to Lee County evidence of expenditures and outcomes through a one-time end of program report of (1) How the funds were utilized (2) How funds helped the business survive and/or grow and (3) How the funds affected revenue generation

### **Q: Is my business eligible if I started my business after March of 2020?**

**A:** Yes you are eligible. Your business did not need to be open prior to the pandemic.

### **Q: Can non- Lee County business owners apply?**

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**A:** No, the owner must reside in Lee County.

**Q: Am I eligible if my business has more than 100 employees?**

**A:** No, businesses must have 100 or fewer full-time, W-2 employees (employees working 32 hours per week or 128 hours per month)

**Q: What if our business does not have a current Business Tax Receipt issued by Lee County?**

**A:** You can visit the [Lee County Tax Collector](#) website to fill out an application.

**Q: Are home-based businesses eligible?**

**A:** Yes, a business may be home-based or located in an owned or leased commercial space located within the Qualified Census Tracts or Low-Mod Income areas.

**Q: What is a franchise?**

- **A:** *A franchise is a legal and commercial relationship between the owner of a trademark, service mark, trade name, or advertising symbol (the franchisor) and someone who seeks to use that identification in a business (the franchisee). Franchise is also commonly used to refer to a grant of the right to operate and share in the profits of a business or sell goods or services under a brand or chain name.*

**Q: Are publicly traded businesses eligible?**

**A:** No, at this time we are not accepting any businesses that are publicly traded companies.

**Q: I own more than one business under the same name, are all locations eligible?**

**A:** No, companies with common ownership and/or common DBA will be treated as a single business.

**Q: What are considered ineligible businesses?**

**A:** Ineligible businesses include Gambling Institutions, Multi-Level Marketing Organizations, Real Estate Investment Firms (REITS), and Adult Entertainment

**Q: What can I use these funds to pay for?**

**A:** Funds can be used for expenses determined by your technical assistance provider that have been incurred as a result of COVID-19 and can include, but are not limited to: Working capital expenses (e.g. rent, utilities, payroll, insurance, inventory); business related professional services (e.g. accounting, marketing, software, legal assistance); employee training.

**Q: What can these funds NOT be used for? (List is non-exhaustive; other non-business activities may be included.)**

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**A:** Refinance existing debt, down payment for other financing, cannot be used to pay the owner.

**Q: When will assistance be distributed?**

**A:** It may take a few weeks from the date of the application submission until eligible business owners receive the approved funding.

**Q: If my application is denied, can I reapply?**

**A:** If your application is denied and you met all eligibility criteria, it is likely your application is not complete and you will be notified to submit the required information for completion.

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