

Lucas County Small Business Stabilization Grant -- FAQs

What is the source of funding for the program?

The program is funded by a \$1.5 million allocation from Lucas County's third and final distribution of federal CARES Act funding from the State of Ohio. According to federal and state guidance, funding can be purposed for grant programs aimed at assisting small businesses negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. According to the CARES Act, all remaining funding must be spent by December 30, 2020.

What is the role of the Toledo Regional Chamber of Commerce?

The Toledo Regional Chamber of Commerce will administer the program through a sub-grant agreement with Lucas County. Chamber responsibilities include intake of applications and documentation from applicants, review of applications and documentation, obtaining grant agreements from awardees, issuing of payments to awardees, and promoting and marketing the program.

Do I have to be a member of the Toledo Regional Chamber of Commerce to receive a grant?

No. Just like Chamber membership is not required for Small Business Development Center services, it is not a requirement of, nor consideration for, a Lucas County Small Business Stabilization grant.

How much is my business eligible to receive from the program?

Small businesses experiencing a decrease in gross revenue due to COVID-19 with 50 or fewer employees and less than \$5 million in gross annual revenue can apply for grants of up to \$25,000. Those with 1-20 employees are eligible for grants of up to \$10,000, and those with 21-50 employees are eligible for grants of up to \$25,000. Not-for-profit entities with 50 or fewer employees are eligible for grants of up to \$25,000.

What is the criteria for eligible businesses to apply?

Small businesses experiencing a decrease in gross revenue due to COVID-19 with 50 or fewer employees and less than \$5 million in gross annual revenue can apply. Eligible businesses include those that have their primary operation located in Lucas County (businesses operating out of personal residences are excluded); were established on or before January 1, 2019; have a Federal Tax Identification Number (and a copy of a non-profit determination letter, if applicable); have a physical business location inside Lucas County; are current on all taxes and free from liens on property; are compliant with all legal requirements for businesses; and will remain in business for the duration of 2020.

What types of businesses are ineligible to apply?

Ineligible businesses include banks, savings and loans, and credit unions; e-commerce businesses exclusively operated from a personal residence; franchised businesses not locally owned and independently operated; businesses currently in bankruptcy; and cannabis businesses and businesses ancillary to cannabis.

What expenses are eligible for reimbursement?

Eligible expenses include payroll; rent or lease costs; mortgage costs including interest; utility costs for electric, natural gas/propane, internet, and phone; business insurance costs; inventory and supplies; and personal protective equipment. Expenses must be incurred between April 1, 2020 and October 31, 2020 and be applicable to locations within Lucas County.

What expenses are not eligible for reimbursement?

Ineligible expenses include the cost of vehicles or equipment leased or purchased (except if to comply with Responsible RestartOhio); personal or non-business expenses of the business or its owner; construction costs (except if to comply with Responsible RestartOhio); any tax, license, or fee obligations payable to any governmental entity; costs already covered or reimbursed by any COVID-related funding; and costs for political or religious activities of an organization.

What religious activities are ineligible for reimbursement?

Program funds cannot be used to carry out the construction, operation, or maintenance of any part of any program or facility that is used or is to be used for sectarian instruction or as a place for religious worship, except that maintenance of a facility is allowed if it is not primarily or inherently devoted to sectarian instruction or religious worship, (i.e., where the person or entity operating the facility is part of a program or activity providing legally authorized social services).

What is the application process?

Applications will be accepted beginning October 27, 2020 and the application period will close on December 1, 2020 or when the number of submissions indicate the depletion of funds. Applicants must submit the application and required documentation via the web-based form provided at www.toledochamber.com/lucas-county-stabilization-grant.html. Completed applications will be processed on a first-come-first-serve basis until funds are exhausted.

What documentation is necessary to submit with the application?

Applicants must supply a (1) copy of year 2019 tax returns, including Form 1040 with Schedule C Profit or Loss from Business, Form 1120 (if corporation), or equivalent documentation; (2) copy of year 2019 Form W-3 Transmittal of Wage and Tax Statements (showing number of employees); (3) copy of business's Form W-9 Request for Taxpayer Identification Number and Certification; and (4) proof of reimbursable business expenditures (receipts/invoices).

How will I receive payment if I am awarded funding?

All grant funds will be distributed via electronic payment according to the information provided on an ACH form by the awardee. This form is provided on the web-based application and the completed form must be submitted along with other required documentation.

What should I do if I need additional information?

For additional information regarding the Lucas County Small Business Stabilization Grant, contact the Toledo Regional Chamber of Commerce at businessgrant@toledochamber.com.

Program	Lucas County Small Business Stabilization Grant	Toledo Emergency Microenterprise Recovery Grant	Small Business Relief Grant	Bar and Restaurant Assistance Fund
Administrator	TRCC (on behalf of Lucas County Commissioners)	City of Toledo	Ohio Development Services Agency	Ohio Development Services Agency
Application period opens	October 27, 2020	Currently open	November 2, 2020	November 2, 2020
Application portal	Toledochamber.com/grant	Toledo.oh.gov/emrgrant	Businesshelp.ohio.gov	Businesshelp.ohio.gov
Can be used for expenses previously receiving CARES Act relief?	No	No	No	No
Amount?	Up to \$25,000 – 21-50 employees Up to \$10,000 – 1-20 employees Up to \$25,000 – non-profits	Up to \$5,000	\$10,000 Sets aside funding for 50 businesses in each county to be funded. Additional businesses in each county may be funded based on availability of funding.	\$2,500
Eligibility	<p>Must be a for-profit or non-profit entity with 50 or fewer employees as of March 1, 2020 and have less than \$5 million in gross annual revenue.</p> <p>Must have their primary operation located in Lucas County; be established on or before January 1, 2019; have a Federal Tax Identification Number (and a copy of a non-profit determination letter, if applicable); have a physical business location inside Lucas County; be current on all taxes and free from liens on property; be compliant with all legal requirements for businesses; and remain in business for the duration of 2020.</p>	<p>Must be a for profit entity with 5 or fewer employees (or their part-time equivalence), including the owner(s), as of February 15, 2020.</p> <p>Must meet at least one of HUD's eligibility requirements: Owns a business located in a low-to-moderate income census tract; OR business owner's household income does not exceed 80% of HUD area median income.</p> <p>Must also be located in Toledo; have an active city tax registration; be 51%+ majority owner of the business and 18 years or older; provide an Employer Identification Number, a DUNS number, and a Social Security Number; be in operation since January 1, 2020; and be in good standing with governmental entities (taxes etc.)</p>	<p>Must be a for-profit entity with no more than 25 Ohio employees as of Jan. 1, 2020.</p> <p>The business must also have a physical location in Ohio and earn at least 90% of annual revenue based on activities performed in and taxable to Ohio.</p> <p>The business must have been in continuous operation since Jan. 1, 2020, except for interruptions required by COVID-19 public health orders and have the ability to continue operations as a going concern.</p>	<p>Permit holders need to have had an active on-premise permit as of close-of-business October 23, 2020.</p> <p>The business does not have to be currently open but must have an active liquor license.</p>
Use of funds	Eligible expenses include payroll; rent or lease costs; mortgage costs including interest; utility costs for electric, natural gas/propane, internet, and phone; business insurance costs; inventory and supplies; and personal protective equipment. Expenses must be incurred between April 1, 2020 and October 31, 2020 and be applicable to locations within Lucas County.	Eligible expenses include purchases to restock inventory for resale; supplies needed to conduct business safely according to COVID emergency guidelines; professional cleaning services or cleaning supplies; commercial mortgage payment; rent, except rent paid to an entity in which applicant is an owner; and utilities. Expenses must be incurred between March 1, 2020 and June 30, 2020.	Eligible expenses include personal protective equipment to protect employees, customers, or clients from COVID-19; measures taken to protect employees, customers, or clients from COVID-19; mortgage or rent payments for business premises (personal residences explicitly excluded); utility payments; salaries, wages, or compensation paid to contractors or employees, including an employer's share of health insurance costs; and business supplies or equipment.	
Application requirements	Application period will close on December 1, 2020 or when the number of submissions indicate the depletion of funds. Completed applications will be processed on a first-come-first-served basis until funds are exhausted.	Applications will be processed in the order they are received and grants will be awarded until all remaining funds have been awarded.	Businesses applying for funding will be required to establish a registration ID with the State of Ohio. As applications are approved on a first-come, first-served basis, grants will be awarded first from each county's allocation. When a county's allocation is depleted, grants will be awarded from the remainder of funding on a first-come, first-served basis regardless of the business' location in Ohio.	Licenses must present their FEIN or SSN, and liquor permit number and address for each unique location at time of application. The Department of Taxation will confirm all entries. Applications will be accepted through December 30, 2020. Once money is received, per CARES Act stipulation, businesses are to use the funds on COVID-related expenses due to business interruptions caused by the pandemic.