

# Micro-Grants & Micro-Loans for New York Small Businesses



This document lists pandemic-relief micro-grant and micro-loan programs available to small businesses in New York State, organized by region. The list is not exhaustive, but it may be useful as a helpful starting guide to find grant or loan programs. Do you know of an active micro-grant or micro-loan program that is not on this list? Please forward the information to [researchnetwork@nysbdc.org](mailto:researchnetwork@nysbdc.org) to have it added to the list.

<https://nysbdc.org/>

Updated: March 28, 2022

Find COVID-19 and general funding options available nationally or location-specific using this [SBA COVID-19 Funding Options](#) tool.

For information about SBA Coronavirus Small Business Financial Assistance Programs, including the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL), Shuttered Venue Operators Grant (SVOG), and the Restaurant Revitalization Fund (RRF) please visit [SBA Small Business Guidance and Loan Resources](#).

Visit Empire State Development for information on the [New York Forward Loan Fund](#) and other [Business Pandemic Recovery Initiatives](#).

Also see the monthly [Grants Action News](#) published by the New York State Assembly.

Another useful tool for finding industry-specific or project-specific pandemic-relief grants is [Grant Station](#), where you can filter results to find relevant information for specific situations.

\*\*\* Some Micro-Loan programs targeted to COVID relief offer special incentives like reduced interest rates, deferred payment periods, waived application fees, or limited collateral requirements. One additional source beyond those listed below is [Empire State Development's Alternative Lender Directory](#). \*\*\*

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# Empire State Development-Business Pandemic Recovery Initiatives

## [Grants, Tax Credits, and Technical Assistance Programs for Businesses Affected by the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)

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### \*[Pandemic Small Business Recovery Grant Program](#)

This program was created to provide flexible grant assistance to currently viable small businesses, micro-businesses and for-profit independent arts and cultural organizations in the State of New York who have experienced economic hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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### \*[Restaurant Resiliency Program](#)

This \$25 million grant program provides funding to restaurants that choose to provide meals and food to people within distressed or under-represented communities. Grant funds will allow restaurants to cover the costs of food, preparation, and delivery of meals to vulnerable populations. Apply now.

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### \*[Tourism Return-to-Work Grant Program](#)

Required eligibility screening tool is now available.

The goal of the \$100 million Tourism Return-to-Work Grant Program is to help support employment growth among businesses that attract and support tourism and suffered economic hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Grants will provide a financial incentive for businesses to hire workers, as well as financial assistance. Online application portal is expected to be made available in March 2022, and applicants must first complete the required eligibility screening tool.

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### \*[Meet in New York Grant Program](#)

To aid in determining eligibility, please complete the required eligibility screening tool. If you meet the eligibility requirements, you will be sent an email in the upcoming weeks inviting you to submit an application via email.

The goal of the \$25 million Meet in New York Grant Program is to help support the return of conferences, meetings and trade shows that generate significant tourism economic activity through overnight stays, dining and other tourism activities. ESD expects to release additional information on the program's terms and conditions in the coming weeks.

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### \*[Restaurant Return-To-Work Tax Credit](#)

**Eligibility:** open to eligible restaurants located in New York City, or in an area outside of New York City that was designated an Orange or Red Zone for at least thirty consecutive days

The \$35 million Restaurant Return-to-Work Tax Credit Program provides an incentive to COVID-impacted restaurants to bring restaurant staff back-to-work, and to increase hiring at NYS restaurants. Qualifying businesses are eligible for a tax credit of \$5,000 per new worker hired, up-to \$50,000 per business.

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\*[New York City Musical and Theatrical Production Tax Credit](#)

The \$100 million New York City Musical and Theatrical Production Tax Credit is a two-year program jump-starting the entertainment industry and support tourism in New York City. The Program will offset some of the costs associated with producing a show as New York's economy recovers from the COVID 19 pandemic. Companies can receive tax credits of 25% of qualified production expenditures.

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\*[New York Forward Loan Fund \(NYFLF\)](#)

The New York Forward Loan Fund (NYFLF) is an economic recovery loan program aimed at supporting New York State small businesses, nonprofits, and small residential landlords.

\*\*First-round funds are successfully deployed; please check back for updates.\*\*

## Capital Region

### Micro-Grants

#### [\\*Schenectady Small Business Assistance Program Grant](#)

Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis for maximum flexibility as funding is made available. To be eligible for the grants, businesses must be located in the City of Schenectady, must employ 10 people or less, and have suffered a 25% loss in revenue since COVID. The program will also prioritize businesses owned by people of color, immigrants, and women, which have weaker access to banking systems and financial support and also businesses that have not received support from federal programs such as the Small Business Administration’s Economic Injury Disaster Loan or the Paycheck Protection Program.

#### [\\*Albany Central Ave BID Emergency Grants](#)

**Eligible Geography:** City of Albany Central Ave BID

CBID has limited Emergency grants and assistance for businesses impacted by the COVID Pandemic, including Emergency PPE, Marketing Grants, and Emergency Repairs.

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### Micro-Loans

<u>REGION</u>	<u>LOAN</u>	<u>AGENCY</u>	
Clinton, Essex, Hamilton, Warren & Washington Counties	<a href="#">ADK Small Business Resiliency Fund</a>	Lake Champlain – Lake George Regional Planning Board	\$25,000- \$150,000 (1.9% rate) <small>deadline June 1, 2022</small>
Albany, Columbia, Greene, Rensselaer, Saratoga, and Schenectady counties	<a href="#">Capital Region Advancement Fund</a>	Capital Region Chamber	\$25,000- \$500,000 (1.5% rate) <small>Please note: while the fund is currently not accepting applications, we expect to re-open the program to new applicants by the end of 2022 or early in 2023</small>
Greene County	<a href="#">Greene County EDC Emergency Loans</a>	Greene County EDC	\$10,000- \$25,000 (0% rate)

# Central New York

## Micro-Grants

### \*Cortland County BDC Small Business Expansion Assistance Grant Program

**Eligibility:** Small businesses eligible for this program will employ 10 or fewer persons, including the business owner(s).

The purpose of the Small Business Expansion Assistance Program is to provide financial assistance to entrepreneurs and existing small businesses that have been impacted by Covid 19 and have been putting off capital improvements and expansion plans aimed at growing their revenue and customer base.

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### \*Cortland County BDC Downtown Business Assistance Grant Program

The Cortland County Business Development Corporation (BDC) has limited funding available to support select new businesses locating in Cortland County's Downtown Business Districts. The goal of this highly competitive program is to enhance downtown districts as desirable locations while helping to build a foundation for a long and successful tenure in business sectors so critically important to Cortland County's economic health. These funds are expected to support businesses that may struggle as a result of impacts related to the COVID pandemic. Eligible to apply are certain retail operations that are either considering a downtown location or have already secured a downtown location and are in the process of opening at the time of application. Grants of up to \$5,000 will be awarded to qualified recipients after formal application, staff review, and approval by the BDC. Grants may only be used to reimburse business start-up costs actually incurred by the applicant.

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### \*City of Auburn Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

Grant funding to be allocated specifically to businesses located in the City of Auburn whose operations and financial condition were adversely impacted by the COVID-19 public health emergency. A small business can apply up to \$40,000. This is a grant program. Not a loan. Grant funding assistance is available for costs incurred after March 3, 2021. No advances will be made. This is a reimbursement-based grant program.

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## Micro-Loans

<u>REGION</u>	<u>LOAN</u>	<u>AGENCY</u>	<u>AMOUNT &amp; RATE</u>
Cortland County	<a href="#">COVID-19 Business Assistance Loans</a>	Cortland County BDC	\$10,000-\$20,000 (2% rate)
Oswego County	<a href="#">COVID-19 Emergency Relief Loan Program</a>	Operation Oswego County	\$10,000 max (0% rate)
Cayuga County	<a href="#">COVID-19 Emergency Microloan Program</a>	Cayuga Economic Development Agency	up to \$5,000 (1% rate)

# Finger Lakes

## Micro-Grants

[\\*Ontario County Hospitality and Tourism COVID-19 Relief Program](#)

**Eligibility:** \$10,000 - \$60,000 Grants Available for Tourism & Hospitality Businesses located in Ontario County with 25 or Fewer Employees

These grants are designed to help the tourism and hospitality industry, one of the hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic and an important economic generator for Ontario County. \$1,000,000 is available through the “Visit Ontario County COVID Relief Program” to support small businesses in the hospitality and tourism industry create new jobs, restore jobs or retain jobs that are at risk of being lost.

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## Micro-Loans

<u>REGION</u>	<u>LOAN</u>	<u>AGENCY</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	
Wyoming County	<a href="#">Re-start Wyoming Loan Program</a>	Wyoming County IDA	\$1,000- \$10,000 (0-2% rate)	Applications will be accepted until Dec 31, 2022
Seneca County	<a href="#">SENIDA Revolving Loan Program</a> <a href="#">Emergency Loans</a>	Seneca County IDA	\$250,000 max (4% rate max)	
City of Rochester	<a href="#">KIVA Rochester Crowdfunded Loans</a>	Kiva Rochester	\$1,000- \$5,000 (0% rate)	

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## Long Island

### Micro-Grants

#### [\\*Suffolk County Small Business Assistance Grant Program](#)

The Suffolk County Consortium Small Business Assistance Grant Program funds are a one-time payment granted to eligible applicants in an amount up to \$5,000 for businesses with up to 10 full-time equivalent employees, and \$10,000 for businesses with 11-50 full-time equivalent employees. Eligible businesses are gyms, hair salons/barbers, nail salons, restaurants and bars/taverns. **\*\*Newly Expanded\*\*** to include: food trucks, breweries, b&bs, motels, retail, service industry (personal care, dry cleaning), amusement/recreation (mini-golf, amusement parks). Additional details [here](#).

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#### [\\*Boost Nassau Main Street Recovery Grant Program](#)

Supports small businesses located within the County that experienced financial hardship due to COVID-19 and that are in need of financial assistance to continue to operate or to be able to reopen as allowed by law during the crisis. Grants of \$10,000 per business will be awarded for eligible businesses with 50 or fewer full-time equivalent employees.

While the County is continuing to accept applications, please be aware that we cannot guarantee they will be approved and funds disbursed without the additional appropriation.

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#### [\\*Town of Islip COVID-19 Emergency PPE Grant](#)

Provides assistance to small businesses located in the Town of Islip in purchasing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) or installations to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

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## Micro-Loans

<u>REGION</u>	<u>LOAN</u>	<u>AGENCY</u>	<u>AMOUNT &amp; RATE</u>
New York City, Westchester, and Long Island	<a href="#">Coronavirus Financial Impact Loan</a>	Hebrew Free Loan Society	\$2,000-\$5,000 (0% rate)
Town of Islip	<a href="#">COVID-19 Disaster Loan Program</a>	Islip IDA	\$25,000 max (0% rate)
Nassau County	<a href="#">Boost Nassau Small Business Recovery Loan Program</a>	Nassau County	\$100,00 max (3% rate)

## Mid-Hudson

### Micro-Grants

#### \*[Ulster County CARES Small Business Assistance Program](#)

Up to \$35,000 for businesses creating/restoring 1 or more fulltime equivalent job. The Ulster County CARES Small Business Assistance Program will award funding to for-profit businesses located in Ulster County with 25 or fewer employees at the time of application. Funding is meant to spur innovation and adaptation to the new reality of economic life with a highly contagious virus. The fund will provide reimbursement of up to 100% of eligible project costs.

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#### \*[Rockland County Small Business Grant Relief Program](#)

In response to the economic hardship experienced by small businesses resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, the County of Rockland is launching the Small Business Relief Grant Program. The goal is to keep businesses open and retain jobs. It is a grant program in response to businesses that are at-risk of closing or laying off employees due to social distancing policies and other orders and policies related to COVID-19. A maximum of \$45,000 per business.

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#### \*[Westchester County Microenterprise Stabilization Grant Program](#)

**Eligibility:** For-profit business located in Westchester County with 5 or fewer employees, including the owner; additional income & hiring requirements.

This opportunity, which provides grants up to \$10,000, is for eligible small businesses located in lower-income areas across the county that have been negatively impacted by COVID-19. Grants can only be used to reimburse eligible business expenses as of September 1, 2020.

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#### \*[Town of Montgomery Business Relief Program](#)

**Eligibility:** An independently owned small business in the Town of Montgomery

The Business Relief Program will be awarding cash grants in the form of direct payments to creditors and vendors to small businesses within the Town of Montgomery, including the Villages of Walden, Maybrook and Montgomery that have been negatively impacted by the COVID-19 crisis.

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## Micro-Loans

<u>REGION</u>	<u>LOAN</u>	<u>AGENCY</u>	<u>AMOUNT &amp; RATE</u>
Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster, Westchester, The Bronx, or Fairfield, CT	<a href="#">Community Capital NY Small Business Lending</a>	Community Capital NY	
New York City, Westchester County, and Long Island	<a href="#">Coronavirus Financial Impact Loan</a>	Hebrew Free Loan Society	\$2,000- \$5,000 (0% rate)

# Mohawk Valley

## Micro-Grants

[\\*Fulton County Microenterprise Grant Program](#)

**Eligibility:** commercial enterprise that has (5) five or fewer FTE employees, located within Fulton County

This grant was awarded to Fulton County and is being administered by the Fulton County Center for Regional Growth. Small businesses can receive grants of up to \$25,000 to assist with startup or expansion costs which create jobs.

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## Micro-Loans

<u>REGION</u>	<u>LOAN</u>	<u>AGENCY</u>	<u>AMOUNT &amp; RATE</u>
Montgomery County	<a href="#">Montgomery County COVID-19 Pandemic Loan Program</a>	Montgomery County BDC	\$10,000 max (1% rate)
City of Utica	<a href="#">City of Utica COVID-19 Stimulus Funding Program</a>	City of Utica	\$10,000 max (0% rate)

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# New York City

## Micro-Grants

### [\\*New York City Small Business Resilience Grant](#)

\*\*\*The application has been paused until further notice\*\*\*

The NYC Small Business Resilience Grant is a \$10,000 grant to help eligible small businesses recover from the economic hardships that occurred because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Applicant must use the \$10,000 grant to mitigate economic hardships that occurred as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Eligibility:** a small business operating in NYC in which at least 50% of its revenue is generated from activities that are part of the Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation sector, or the Accommodation and Food Services sector, OR a small business that physically operates from a low-to-moderate census tract as defined by the United States Department of HUD; additional criteria on site

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### [\\*Citizens Committee for NYC Neighborhood Business Grants](#)

**Eligibility:** NYC small businesses

Small businesses will receive grants of \$5,000 - \$10,000 to maintain payroll and operations. We will prioritize businesses owned by people of color, immigrants, and women. Proposals that focus on adapting businesses to the challenges of COVID-19 (i.e. delivering orders, fulfilling online requests for products, conducting training and classes online) will also be prioritized.

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## Micro-Loans

<u>REGION</u>	<u>LOAN</u>	<u>AGENCY</u>	<u>AMOUNT &amp; RATE</u>
Brooklyn (BIPOC-owned small business)	<a href="#">Brooklyn EXCErate Loan Fund</a>	Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce	Up to \$15,000 (0% rate) OR up to \$100,000 (2% rate)
Manhattan, Queens, & Brooklyn	<a href="#">Emergency Small Business Relief Loan Fund</a>	Renaissance Economic Development Corporation	up to \$50,000 (3% rate)
The Bronx, Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster, Westchester, or Fairfield, CT	<a href="#">Community Capital NY Small Business Lending</a>	Community Capital NY	
New York City, Westchester, and Long Island	<a href="#">Coronavirus Financial Impact Loan</a>	Hebrew Free Loan Society	\$2,000-\$5,000 (0% rate)

## North Country

### Micro-Loans

<u>REGION</u>	<u>LOAN</u>	<u>AGENCY</u>	<u>AMOUNT &amp; RATE</u>
Jefferson, Lewis, St. Lawrence, Clinton, Essex, Franklin & Hamilton Counties	<a href="#">COVID-19 Emergency Business Relief Program</a>	North Country Alliance	\$25,000 max (5% rate)
Clinton, Essex, Hamilton, Warren & Washington Counties	<a href="#">ADK Small Business Resiliency Fund</a>	Lake Champlain – Lake George Regional Planning Board	\$25,000- \$150,000 (1.9% rate)
Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Hamilton, Herkimer, Jefferson, Oneida, Oswego, Lewis, Saratoga, St. Lawrence, Warren, Washington counties	<a href="#">AEDC Disaster Microloan Fund</a>	Adirondack Economic Development Corporation	\$5,000 (5% rate)



## Southern Tier

### Micro-Grants

#### \*Broome County COVID Recovery Fund

The goal of this program is to provide small, for-profit businesses with 25 or fewer employees that have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, with financial assistance to address improvements that support customer and staff safety and improve business resiliency related to future occurrences of the virus or other disasters. The CRF will provide a one-time grant up to \$50,000 to help small businesses with operational and other eligible costs which were not previously funded by other public or private sources.

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#### \*City of Binghamton Small Business COVID-19 Emergency Grant Program

**Eligible Geography:** City of Binghamton

The COVID-19 Small Business grant program is designed to provide funding that will allow small businesses to remain open, re-open, and retain jobs. It is designed to provide temporary working capital assistance to eligible food, retail, personal services, and other for-profit businesses.

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### Micro-Loans

<u>REGION</u>	<u>LOAN</u>	<u>AGENCY</u>	<u>AMOUNT &amp; RATE</u>
Binghamton	<a href="#"><u>COVID-19 Emergency Small Business Loan</u></a>	Binghamton Local Development Corporation	up to \$15,000 (3.25% rate)
Broome County	<a href="#"><u>COVID-19 Emergency Loan Fund</u></a>	Broome County "The Agency"	

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# Western New York

## Micro-Grants

### \*[Erie County Small Business Working Capital Grant Program](#)

Has your business experienced a disruption and loss of income in 2020 and 2021 due to the COVID-19 Pandemic? Does your business have a COVID-19 Recovery Plan? The Erie County Small Business Working Capital Grant can help. A maximum \$10,000 grant is available to businesses with five (5) or fewer employees. Businesses must be located in a community development block grant consortium community. Business owner household income must meet income requirements.

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### \*[Chautauqua County Permit Fee Relief Program for Businesses](#)

This program will help pay permit fees for facilities regulated by the Division of Environmental Health Services whose business was impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Beginning with the January 2022 permit cycle, eligible facilities that held a valid Health Department permit in 2020 and/or 2021 will have their permit fee paid for by ARPA funds for two years. Eligible facilities include restaurants, mobile and temporary food service establishments, campgrounds, mobile home parks, temporary residences (hotels/motels), swimming pools, beaches, spas, migrant labor camps, and tanning, body piercing and tattoo facilities.

Eligible businesses do not need to do anything at this time to apply, they will be sent information and instructions by the Health Department with their permit renewal applications.

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### \*[Jamestown Renaissance Vibrant Downtown Grants](#)

Jamestown Renaissance Corporation coordinates revitalization strategies to build and make downtown and the adjacent riverfront more attractive for new residents, new businesses, and new investment. There are four active grant programs: “Building and Business Improvement Program”, “Urban E-Commerce”, “Urban Dining”, & “Parklets”. Additional information about these programs available under “Business Development” section of page linked above.

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## Micro-Loans

<u>REGION</u>	<u>LOAN</u>	<u>AGENCY</u>	<u>AMOUNT &amp; RATE</u>
Chautauqua County	<a href="#">CCIDA Cares Loan</a>	County of Chautauqua IDA	Up to \$250,000 (2.44% rate)

## Statewide & General Grants

### \*[Empire State Development-Business Pandemic Recovery Initiatives](#)

A collection of Grants, Tax Credits, and Technical Assistance Programs for Businesses Affected by the COVID-19 Pandemic.

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### \*[LISC Small Business Relief Grants](#)

**There are currently no upcoming national grant rounds scheduled at this time. Register to sign up for email alerts for future grant opportunities.**

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### \*[The GoFundMe Small Business Relief Initiative and Fund](#)

The Small Business Relief Fund will issue \$500 matching grants to qualifying businesses that raise at least \$500 on GoFundMe.

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### \*[IFundWomen Grants](#)

The IFW COVID-19 Relief Fund provides microgrants to women-owned businesses that are being impacted by this crisis. You can donate to the Relief Fund now or start a campaign on IFW to be considered to receive a grant.

**Eligibility:** women-owned businesses

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### \*[SoGal – Black Founder Startup Grant](#)

**Eligibility:** self-identify as a Black woman or Black nonbinary entrepreneur (inclusive of multiracial Black women and multiracial Black nonbinary folks)

SoGal Foundation has teamed up with Winky Lux, bluemercury, twelveNYC, and other sponsors to make a small step towards progress by providing several \$10K and \$5K cash grants to Black women or nonbinary entrepreneurs.

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### \*[KKR Small Business Builders](#)

**Eligibility:** between 5 and 50 employees, less than \$7 million USD in annual revenue

Created as a key pillar of KKR's COVID-19 Relief Effort, KKR Small Business Builders (SBB) aims to support entrepreneurs and their small businesses around the world. The grants are designed to help business owners sustain their enterprises, maintain, or create jobs, and spur economic opportunity as they respond to the ongoing COVID-19 crisis and recover from its resultant economic dislocation.

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