

NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY

Robust Retail: Citywide

Updated 12/2/2020



The Department of Small and Local Business Development (DSLBD) is excited to announce that we will be accepting applications for the **2021 Robust Retail: Citywide grants starting December 7, 2020 and closing January 28, 2021 at 2 pm eastern.**

A robust retail sector is critical to maintaining the vibrancy of DC neighborhoods, but due to market realities of the past year, retail businesses are under threat of business decline and closure. Thus the 2021 Robust Retail Citywide grant(s) support existing DC-based retail businesses maintaining operations and viability during the current small business crisis.

DSLBD intends to award up to \$7,500 per business to 106 businesses from the total \$800,000 in available funding for Fiscal Year 2021. This grant will be operated as a reimbursement grant, awarded via lottery, to DC retail businesses that have met all eligibility requirements by the final deadline.

Final Deadline

The absolute final deadline to apply online is January 28, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. EST, no exceptions. Applications will only be accepted through the online application system listed in the Request for Applications (RFA) on DSLBD's website.

Who can apply?

Only for-profit consumer-facing, small and independent retail businesses with fewer than 25 full-time employees (FTEs), with a licensed retail location in DC are eligible for Robust Retail Citywide Grants. **Home-based, online-only, and non-profit businesses are not eligible for this grant opportunity.** Applicants must be compliant with the Office of Tax & Revenue's Clean Hands requirements, be licensed as a retail business in the District, and have maintained active general liability insurance during the time for which they are requesting reimbursement for expenses .

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How can the funds be used?

The funding may be used to reimburse for expenses the agency deems reasonable to support maintaining business viability between July 1, 2020 and January 28, 2021. Examples of allowable and disallowed uses are detailed in the full Request for Applications (RFA) available on DSLBD's website during the application period.

How will awardees be selected?

Grant recipients will be selected through a lottery process, with a mechanism for ensuring at least half of the grants are evenly distributed across all 8 DC Wards. All applications deemed eligible and received by or before the deadline will be entered into the lottery system.

The Director of DLSBD will make the final approval of grant awards. Announcements of selected awards will be made on or around February 5-15, 2021.

How do I apply?

All instructions are included in the formal "Request for Applications" (RFA) available for download on DSLBD's website on or before December 7, 2020. Applicants are encouraged to read the full Request for Applications at <https://dslbd.dc.gov/service/current-grant-opportunities>.

Questions?

We will hold online, virtual information sessions. Applicants are highly encouraged to attend a virtual information session. Details on information sessions can be found on the Eventbrite page using the following link: <http://bit.ly/DSLBDeventbrite>.

All other questions not asked during an in person information session must be submitted in writing to Inno.ED@dc.gov. We will begin answering questions after the grant opens on December 7, 2020.

Reservations

DSLBD reserves the right to issue addenda and/or amendments subsequent to the issuance of this Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) or RFA, or to rescind the NOFA or RFA at any time.

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