



We do amazing.



COVID-19 SMALL BUSINESS ECONOMIC RECOVERY GRANT PROGRAM

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Columbus Consolidated Government's Community Reinvestment Department has partnered with StartUP Columbus and the Greater Columbus Chamber of Commerce to develop and administer an Economic Development Grant Program. The grant program will assist small businesses in Columbus that have been negatively affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

FUNDING SOURCE

Funding for this grant program is provided under the Federal stimulus package, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program.

APPLICATION PERIOD

Up to \$112,000 is available for this initial funding opportunity.

Applications will be accepted from May 1st on a rolling basis until all available funds are committed to eligible businesses and expenses.

PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY

To be considered for this opportunity, a business must meet all eligibility criteria listed below:

- For Profit businesses that are NOT publicly traded, partially owned by a hedge fund, or a corporate owned franchise.
- For Profit businesses that have a current Muscogee County business license.
- For Profit businesses that are in good standing with the City of Columbus.

PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY (CONTINUED)

- For Profit businesses with a physical presence of an organization or business in a building or other structure.
- For Profit businesses who can demonstrate ongoing business operations since March 1, 2019.
- For Profit businesses that are not in bankruptcy, current with all local, state, and Federal taxes, fees, and be in compliance with all City of Columbus business obligations including, but not be limited to, licensure, insurance, tax obligations and zoning/land use requirements.



PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY (CONTINUED)

- For-profit businesses must agree to retain or create jobs for low- or moderate-income employee(s) for at least 1 year as a result of funding.
- For Profit businesses must certify on the application that use of the grant funds will only be used to reimburse authorized business expenses.
- * For Profit businesses that are operational at the time the grant is awarded.

****If the businesses temporarily closed due to the pandemic, the business must be opened prior to the grant being awarded.***

APPLICATION PROCESS

The application will be available online at

- <https://startupcolga.com/>
- <https://www.columbusga.gov/communityreinvestment>

**Incomplete applications will not be considered for funding.*

APPLICATION PROCESS

In addition to the application, the following documents are required:

- Completed [W-9 form for business.](#)
- E-Verify Number.
- Valid state issued photo ID of business owner/signatory
- Copy of current City of Columbus business license.
- Itemized Summary of eligible reimbursable COVID-19 expenses.
- Bills/invoices for expenses meeting eligible reimbursable COVID-19 expenses along with proof of payment.
- Business operating agreement (for multiple owners)

Contact Information

<https://www.columbusga.gov/communityreinvestment>

Robert Scott, Community Reinvestment Director - scott.robert@columbusga.org

<https://startupcolga.com/>

Ben MacMinn, StartUp Columbus Executive Director - ben@starupcolga.com



THE CITY OF COLUMBUS, STARTUP COLUMBUS AND THE GREATER COLUMBUS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE LOOK FORWARD TO ASSISTING YOU IN SUSTAINING AND GROWING YOUR BUSINESS, AND PROVIDING NEEDED GOODS, SERVICES, AND EMPLOYMENT TO OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY.