Columbus-Franklin County Small Business Recovery Fund

WHAT

There is $8 million in grant funding that will be distributed to small businesses in Columbus and Franklin County that meet grant guidelines and successfully complete the application process.

The grants are intended to support small businesses in the City of Columbus or Franklin County negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, specifically those in underserved communities and/or are minority-owned businesses, disadvantaged businesses and veteran-owned businesses.

There are three levels of grants available through the Columbus-Franklin County Small Business Recovery Fund.

$5,000 Recovery Grants. Available to self-employed, single entity, sole proprietors or sole member limited liability companies with no W2 employees.

$10,000 Recovery Grants. Available to small business owners who currently employ at least one (1) full-time W2 employee, or full-time equivalent, in addition to the owner.

+Plus $10,000 Job Restoration Grants. Available to business owners who qualify for the $10,000 Grant and can show employee loss due to the pandemic. These owners also may qualify for the +Plus $10,000 Grant for an additional $10,000 to rehire one (1) full-time W2 employee.

WHEN

Applications opened Monday, March 7, 2022 and are being accepted in waves, opening every six weeks through Saturday, September 3, 2022, or until all funds are awarded.
HOW
Business owners can learn more, determine eligibility and apply for a grant at SmallBusinessRecoveryGrant.com.

WHO
The City of Columbus and Franklin County are the Fund’s sponsors. The Ohio Small Business Development Center at Columbus State Community College is the Fund’s program manager overseeing the Fund’s grant application and funding process. The Wells Foundation is the Fund’s fiscal agent and technology partner.

WHY
Small businesses are the foundation of Central Ohio's economy. The grant program’s purpose is to support the region’s small business economy and ensure entrepreneurship can flourish and grow.

This program seeks to provide relief to small businesses to help them:
• Maintain operations as well as employees.
• Maintain safe operating procedures.
• Mitigate financial hardship due to loss of sales.
• Seek out and take advantage of business growth opportunities.
• Provide funding to small businesses to hire and train new employees.
• Provide funding to re-hire previously lost positions.

Additional Business Support: As part of the grant application process, business owners will be matched with an Entrepreneur Support Organization (ESO) to assist them in the grant process.

They are:
• Aventi Enterprises
• Columbus Empowerment Corporation
• Eveland Cleveland
• OB3 Advisory and Management LTD
• SBC Small Business Consulting
• World Peaces
• YMT Consultants

In addition to the ESOs list above, Recovery Fund Community Outreach Partners are:
• Asian American Commerce Group
• Catholic Social Services – Our Lady of Guadalupe Center
• Ohio Minority Business Assistance Center
• Elevate Northland
• Greater Linden Business Network
• Hispanic Chamber of Columbus
• Social Ventures
• Somali American Chamber of Commerce
• The St. John Learning Center