



Get Restaurant Bridge Fund Ready

What is the Restaurant Bridge Fund?

To meet the existing and future COVID-19 related needs for DC's businesses, Mayor Muriel Bowser and the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development (DMPED), in partnership with the Council of the District of Columbia, are strategically investing \$100 million in The Bridge Fund to sustain the hospitality, entertainment, and retail industries and mitigate the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on workers and businesses. The Bridge Fund is devised to assist small business employers to maintain operations and employees. With \$35 million allocated to the restaurant industry, the Restaurant Bridge Fund aims to provide competitive grants to eligible restaurant and food services establishments that have experienced significant economic distress since the beginning of the COVID-19 public health emergency and made plans to respond and adapt to these challenging circumstances.

Full-service restaurants with restaurant licenses, including limited-service restaurants, fast food restaurants, and food service providers such as: bars and taverns with a tavern license, wineries, breweries or distilleries with a tavern license, bakeries, cafes, delicatessens, coffee shops, vending trucks or carts, food trucks, food courts, caterers, and cafeterias would be eligible to apply for the Restaurant Bridge Fund. The funds will support general operational expenses (rent/mortgage/docking expense, payroll, insurance, fuel for mobile vendors, and/or utilities), and expenses incurred related to winterization or COVID-19 preparation.

The Restaurant Fund will award at least 700 grants for eligible businesses with consideration to economic distress, business viability, length of revenue generating operations, and District resident employment. Additionally, 15% of the funds (\$5.25M) will be set aside for businesses that meet the following conditions:

- Are eligible to be a Resident-Owned Business (ROB)
- Are eligible to be a Small Business Enterprise (SBE); and
- Are at least one of the following: at least 51% owned by economically disadvantaged individuals OR at least 51% owned by a woman or a majority of women OR a certified Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE).
- Applicants for the set-aside must also meet the eligibility requirements for the Bridge Fund Restaurant program (below).

Due to the upcoming Holiday observances, the Restaurant Bridge Fund application will be open for three (3) weeks, commencing on Monday, December 7, 2020 and closing on Monday, December 28, 2020 at 5:00 PM/ET. Please continue to check coronavirus.dc.gov/bridgefund for any additional updates on the deadline.

Am I Eligible?

The Restaurant Bridge Fund will be open to businesses that meet the following criteria:

- Must be located in the District of Columbia
- Must be currently open & operating. Businesses temporarily closed due to the recent restrictions on indoor dining with plans to reopen on or before January 15, 2021 are eligible.
- Business must have been revenue generating prior to October 1, 2020.
- If the business opened after March 17, 2020 and before September 30, 2020, the business must have generated a minimum of \$25,000 in revenue.
- Maximum of \$10 million in annual revenue for 2019 and/or \$7.5 million in revenue as of September 30, 2020.
- Franchises are independently owned & operated.
- Must demonstrate financial distress of 25% in decrease in revenue during COVID-19.
- Must be Local Business Enterprise (LBE) eligible.
- Must have a Certificate of Clean Hands dated within 90 days of application submission.

- Must have and submit a DC Basic Business License and all applicable ABRA licenses.

What Documents Do I Need to Apply?

Before you start your application, please prepare the following documents:

- 2018 and 2019 Tax Return
- 2019 Monthly Profit & Loss Statements
- 2020 Monthly Profit & Loss Statements (to date)
- Clean Hands Certificate dated within 90 days of application submission. [Learn how to request](#) your certificate.
- Certificate of Occupancy
- Proof of valid identification for owner
- Payroll roster (part-time and full-time employees and independent contractors) with state of residency as of September 30, 2020.
- DC Basic Business License from DCRA and applicable ABRA licenses. [Request here](#).

Restaurant Bridge Fund Scenario Chart

SCENARIOS	ELIGIBILITY
Owners of more than one restaurant (can apply up to 5 restaurants)	✓
Business is incorporated in another state, but main business office location is in DC	✓
I have a restaurant in my hotel, but the restaurant has a different EIN number than the hotel.	✓
My business opened after September 30, 2020	X
Restaurants that are temporarily or permanently closed before December 18, 2020	X
Businesses with a revoked or expired DC business license and/or Certificate of Occupancy and/or no Certificate of Clean Hands	X
I own a pop up/seasonal restaurant that leases kitchen space and equipment	X
I own a restaurant that operates in a partially leased space	X

How Do I Apply?

The application will open on December 7, 2020 and close on December 28, 2020 at 5:00 PM/EST. Please continue to check coronavirus.dc.gov/bridgefund for any updates on the deadline. The application, along with an Application Guide and FAQs will be posted on [The Bridge Fund page](#) at coronavirus.dc.gov/bridgefund

Where Can I Find Technical Assistance?

For technical assistance, contact:

- [DC Main Streets Program](#)
- [Small Business Technical Assistance CBOs](#)

For language assistance, contact:

- Mayor's Office on Latino Affairs: (202) 671-2825
 - Spanish
- Mayor's Office on African Affairs: (202) 727-5634
 - Amharic

- French
- Mayor's Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs: (202) 727-3120
 - Chinese (Mandarin and Cantonese)
 - Vietnamese
 - Korean
- For assistance with hearing or vision impairment, contact: restaurantbridgefund@dc.gov

Have Questions?

For all inquiries related to the Restaurant Bridge Fund, contact: restaurantbridgefund@dc.gov.