



ENTERTAINMENT BRIDGE FUND FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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Eligibility

What types of businesses are eligible for the Entertainment Bridge Fund Program?

- Live Music Venues or Concert Halls
- Billiard Parlor
- Bowling Alleys
- Event Venues
- Movie Theaters
- Museums (private institutions)
- Nightclubs
- Bars (with Tavern License & earned less than 25% of revenue from food sales in 2019)
- Performance Venues
- Skating Rinks
- Specialty Experience Venues
- Theaters
- Arenas

Are there any ineligible business types?

The following businesses are ineligible for the Entertainment Bridge Fund:

- Museums that receive more than 50% of their funding through dedicated state or federal tax revenue
- Nonprofit venues that receive more than 50% of their funding through dedicated state or federal tax revenue
- Venues that carry a tavern ABRA license (C/T or D/T) and more than 25% of your 2019 annual revenue was made up of food sales.

Can non-profit venues apply for this grant?

Non-profit venues are eligible to apply for the Entertainment Bridge Fund.

What is the definition of an eligible venue for the Entertainment Bridge Fund?

A business that holds an eligible DCRA license and/or ABRA license (entertainment, tavern, nightclub, or multipurpose) and uses the physical location as its primary way to generate income through events, performances, shows, exhibitions, concerts, or sports events.

What are the requirements of my business to be eligible for grant funds?

- Must be physically located in the District
- Must be a business that operates a venue in one of the eligible business types above.
- Must demonstrate business has site control of the venue
- Must be able to demonstrate at least 50% loss of revenue during the public health emergency
- Must have a DC Basic Business License and any applicable ABRA License dated as of January 1, 2020.
- Must provide Certificate of Clean hands dated within 90 days of application or get a new one within 30 days of receiving notice of a conditional award; otherwise, the applicant will need to return grant funds. You can view instructions on how to request your updated certificate online: otr.cfo.dc.gov/page/certificate-clean-hands

- Businesses that are permanently closed and have taken steps to cease business operations under DCRA Corporate Divisions and OTR Guidelines are ineligible
- Businesses that receive dedicated District or federal tax revenue are ineligible

What must the operating status of my business be to be eligible for grant funds?

You must affirm in the application & in the signed grant agreement that your business is currently in operation or is temporarily closed due to COVID-19 restrictions. To be eligible for the Entertainment Bridge Fund, your business must be in one of the following operating statuses:

- Open - Business location is open to the public at pre-public health emergency hours.
- Limited Capacity - limited capacity can fall in one of the following categories (1) physical location is closed to the public but generating some revenue, or (2) physical location is open to the public but with reduced hours.
- Temporarily Closed - physical location is closed to the public and not generating revenue, but intends to re-open when possible.

If your business is permanently closed with no plans to re-open, you are not eligible to apply for the Entertainment Bridge Fund.

I'm an independent contractor/freelancer. Can I apply for this grant?

Independent contractors and freelancers are not eligible for the Entertainment Bridge Fund at this time.

My business has been in operation from March-November. Am I still eligible to apply?

As long as you are an eligible business type and meet the above eligibility requirements, you are able to apply for the Entertainment Bridge Fund.

I have more than one business. Can I apply for more than one business to the Entertainment Bridge Fund?

Yes, you may apply for each business that has a separate EIN, separate business license.

I received a grant from another DC Government agency. Am I still eligible for the Entertainment Bridge Fund?

You are eligible to apply but the other grants may impact your funding amount.

Application Process

How do I apply?

Applications for the Bridge Fund will be submitted online via the application portal located on coronavirus.dc.gov/bridgefund.

When will I receive my funds?

A disbursement of funds will occur upon completion of the award recommendation, awardee information form, receipt of documents, and signed grant agreement.

I have submitted my application. Will I receive a grant?

A submitted application does not automatically mean a grant will be awarded. The application needs to be reviewed and then selected for an award.

The holiday season is a busy time. If I don't submit my application as soon as the application opens, will I be penalized?

This fund will not be first come, first serve. We will begin to review applications as they come in, but we will not finalize awardees until after the application deadline closes.

What documents do I need to apply for the Entertainment Bridge fund?

You will need to provide the following documents with your application:

- 2019 tax returns
- 2019 Monthly Income Statement showing revenue less expenses
- 2020 Monthly Income Statement to date, showing revenue less expenses with core expenses displayed clearly (rent, payroll, utilities)
- DC Basic Business License
- Certificate of Occupancy
- Certificate of Clean Hands (dated within 90 days prior to application date, or 30 days after award)
- All applicable ABRA Licenses dated as of January 1, 2020
- Lease or Deed or Landlord Affidavit
- Receipts for DCRA Business License & ABRA License renewals paid for in 2020 if the businesses have been temporarily closed since March 17, 2020 (Optional)
- Current Payroll Roster including full-time and part-time employees (including owner/s)

Can I submit the same Certificate of Clean Hands that I used for the Microgrant Program?

No. A current Certificate of Clean Hands (dated within 90 days prior to application date) must be submitted at the time of the application. You can view instructions on how to request your updated certificate online: otr.cfo.dc.gov/page/certificate-clean-hands.

How do I request an updated Certificate of Clean Hands?

As of this summer, businesses can request a Certificate of Clean Hands through the MyTax.DC.gov portal. Learn how to navigate this new process by visiting OTR's website: otr.cfo.dc.gov/page/certificate-clean-hands.

I do not have a Basic Business License. Can I apply for the Entertainment Bridge Fund?

No. A copy of your active DC Business License must be submitted with the grant application.

I do not have an ABRA License. Can I apply for the Entertainment Bridge Fund?

Yes. If your venue does not serve alcohol, it does not need to have an ABRA license. You will still need to provide a valid DCRA business license. If your venue does serve alcohol, you will need to provide a copy of the business's valid ABRA license.

What if I can't provide my documents in time?

To be eligible for funding, businesses must provide all required documentation at the time of their application.

Can I submit the application via email?

No. All applications must be submitted on the designated online portal no later than Monday, January 11th, 2020 at 5:00 PM/ET. DMPED and its program partners are not responsible for unreadable, incomplete, and/or out-of-order submissions.

Can I ask a question about my materials before submitting my application?

Yes. Please email EntertainmentBridgeFund@dc.gov with your question in as much detail as possible.

Can I ask a question about my application after it has been submitted?

Yes. Please email EntertainmentBridgeFund@dc.gov or BFentertainment@ledcmetro.org for specific questions regarding your application.

Grant Funds**How much are the grant awards?**

Grant awards vary from \$10,000 - \$250,000 for Entertainment Bridge Fund Venue Program.

How will you determine how much I'm awarded?

The factors taken into consideration for the award amount include revenue, core expenses (rent, utilities, payroll), and business tenure.

When will I receive my award notification letter?

We anticipate award notifications will begin in mid-February.

What can I spend grant funds on?

Eligible uses for grant funds are as follows:

- Rent and mortgage payments
- Payroll
- Property & sales tax
- Operational expenses
- Insurance
- Accounts payable
- Utilities
- Interim use of space innovations
- COVID-19 related supplies and preparation (e.g. PPE, ventilation system upgrades, etc.)

How long do I have to spend the grant funds?

Grant funds must be spent before July 31, 2021.

What happens after I receive the grant funds?

After spending the funds on eligible expenses, you will send a report sharing information on how your business used the funds. Your grant agreement will provide guidance on reporting requirements.