



Get Great Streets Small Business Retail Grants Ready

What is the Great Streets Small Business Retail Grant?

The purpose of the Program is to emphasize retention and innovation within commercially underserved corridors, supporting projects that foster the long-term sustainability of essential goods and services in vital retail areas.

The Program aims to strengthen and revitalize commercially underserved corridors by supporting new and existing businesses through investments that go beyond traditional capital improvements.

Funding will prioritize innovative projects and collaborations that foster long-term business retention, attract new opportunities, and drive corridor wide transformation.

Am I Eligible?

The Great Street Small Business Retail Grant will be open to businesses that meet the following criteria:

- For-profit entities (including, but not limited to partnerships, limited liability companies, and corporations), and art- and humanities or community revitalization based 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations duly organized in the District of Columbia.
- Retail and service-oriented business owners whose location situates within a Great Street corridor boundary.
- Business owners who have *not* previously received Great Streets or Emerging Retail funding for the applicant business property in the last 5 years.
- Sole proprietors with a physical storefront are eligible if they are District residents
- Provide proof that the *total* average annual revenue of the business (based on the last three (3) completed calendar years), or the projected total average annual revenue for the first three (3) years “in business,” does not exceed \$3 million. Example: Year 1- \$1 MIL; Year 2- \$500,000; Year 3-\$3 MIL (Add each year divided by 3 = **TOTAL AVG \$1,500,000**) The total average for all 3 yrs combined is within the threshold.

What Documents Do I Need to Apply?

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

- Business Tax Returns for the past three years
- DC Basic Business License (Request [here](#))
- DLCP- Certificate of Good Standing
- Evidence of Site Control (Copy of Fully Executed, Unexpired Lease or Deed), *Letter of Intent (LOI) *accepted if evidence of moving into a space vacant for 1 or more years is provided*
- [Certificate of Insurance](#)
- Certificate of Clean Hands (dated within 90 days prior to application date). [Learn how to request your certificate.](#)
- Project Description and Budget
- [Landlord Affidavit](#)
- Insurance Policies Affidavit
- Employee Roster and Job Creation Chart
- Profit and loss statement

How Do I Apply?

The application will open on Friday, December 12, 2025 and close on Monday, January 16th, at 12pm ET. The application along with a Checklist will be posted on <http://www.greatstreets.dc.gov>

Great Streets Small Business Retail Grants Scenario Chart

SCENARIO	ELIGIBILITY
My business was previously awarded Great Streets funding for the original location and now I am opening a second or third location.	✓
My business was awarded a Great Streets grant over five years ago and wishes to expand its operation by leasing the neighboring vacant space to increase the business square footage.	✓
My business has a brick-and-mortar retail location as well as an online store	✓
My business has a physical location providing aesthetic and wellness services (e.g., massage establishment; hair salon; gyms; yoga, dance, or fitness studios)	✓
My business is temporarily or permanently closed	✗
I am a freelance hair stylist or massage therapist or fitness instructor who does not own or lease a storefront retail location.	✗
Businesses with a revoked or expired DC business license and/or Certificate of Occupancy and/or Certificate of Clean Hands	✗
I sell my products inside DC retail spaces or at DC outdoor markets but do not own or lease a storefront retail location. (*Check out the requirements for our Emerging Retail Initiative*)	✗
I am an online-only retailer / e-commerce business.	✗
My current business location does not match the location filed at DLCP	✗
I am a sole proprietor and do not have an EIN but use my social security number.	✗

Commonly Asked Questions

- **How do I know if my business is within a Great Streets Corridor?** Click [here](#) to view our corridor eligibility map.
- **When will I receive my award notification letter?** We anticipate that notifications will begin in June
- **What is the maximum amount of funds that I can receive?** The award is up to \$90,000.
- **What if I can't provide my documents in time?** To be eligible for funding, businesses must provide all required documentation with 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 16th, 2026 at 12:00 PM/ET. DMPED and its program partners are not responsible for unreadable, incomplete, and/or out-of-order submissions.
- **I do not have an EIN. Can I still apply?** All applicants must provide a business EIN number at grant submission.
- **Can I submit the same Certificate of Clean Hands that I used for a previous DMPED grant submission?** No. A current Certificate (dated within 90 days prior to application date) must be submitted with application.

Where Can I Find Assistance?

For technical assistance with completing and submitting your application, contact:

- [DC Main Streets Program](#)
- [Business Improvement Districts](#)
- [Community-Based Organizations](#)

For language translation assistance, contact:

- Mayor's Office on Latino Affairs: (202) 671-2825
- Mayor's Office on African Affairs: (202) 727-5634
- Mayor's Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs: (202) 727-3120
- Applicants who are hearing or vision impaired and need assistance may contact us at dmped.grants@dc.gov.

Have Questions? For inquiries related to the Great Streets Small Business Retail Grants program, contact: Great.streets@dc.gov

For inquiries related to the Submittable Application or RFA Questions, contact: dmped.grants@dc.gov