



Great Streets Small Business Retail Frequently Asked Questions

What types of businesses are eligible for Great Streets?

- A brick-and-mortar small business (including, but not limited to partnerships, limited liability companies, and corporations) in the retail or restaurant industry that is an eligible business type (see below, not an exhaustive list).
- Provide proof that the average annual revenue of the business (based on the last three (3) completed calendar years), or the projected average annual revenue for the first three (3) years "in business," does not exceed \$1 million.
- Sole proprietors with a physical storefront are eligible if they are District residents.
- An art and humanities-based 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations duly organized in the District of Columbia.
- Retail and service-oriented business owners whose location situates in or within a Great Street corridor boundary.
- Business owners sharing space (Award amount for multiple businesses co-located within same physical address location shall not exceed the \$80,000 threshold.)
- Businesses that hold a Tavern license and permits issued by Alcohol Beverage Regulation Administration (ABRA) with the ability to prove via tax returns that primary revenue is not from alcohol sales
- Owners of retail or service franchises which are based in the District, but which have fewer than three existing locations.

Restaurant

- Bakery
- Food Court
- Coffee Shop
- Delicatessens

Retail:

- Art Gallery
- Art Supply Store
- Bookstore
- Cards, Gifts, Party Store
- Clothing/Specialty Apparel Store
- Consignment Shop
- Convenience Store
- Corner Stores
- Dry Cleaner
- Electronics Store
- Flooring Center
- Florist with On-Site Retail
- Furniture Store
- Grocery Store
- Gyms / Yoga, Dance, or Fitness
 - Studios
- Hair Salon / Barbershop
- Hardware Store
- Home Goods
- Jeweler
- Laundromat
- Massage Therapy
- Nail Salon
- Pet Supply Store
- Pharmacy
- Printing & Signage Shop
- Specialty Foods Store
- Specialty Products (e.g., beads, incense, candles)
- Specialty Retail Store
- Tuxedo/Dress Rental Shop

- Experiential Retail
- Waxing Center

How much are the grant awards?

Grant awards vary from \$5,000 - \$80,000 for the Great Streets Grant.

Are there businesses that are not eligible?

The following businesses are not eligible for Great Streets (not an exhaustive list):

- Business operating as a secondary form of income or side business for the business owner.
- Businesses that are permanently closed and have taken steps to cease business operations under DLCP Corporations Divisions and OTR Guidelines
- Business that are franchises that are not independently owned and operated
- Businesses that received a grant from the Restaurant Revitalization Fund (RRF)
- Businesses that received a grant from the Bridge Fund
- Businesses that received a grant from the "Retail" category within the Small and Medium Business Growth Fund
- Cannabis dispensaries
- Childcare providers
- Construction and Real Estate businesses (general contracting, architecture, development, property management, realtors, etc.)
- Financial Institutions (banks, credit unions, check cashing establishments, payday lenders)
- Health care and social assistance businesses (physicians, dentists, acupuncture, and chiropractor offices, etc.)
- Hotels, Bed and Breakfasts, and Inn and Motels
- Online only / e-commerce businesses
- Professional services companies (Accountant, Insurance, Law Office, etc.)
- Seasonal businesses (only open for part of the year)
- Temporary activations and pop-ups
- Transportation companies and service providers (includes taxi drivers, rideshare drivers, shuttle providers)
- Universities or education institutions

Who is the ideal candidate?

We are looking for candidates that do the following:

- Activate or stabilize the commercial corridor through its physical presence.
- Maintain and/or create new jobs, especially for District residents.
- Visually impact the corridor via façade improvements; and
- Improve the customer experience via interior remodeling.

I'm a sole proprietor. Can I apply for this grant?

Yes, sole proprietors are eligible for Great Streets as long as the sole proprietor meets all the eligibility requirements and is a District of Columbia resident. The business must be the sole proprietor's primary form of income.

I'm a sole proprietor and not a DC resident. Am I eligible?

No, sole proprietors must be DC residents to be eligible for Great Streets.

I operate more than one business. Can I apply for multiple businesses?

Yes, you may apply for up to three locations, so long as each location has a unique EIN and each location meets all eligibility requirements. If a parent company or ownership group operates more than three locations, only three total locations will be eligible.

My business is a nonprofit. Am I eligible?

Yes, arts and humanities nonprofit organizations are eligible for Great Streets.

If I received a grant from the District government, does that count as revenue toward the \$1 million annual revenue requirement?

No, a grant received from the district government will not be counted toward your gross receipts.

I operate a business but do not have a brick-and-mortar location. Am I eligible to apply?

If you are a sole proprietor operating primarily from your home, you are ineligible. Retailers that operate exclusively online are not eligible.

What does it mean to have site control?

Site control means that you have the right to operate within a specific space on a continuous basis.

You can demonstrate site control through a deed, lease, sublease, affidavit from your landlord stating your business is allowed to operate from the space.

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.

When will I hear if I have received an award? All applications will be reviewed prior to conditional award notices being sent. Conditional award notifications are expected to be sent in late May 2023.

If I am selected for an award, when will I receive my funds?

A disbursement of funds will occur upon completion of the award recommendation, receipt of required documents, and a signed grant agreement. We anticipate that grantees that disbursements will begin in June 2023.

What documents do I need to apply for the Great Street Grant?

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

- 2019 Federal Tax Return, if operating in 2019 (Schedule C only for sole proprietors)
- 2020 Federal Tax Return, if operating in 2020 (Schedule C only for sole proprietors)
- 2021 Federal Tax Return (Schedule C only for sole proprietors)

- Active DC Business License for the location where the business operates
- Evidence of site control (lease, deed, or landlord affidavit for businesses with commercial leases)
 - Certificate of Clean Hands dated within 90 days prior to application date
- State-issued identification of the business owner (passports not accepted)
 - Payroll or Roster of Employees dated within 30 days of application (including employees states of residence)

Do I need a business license to apply?

Yes, you must have an active DC Business License to be eligible for this program. The business license address must match the primary business address.

I am a new business in an industry that requires an inspection before receiving a business license. Can I still apply?

Yes. New businesses who cannot obtain a business license must show proof of application submission with a copy of the permit number.

My business was initially incorporated in a jurisdiction outside of DC. Can I apply?

Yes, if you are currently registered in DC with a DC address.

What if I do not have 3 years of Business Tax Returns?

You will need to submit a total of 3 years of tax returns. For the years you do not have business tax returns, please submit your personal tax returns for all business owners, until you reach a combined total of 3 years.

Can I submit the same Certificate of Clean Hands that I used for a previous grant application? A current Certificate of Clean Hands (dated within 90 days prior to application date) must be submitted at the time of the application. Grants will not

be disbursed to businesses that do not provide a Certificate of Clean Hands. The Certificate of Clean Hands must match the EIN or SSN indicated on the application.

How do I request an updated Certificate of Clean Hands? Businesses can request a Certificate of Clean Hands through the MyTax.DC.gov portal. Learn how to navigate this process by visiting OTR's website: www.otr.cfo.dc.gov/page/certificate-clean-hands.

Do I need to provide proof of insurance to receive this grant?

Yes, you will need to submit a valid Certificate of Occupancy verifying that your business carries the required amount of insurance. Insurance coverage that is lower than the requirements will not be accepted.

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

Businesses must provide all required documentation at the time of their application. Incomplete or missing documents may result in your application being deemed ineligible.

Can I submit the application via email?

No. All applications must be submitted on the designated online portal no later than Friday, February 24, 2023 at 5:00 PM EST. DMPED and its program partners are not responsible for unreadable, incomplete, late, and/or out-of-order submissions.

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

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

Where can I get help with my application?

There are a number of organizations that can provide technical or language assistance with your application.

For technical assistance, you may contact your DC Main Street organization (if applicable) or contact a Small Business Technical Assistance Community-Based Organization.

For language assistance, you can contact the Mayor's Office of Community Affairs at one of the following numbers:

- 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