



Tourism Grant Program FAQ

This program is supported by a grant from the Municipality of Anchorage.

1. Who can apply for the Tourism Grant Program's COVID-19 relief funds?

- Must be an existing business or nonprofit organization with a significant reliance on leisure and business travel (70% or more of annual gross receipts dependent upon visitors traveling to Anchorage from outside the municipality, based on 2019 receipts).
- Must have loss of income greater than 40% in 2020 compared to 2019 due to the reduction in out-of-community visitors as customers, cancellation of meetings and conventions, etc. due to COVID-19.
- Must have annual gross receipts in 2019 of at least \$25,000. Businesses with less than \$25,000 in annual revenue in 2019 may be eligible if the year-over-year loss from 2019 to 2020 was \$10,000 or more.
- Must have a permanent business address located within the Municipality of Anchorage.
- Must be able to provide a Social Security Number (SSN) or Employer Identification Number (EIN).

2. What will I need to apply?

- Applicants must be an owner of the business or nonprofit organization or an authorized agent.
- No documentation is necessary to apply, but applicants may be required to provide verification of information prior to final determination of eligibility.
- Payments will only be made to the business entity or its legal DBA.
- Grant recipients will be required to submit a W-9 in order to receive a grant.

3. How do I apply?

Fill out the application [here](#).

4. How do I know if my business is eligible?

- In order to apply, you will need a current and valid business license as verified from the State of Alaska Division of Corporations;
- Your business or nonprofit organization must have significant reliance on leisure and business travel from outside the municipality of Anchorage (70% or more of your company's annual gross receipts dependent upon visitors traveling to Anchorage from outside the municipality, based on 2019 receipts);

- Must have loss of income greater than 40% in 2020 compared to 2019 due to the reduction in out-of-community visitors as customers, cancellation of meetings and conventions, etc. due to COVID-19;
- Must have annual gross receipts in 2019 of at least \$25,000. Businesses with less than \$25,000 in annual revenue in 2019 may be eligible if the year-over-year loss from 2019 to 2020 was \$10,000 or more.
- Must have a permanent business address located within the Municipality of Anchorage.

5. Can I apply if I have received other relief funds or MOA grants?

- There is no prohibition on receiving federal or state relief funds, e.g. PPP, EIDL, AK CARES, etc. Applicants are responsible for verifying eligibility rules for other relief programs. This program is open to all qualifying businesses, regardless of whether they have applied for or have obtained any other state or federal COVID-19-related assistance.
- Businesses that have received grants through the Municipality of Anchorage’s Hospitality Grant programs tiers A, B, or C are not eligible. Exception: hotels, tour operators, and other tourism companies where foodservice is not the primary business activity that received a hospitality Tier C grant may be eligible for the Tourism Grant Program, provided grants already received and/or loan amounts eligible for forgiveness are included as revenues when calculating overall revenue for 2020.
- Any grant already received and/or loan amounts that are eligible for forgiveness must be included as revenues when calculating overall revenue for 2020. In other words, if the revenues from other relief programs prevent your business from meeting the 40% loss-in-revenue threshold, you are not eligible for this program.
- Businesses that already received a Tourism Grant in Round 1 cannot apply to receive an additional grant in Round 2.

6. Does my business have to be located in Anchorage?

Your business or nonprofit organization must have a location within the Municipality of Anchorage, including but not limited to the Anchorage Bowl, Eagle River, Chugiak, Birchwood, Peters Creek, Eklutna, Girdwood, Indian, and Bird. Your location may be an office, store, restaurant, or other physical location. Home-based businesses are eligible.

7. Are restaurants and bars eligible?

Businesses that already received grants through the MOA’s Hospitality Grant program tiers A, B, or C are not eligible. Exception: hotels, tour operators, and other tourism companies where foodservice is not the primary business activity that received a hospitality Tier C grant may be eligible for the Tourism Grant Program, provided grants already received and/or loan amounts eligible for forgiveness are included as revenues when calculating overall revenue for 2020.

If your business did not receive funds from the MOA’s Hospitality Grant program tiers A, B, or C, and your business meets the other criteria for reliance on visitors and loss of income, then you may be eligible.

8. Are seasonal and mobile businesses eligible?

Yes, seasonal and mobile businesses are eligible if they can show they have a location in Anchorage and meet other eligibility criteria.

9. Can I apply for Round 2 if I received a grant in Round 1?

Businesses that received a Tourism Grant in Round 1 cannot apply to receive an additional grant in Round 2.

10. What if I applied in round 1, but did not receive a grant? Do I need to apply again?

Businesses that applied for Round 1 of this Tourism Grant Program but did not qualify will also receive automatic reconsideration under these new guidelines. Round 1 applicants that did not receive a grant but are eligible under the new qualifications will receive automatic consideration under the new guidelines; Round 1 applicants do not need to apply again for reconsideration.

11. I don't have a current business license, but can prove I was in operation in 2019 and 2020, can I apply?

No. A valid business license is a requirement for eligibility.

12. Does membership status at Visit Anchorage factor into my eligibility?

No. Membership or non-membership with Visit Anchorage is not a consideration for this program.

13. Which tier does my business qualify for?

This program's three tiers are built by size of business, based on gross receipts in 2019. In the application, select the tier that applies to your business:

Tier A - Gross receipts in 2019 below \$249,999 – Grant of \$10,000

Tier B - Gross receipts in 2019 from \$250,000 to \$999,999 – Grant of \$25,000

Tier C - Gross receipts in 2019 of \$1,000,000 or more – Grant of \$50,000

Note that you may be asked to furnish proof as part of the process, and you may be asked to provide details on income or losses should this grant be audited.

14. How can I use this money?

COVID has hit the tourism industry hard. We hope this funding can help offset some of the losses incurred due to the pandemic and preserve your business and the tourism industry until a full recovery begins.

There is no date by which funds must be spent, and no restriction on how the money is spent to offset some of the economic effects from the pandemic for your business.

15. If my company's revenue comes from other companies that are in tourism, am I eligible?

This grant program is intended to provide relief to companies deriving gross receipts directly from visitors, rather than from another company or entity in turn serving visitors. As other examples, advertising agencies, mechanics, or web designers whose clients are tourism companies would likely not qualify for this program.

16. What happens if there are more applicants than awards available?

If more eligible applicants apply than grants available, a random selection from the pool of applicants will be used to determine awardees.

17. What happens if there is money remaining after all eligible applicants are awarded grants?

In the event there are grant funds remaining after all applicants approved in round 2 have received a grant, the remaining funds may be distributed proportionally to all approved applicants from rounds 1 and 2.

18. If I receive a grant, do I have to claim this grant on my taxes?

Yes, you will receive a 1099G.

19. If I am awarded a grant, when will I be notified?

Notifications for grant recipients may begin two weeks after the application period closes, but it will partly depend on the volume of applications.

20. If I am awarded a grant, when can I expect the funds to arrive?

If you are awarded a grant, you will need to provide mailing information or other details in order to receive funds. The timing largely depends on receipt of this information.

21. Will my name be made public as part of the award process?

Yes, the Municipality of Anchorage will name the recipients of the Tourism Relief grants.

22. Do I need to file a grant report with the Municipality of Anchorage detailing the use of the grant funds?

No, you do not need to file a grant report. This is a grant made possible through the use of federal CARES Act funds, so you may be asked to provide proof of cancellations or loss of income should this federal grant be audited.

23. How can I get help with my application or ask questions about the process?

Please email grant@Anchorage.net.

24. How much of the money of the grant fund will go to businesses in the form of grants?

As much as possible. The administrators have set aside some funds to cover costs associated with the application platform and technical assistance. If hard costs are less than the full amount of that contingency fund, remaining money held for hard costs will also be put toward business relief grants.

25. What if my application is incomplete?

Applicants are responsible for the accuracy and completeness of their information. The deadline to apply is May 5, 2021. If your application is incomplete or there are questions about the information it contains, administrators will attempt contact you before May 10, 2021. After that, any incomplete or inaccurate applications may be deemed ineligible.

26. Are there other relief resources available for me and my business?

There are other federal, statewide, and local relief programs for businesses and individuals. These resources have more information on other programs that may be of help.

U.S. Travel Association resources <https://www.ustravel.org/toolkit/travel-industry-relief-resources>

State of Alaska <https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/EconomicRecoveryResourcesforBusiness.aspx>

Municipality of Anchorage COVID-19 relief programs <https://covid-response-moa-muniorg.hub.arcgis.com/pages/grant-programs>