

The following FAQ regarding this program and the grant application process is intended only as a guide for general and easy reference.

Q1. How do I apply for this grant?

Submit your complete application package via e-mail starting April 1, 2022 to April 30, 2022 to:

SmallBusinessGrant@sjgov.org

Cash grants will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis, for qualified businesses, for the first 316 applicants. Applications submitted prior to April 1, 2022 will not be considered.

Q2. Who is eligible to apply for these grants?

The business or nonprofit located in San Joaquin County must meet the following criteria:

- Business must be located, and operate, in San Joaquin County.
- Must have less than five full-time equivalent employees in each year of 2019, 2020, and 2021.
- Business income (gross revenues) must be less than \$50,000, but more than \$1,000, in each year of 2019, 2020, and 2021.
- Has experienced financial harm due to the COVID-19 pandemic, as evidenced by a 10% reduction in total income from the 2019 to 2020 and 2021 taxable years.
- The business is currently open and operating in San Joaquin County.
- In operation prior to December 31, 2019.

The owner must meet the definition of a qualified business owner:

- The business owner is the majority-owner and manager of the qualified business.
- The business owner's primary means of income in each of the 2019, 2020, and 2021 taxable years was the qualified business.
- The business owner did not receive a grant under the California Small Business Covid-19 Relief Grant Program.
- The business owner can demonstrate their eligibility as a qualified business owner by providing a government issued photo identification (state, domestic, or foreign), and documentation that includes the owner's name and may include, but is not limited to, the following:
 - A local business permit or license
 - A business bank statement
 - A business tax return
 - Additional documentation to verify a business is qualified, as deemed appropriate by the County.

Q3. What can the grant funds be utilized for?

Grant funds must be utilized for one or more of the following eligible expenditures:

- The purchase of new certified equipment including, but not limited to, a food cart.
- Investment in working capital.
- Application for, or renewal of, a local permit including, but not limited to, a permit to operate as a sidewalk vendor.
- Payment of business debt accrued due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Costs resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic and related health and safety restrictions, or business interruptions or closures incurred as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Q4. What is the limit to the grant?

This grant is limited to a one time payment of \$5000, \$2500 from the California Office of the Small Business Advocate and \$2500 from San Joaquin County.

Q5. I own a business in San Joaquin County and a business outside of San Joaquin County – can I still apply?

Yes, only for the business within San Joaquin County. Confirm that the business meets the remaining eligibility requirements for application.

Q6. I have received financial assistance from other organizations, will that impact my eligibility?

Possibly. If the business has received a grant from the California Small Business Covid-19 Relief Grant Program then the business is not eligible for this grant. The application requests this information so that the County can make the appropriate determination.

Q7. Can I mail my application?

No. Because applicants are being reviewed on a first-come, first-served basis, we are only accepting e-mailed applications. Please e-mail complete applications and all required supporting documents.

**Submit additional questions to
SmallBusinessGrantQuestions@sjgov.org.**