



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 60% 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 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 60% 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 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 with a Beverage Dispensary – Tourism license that received a Tier C grant may be eligible for the Tourism Relief grants.
- 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 60% loss-in-revenue threshold, you are not eligible for this program.

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 with a Beverage Dispensary – Tourism license that received a Tier C grant may be eligible for the Tourism Relief grants.

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. 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.

10. 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.

11. 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.

12. What if my business doesn't fall into one of the NAICS codes listed on the application?

Tourism is a diverse industry. If your company does not fall into one of the NAICS codes listed in the application, select "OTHER" for that question. If your business relies primarily on travel and tourism, you may still qualify.

13. 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.

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

Yes, you will receive a 1099G.

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

Notifications for grant recipients may begin as early as February 26, 2021, depending on the volume of applications and pending transfer of grant funds from the Municipality for disbursement.

16. 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 and pending the transfer of grant funds from the Municipality for disbursement.

17. 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.

18. 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.

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

Please email grant@Anchorage.net

20. How much of the \$7 million 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.

21. What if my application is incomplete?

Applicants are responsible for the accuracy and completeness of their information. The deadline to apply is February 17, 2021. If your application is incomplete or there are questions about the information it contains, administrators will attempt contact you before February 22. After February 24, any incomplete or inaccurate applications may be deemed ineligible.

22. 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>