

IOWA RESTAURANT AND BAR RELIEF GRANT PROGRAM

AN EXTENSION OF THE IOWA SMALL BUSINESS RELIEF GRANT PROGRAM



Governor Reynolds has allocated \$40 million in federal CARES Act funds to provide financial relief for eligible restaurants and bars that were impacted during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Iowa Restaurant and Bar Relief Program will assist many Iowa establishments that were among the most directly and hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic and associated closures and mitigation efforts.

The program may assist eligible businesses that experienced a decrease in gross sales of at least 15% during the second and third quarters of 2020, (April 1- Sept. 30), compared to the same time the previous year, as evidenced by the Iowa Sales/Retailer's Use Tax and Surcharge Return.

Grant award amounts will be determined using a tiered system based on the percent of gross sales loss. Award tiers will be used with a maximum award amount of \$25,000.

APPLICATION PERIOD

The online application will be available at iowabusinessrecovery.com beginning Monday, Feb. 1 at noon and will close on Monday, Feb. 15 at 5:00 p.m. All applications submitted within that period will be considered for an award. **Please note that the program is not first come, first serve.**

APPLICATION PREPARATION

Ownership entities must submit one application per business location. Applicants must have the following information prepared prior to starting the application, as applicable.

- Gross sales for the periods below as evidenced on Line 1 of your tax filings. (Iowa Sales/Retailer's Use Tax and Surcharge Return)
 - April-June 2019
 - July-Sept. 2019
 - April-June 2020
 - July-Sept. 2020
- Liquor License Number
- Food Service Establishment License Number
- Sales Tax Permit Number
- Withholding Tax Permit Number
- Tax Identification Number (TIN)

ELIGIBLE BUSINESSES

Businesses must be one of the following business types:

- Full-Service Restaurant
- Bar
- Brewery
- Brewpub
- Distillery
- Winery

FULL-SERVICE RESTAURANTS

- If the business is a full-service restaurant, the applicant must certify that the establishment provides food services to patrons who order and are served while seated (i.e., waiter/waitress service) and pay after eating.
- Full-service restaurants, also must certify to their industry categorization from one of the following industry business types:
 - Café-Restaurant, Family-Style, Diner
 - Traditional Restaurant, Casual Dining
 - Upscale Casual Dining Restaurant
 - Fine Dining Restaurant
 - Buffet Restaurant

INELIGIBLE BUSINESSES

- Businesses that do not meet the eligibility criteria listed.
- Businesses that are a part of a national chain or franchise that has a total of 20 or more locations doing business under the same name, regardless of the type of ownership.
- Establishments providing adult entertainment, per Iowa Code 239B.5, subsection 4, paragraph "a".

FAQ

1. What other eligibility criteria is considered?

Additional eligibility threshold criteria are below. Please note that this list is not comprehensive, and applicants should complete the pre-application, when available on Monday Feb. 1. Applicants that meet the initial eligibility considerations will then be granted access to the full application. Please also note that an application does not guarantee an award.

- The business must be an Iowa-based bricks and mortar establishment in which the primary purpose is serving food or drink.
- The business must have been established and open for business on or before April 1, 2020.
- Eligible businesses must be in good standing with the Iowa Alcoholic Beverages Division, Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals and the Iowa Department of Revenue.

2. My business was established and opened for business between June 30, 2019 and April 1, 2020, therefore all required gross sales data is not available, can I still apply?

Yes, newly established businesses may still apply for assistance and will be considered using a modified formula, pending funding availability.

3. My business has received state or federal assistance through one or more relief programs, am I still eligible to apply?

Yes, past assistance through various programs including the Paycheck Protection Program, Iowa Small Business Relief Grant and the Iowa Business Disruption Relief Grant program are not eligibility considerations for the Iowa Restaurant and Bar Relief Program.

4. Are restaurants and bars embedded in other businesses eligible?

If establishments embedded in other businesses meet all other program eligibility requirements, have separate ownership from the business it's located in and file a separate Iowa Sales/Retailer's Use Tax and Surcharge Return, they will be eligible to apply.

5. Can I track my application, once submitted?

Yes. You will receive a link to track your application in your confirmation email.

The application tracker tool will also be available at iowabusinessrecovery.com.

6. What is the timeline for application approval and payment?

Applications will undergo review following the close of the application period on Feb. 15. Applicants will receive an approval or denial email notification upon their application's review. If approved, a check will be mailed to the business location address provided on the application. Please allow approximately 14 days for processing.