

DOWNTOWN & SHORT NORTH ARTS DISTRICT SMALL BUSINESS RESPONSE & RECOVERY GRANT PROGRAM

PROGRAM OVERVIEW + BUSINESS ELIGIBILITY, RULES AND OBLIGATIONS + FAQs

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Downtown & Short North Arts District Small Business Response & Recovery Grant Program is meant to serve local small businesses that have been negatively impacted by COVID-19 and that have not already received CARES Act Funding from the City of Columbus and/or Franklin County.

This program is a collaboration between the City of Columbus, Capital Crossroads Special Improvement District, and the Short North Alliance. Program eligibility standards were determined by the City of Columbus under guidelines required by the Federal CARES Act. Applications are being collected by the Short North Alliance and funding is being dispersed by Capital Crossroads Special Improvement District. Grants will be awarded on a rolling basis until funds are expended.

BUSINESS ELIGIBILITY

1. Your business has **not** already received funding from the City of Columbus Small Business Financial Assistance Program and/or the Columbus-Franklin County COVID-19 Small Business Response and Recovery Fund. (This does NOT include City of Columbus Technical Assistance, City of Columbus PPE Grant Support, and/or Pay Check Protection Program or other Economic Injury Disaster Relief Loan funding from the City, County, or Federal Government.)
2. Your business currently has 25 employees or less
3. Your business is able to claim a loss of 25% or more due to COVID-19
4. Your business has a physical brick and mortar store that's located within the Short North Area A **OR** Downtown District B, as [mapped here](#)
5. Your business is locally owned, headquartered or franchised, or Ohio-based
6. Your business does not currently have any COVID-19-related infractions
7. Your business does not currently owe outstanding income tax to the City of Columbus or will work to become compliant within a defined period by the City of Columbus.
8. You fully intend to continue operating your business as permitted in the near future
9. Non-profit organizations are not eligible

APPLICATION AND AWARD PROCESS

To Apply:

1. The application window opens on Tuesday, December 1 at 10am ET and closes Thursday, December 3 at 5pm ET.
2. The application can be accessed via [ShortNorth.org/CARES](#) or [DowntownServices.org](#) starting at 10am on Tuesday, December 1.
3. Funding will be awarded on a rolling basis as applications are submitted. For the greatest chance to receive funding, it is recommended to apply as early as possible.
4. A full list of application questions is available [here](#).

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Award Process:

1. Eligibility does not guarantee funding and other factors submitted by each applicant may be used to determine an award of funding.
2. Funding will be awarded on a rolling basis as applications are submitted. For the greatest chance to receive funding, it is recommended to apply as early as possible.
3. The City of Columbus is allocating \$1 million each to Short North area businesses and Downtown District businesses. Short North businesses will not be “competing” against Downtown District businesses for available funds, and vice versa. Should either area have funds remaining after all eligible awards have been distributed, they will reallocate funds to the other area.
4. Upon Award Notification, businesses will have the opportunity to accept or decline the award. Businesses will also be provided with instructions on how to pick up their check on Friday, December 11.

BUSINESS OBLIGATIONS

1. In the event that your business is awarded funding and you accept, you must pick up your check in person on Friday, December 11, between 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. ET. If you do not pick up your check during this window, you will forfeit your awarded funds.
2. In order to pick up your check, you will have to provide an up-to-date [W-9](#) and sign a [legal affidavit](#) confirming the business claims and information that were submitted in your application are accurate.
3. Funding must be used for business-related expenses.
4. By applying for CARES Act Funding for Short North Area & Downtown District Businesses, the applicant certifies that they are the agent on behalf of the business who can commit that the information provided and claims made above are accurate.

FAQS

Q: What if I'm not sure that my business meets the eligibility criteria?

A: We recommend that you apply anyway for review.

Q: What if I'm not sure how to answer one of the questions regarding eligibility criteria?

A: Answer all questions to the best of your knowledge. Your application and eligibility will be reviewed and the appropriate party will reach out with any questions if necessary.

Q: I have received Technical Assistance funding or Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) funding from the City of Columbus and/or a Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) or Paycheck Protection Program Loan (PPP) from the federal government. Am I still eligible?

A: Yes

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Q: I need help filling out my application. Who can I contact?

A: Short North Area businesses should contact the Short North Alliance at 614-299-80580 or Info@ShortNorth.org; Downtown businesses should contact Sam Sharkey at 740.641.7151, or sksharkey@sidservices.com.

Q: How will I know my application was received?

A: You will be redirected to a confirmation message after submitting and you will receive an email receipt with a copy of your responses immediately after submission.

Q: Can I apply after the December 3rd deadline?

A: Funding will be awarded on a rolling basis as applications are submitted. For the greatest chance to receive funding, it is recommended to apply as early as possible. You may apply after the deadline, but preference is given to early and on-time submissions.

Q: If I receive a grant from this program, what impact will it have on my taxes?

A: Receiving a grant from this program is a taxable event and you should consult a tax advisor on how to appropriately handle it.

Q: Who should I contact with other questions?

A: Short North Area businesses should contact the Short North Alliance at 614-299-80580 or Info@ShortNorth.org; Downtown businesses should contact Sam Sharkey at 740.641.7151, or sksharkey@sidservices.com.