



Connecticut CARES Small Business Grant

Online applications estimated to be available week of November 9

Updated: 11/17/2020

The State of CT has launched its latest program to assist small businesses and nonprofits through the economic downturn caused by COVID-19. Eligible small businesses and nonprofits can receive a one-time \$5,000 grant by December 30, 2020. There will be minimal eligibility requirements the online application will have an open and close date. The application process and the funding will be administered and disbursed by SoFi.

Which small businesses/nonprofits ARE eligible?

- 20 or less full-time employees OR annual payroll of less than \$1.5 million as of 12/31/19
- 20% or more loss in revenue year to date as of September 30, 2020 compared with the same period in 2019
- Established by October 1, 2019 and still active
- Pass a DRS tax status review. To avoid potential delays in processing your application check your DRS status at: <https://drs.ct.gov/eservices>
- Home-based businesses and Sole Proprietors
- Those who already received federal PPP, EIDL and/or CT Bridge loans are still eligible

Which small businesses/nonprofits are NOT eligible?

- Medical marijuana; liquor stores and alcohol distributors; adult businesses such as strip clubs; vape retailers; tobacco shops and smoking lounges; businesses having to do with gambling; gun stores and ranges; cash advance, check cashing, or pawn shops; bail bonds; collection agencies or services; and auction or bankruptcy or fire or "lost-our-lease" or "going-out-of-business" or similar sale.
- Craft breweries are eligible
- Arts/cultural organizations that have already *applied* for CARES grants

How do you Apply? Online applications estimated to be available week of November 9, 2020

- For additional questions, call the DECD hotline (860) 500-2333 or email DECDCTRecovery@ct.gov
- <https://business.ct.gov>



Frequently Asked Questions

What documents are needed to complete the application?

The goal of the CT CARES grant application is to be straightforward and easy. It is not a loan that needs to be paid back. All applicants will receive funding by December 30, 2020.

Minimally applicants will need, if applicable:

Social Security number

Federal EIN number

State TAX ID number

Bank Routing Number

Am I eligible if I already received federal CARES funds, Insurance, PPP, CT Bridge or EIDL grants and/or similar loans?

Yes. However, you cannot use the CT CARES Small Business grant for the exact same expenses incurred or expected to be incurred between March 1, 2020 thru December 30, 2020 that have already been covered by other loans and/or grants. For example, if you used a grant and/or loan to pay June and July 2020 rent you cannot use this grant for those same months of rent but you can use the grant to pay rent/expenses for October and November 2020. The eligible expenses **must** be at least \$5,000 in order to qualify for this grant. A complete list of eligible expenses are as follows:

Payroll

Rent/Mortgage

Utilities

Inventory

Purchase of Machinery and/or Equipment

Cost associated to ensure compliance with CT Reopen Business Sector Rules

Will I qualify if I do not have very good credit?

Yes. Your personal credit score is not an eligibility requirement.

How do I demonstrate loss of revenue if my business was not open the entire year of 2019?

You will need to demonstrate a loss in revenue of 20% or more year to date as of September 30th, 2020, compared with the same period in 2019. For example, comparing the first 3 fiscal quarters of 2019 to 2020 revenues.

If your company was not in business for the full 2019 calendar year- adjust your revenues for the period you were open in 2019 to 9 months so you can compare it to the January-September period in 2020 (2019 revenue / # of months open x 9 months).



What is the process once my application has been approved? How will the grant be disbursed?

This one-time \$5,000 grant will be disbursed to all approved applicants by December 30, 2020 directly to the bank account provided by the authorized signer of the grant agreement. You will receive an email from SoFi once approved. This is a grant that does not require repayment.

Will I be required to sign a legal grant agreement?

Yes. However, there are no fees or costs. This is not a loan that requires repayment.

Where can I go if I have more questions or need more information?

For additional questions, call the DECD hotline (860) 500-2333 or email DECDCTRecovery@ct.gov