

East Cambridgeshire District Council

Local Authority Discretionary Grant Fund Scheme

The Government is making additional funding available to allow the Council to further support small businesses. This grant is in addition to the Small Business Grants Fund (SBGF) and the Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grants Fund (RHLGF) announced in March 2020.

This additional funding is aimed at small businesses with ongoing fixed property-related costs that were not eligible for a SBGF and RHLGF grant. It will prioritise businesses in shared spaces, regular market traders, small charity properties that would meet the criteria for Small Business Rates Relief, and bed and breakfasts that pay council tax rather than business rates.

Eligibility

In order for your business to qualify for the grant, you must provide evidence that you meet ALL of the following criteria:

- Businesses with relatively high ongoing fixed property related costs
- Businesses which occupy property, or part of a property, with a rateable value or annual rent or annual mortgage payments below £51,000.
- Businesses which can demonstrate that they have suffered a significant fall in income due to the Covid-19 crisis
- Business with fewer than 50 employees
- Businesses that were trading on or before 11th March 2020

Funding is prioritised for the following types of business:

- Small businesses in shared offices or other flexible workspaces which do not have their own business rates assessment. Examples could include units in industrial parks, science parks and incubators.
- Regular market traders with fixed building costs, such as rent, who do not have their own business rates assessment
- Bed & Breakfasts which pay Council Tax instead of business rates
- Charity properties in receipt of charitable business rates relief which would otherwise have been eligible for Small Business Rates Relief or Rural Rate Relief.

To be a small business, under the Companies Act 2006, a business must satisfy two or more of the following requirements in a year—

- Turnover: Not more than £10.2 million
- Balance sheet total: Not more than 5.1 million
- Number of employees: a headcount of staff of less than 50

To be a micro business, under the Companies Act 2006, a business must satisfy two or more of the following requirements—

- Turnover: Not more than £632,000
- Balance sheet total: Not more than £316,000
- Number of employees: a headcount of staff of not more than 10

Ineligible businesses

Businesses which are eligible for cash grants from any other central government COVID related scheme are ineligible for funding from this scheme. Such grant schemes include but are not limited to:

- Small Business Grant Fund
- Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant
- The Fisheries Response Fund
- Domestic Seafood Supply Chain Scheme
- The Zoos Support Fund
- The Dairy Hardship Fund

If you believe you are eligible for one of the other grant schemes above and have not yet been in touch with us, please contact us by email at covid19businessgrants@eastcambs.gov.uk or by telephone on 01353 665555.

Businesses who are eligible for the Self-Employed Income Support Scheme (SEISS) and the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme ARE eligible to apply for this scheme as well.

Making an Application

The Council is inviting eligible businesses, within the four priority business categories, to submit an application to the Council. You can either do this online or by requesting an application form by email at covid19businessgrants@eastcambs.gov.uk or by telephone on 01353 665555.

The four priority categories and the grant allocation details are as follows:

Category	Grant
Small businesses in shared offices or other flexible workspaces which do not have their own business rates assessment. Examples could include units in industrial parks, science parks and incubators	£10,000
Regular market traders, trading on a market in East Cambridgeshire, with fixed building costs, such as rent, who do not have their own business rates assessment	£3,000
Bed & Breakfasts which pay Council Tax instead of business rates	£5,000
Charity properties in receipt of charitable business rates relief which would otherwise have been eligible for Small Business Rates Relief or Rural Rate Relief	£3,000

The deadline for applications is Tuesday 30 June 2020. The Council will be paying out the grant as soon as a successful application is received and verified.

As this is a capped fund it is important that all businesses in the priority categories make their application as early as possible, to avoid disappointment please do not delay making your application.

As soon as the Council receives the completed application, as long as you meet all the criteria and have provided the evidence to support your application, you will receive your grant payment on the next payment run.